

EASTMAN PRESENTS –
KILBOURN CONCERT SERIES

**CAROLINE SHAW &
SŌ PERCUSSION
WITH RINGDOWN**

Wednesday, March 25, 2026
Kilbourn Hall
7:30 PM



Eastman School of Music

PROGRAM

WHO TURNS OUT THE LIGHT

Songs from *Rectangles and Circumstance* (2024)
and *Let the Soil Play its Simple Part* (2021)

Some Bright Morning

Let the Soil

This

Silently Invisibly

Long Ago

Sing On

Who Turns Out the Light

Slow Motion

RINGDOWN featuring Danni Lee Parpan and Caroline Shaw

SŌ PERCUSSION

Sense (2024) – *Jason Treuting*

4+9 (2017) – *Eric Cha-Beach*

Lay All Your Love on Me

To Music

Rectangles and Circumstance

The Parting Glass

Staging and Design by Mark DeChiazza

Lighting Design by Tess James

Live Sound by Nelson Dorado

Tour Management by Kelly Watkins

PROGRAM NOTES

Sō Percussion and **Caroline Shaw's** latest collaboration is *Rectangles and Circumstance*, the “hypnotically beautiful” (*BBC Radio 3*) Grammy award-winning album from Nonesuch Records. The current tour of the album is augmented by songs from their previous collaborative work *Let the Soil Play its Simple Part* as well as an interlude from Caroline's cinematic pop duo Ringdown, featuring co-songwriter and partner Danni Lee, plus recent compositions for Sō by members Jason Treuting and Eric Cha-Beach. The evening-length performance is a band-generated theatrical experience, featuring staging and design by director Mark DeChiazza. The musicians gradually place lights and reveal novel instruments as the show builds from a lone spotlight on Shaw singing *I'll Fly Away* to the ecstatic full ensemble performing thrilling up-tempo songs like *Sing On* as films by Sō Percussion member Jason Treuting splash across canvases throughout the stage. This production melds DIY design with dazzling original songs, to sensational effect.



MEET THE ARTISTS

For 25 years and counting, Grammy-winning percussion quartet **Sō Percussion** has redefined chamber music for the 21st century through an “exhilarating blend of precision and anarchy, rigor and bedlam” (*The New Yorker*). They are celebrated by audiences and presenters for a dazzling range of work: for live performances in which “telepathic powers of communication” (*The New York Times*) bring to life the vibrant percussion repertoire; for an extravagant array of collaborations in classical music, pop, indie rock, contemporary dance, and theater; and for their work in education and community-building, seeking to explore the immense possibility of art in our time.



To celebrate its 25th anniversary season, Sō Percussion releases *25x25* on Cantaloupe Music in September 2025, an 8-disc box set featuring 500 minutes of entirely new and previously-unreleased recordings of 21st century music, each piece written for, in collaboration with, and premiered by Sō Percussion. *25x25* includes works by Bora Yoon, Kendall K. Williams, Vân-Anh Võ, Dan Trueman, Jason Treuting, Olivier Tarpaga, Shodekeh Talifero, Caroline Shaw, Juri Seo, Claire Rousay, Tristan Perich, Angélica Negrón, Andrea Mazzariello, Steven Mackey, Michael J. Love, Leilehua Lanzilotti, Nathalie Joachim, Robyn Jacob, Vijay Iyer, Suzanne Farrin, Cenk Ergün, Donnacha Dennehy, Dan Deacon, Eric Cha-Beach – and Sō Percussion as a writing group!

Recent highlights include a headlining series of concerts and collaborations at Bang on a Can’s LOUD Weekend at MASS MoCA, leading a festival-opening of Steve Reich’s *Drumming* with the composer in the audience; a two-week residency at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) in two programs, including collaborations with Helado Negro and Kate Stables (*This is the Kit*) and with Caroline Shaw featuring Ringdown performing a program highlighting their GRAMMY-winning *Nonesuch* album, *Rectangles and Circumstance* (Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance, 2025). Sō has performed concerts at the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Big Ears, Cal Performances, the BOZAR in Brussels, 92NY, at the Palau de la Musica Catalana in Barcelona, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Penn Live Arts in Philadelphia, the Hancher Auditorium

MEET THE ARTISTS

at the University of Iowa, the Library of Congress; toured Benin and Burkina Faso with Olivier Tarpaga - and elsewhere.

Along with *25x25*, Sō has a catalog of more than thirty albums featuring landmark recordings of works by David Lang, Steve Reich, Julia Wolfe, Caroline Shaw, Steven Mackey, Bobby Previte, Matmos, and many others. Rooted in the belief that music is an elemental form of human communication, and galvanized by forces for social change, Sō enthusiastically pursues a range of social and community outreach through their nonprofit umbrella, including an ongoing partnership with Pan in Motion; the Sō Laboratories concert series; a studio residency program in Brooklyn; and the Sō Percussion Summer Institute, an intensive two-week chamber music seminar for percussionists and composers they have led annually since 2009. The members of Sō Percussion are the Edward T. Cone Performers-in-Residence at Princeton University - a role they've held for more than a decade.

Sō Percussion is Jason Treuting, Adam Sliwinski, Josh Quillen, and Eric Cha-Beach.

Caroline Shaw is a musician who moves among roles, genres, and mediums, trying to imagine a world of sound that has never been heard before but has always existed. She works often in collaboration with others, as producer, composer, violinist, and vocalist. Caroline is the recipient of the 2013 Pulitzer Prize in Music, several Grammy awards, an honorary doctorate from Yale, and a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship. This year's projects include the score to *Fleishman is in Trouble* (FX/Hulu), vocal work with Rosalía (*MOTOMAMI*), the score to Josephine Decker's *The Sky Is Everywhere* (A24/Apple), music for the National Theatre's production of *The Crucible* (dir. Lyndsey Turner), Justin Peck's *Partita* with NY City Ballet, a new stage work *LIFE* (Gandini Juggling/Merce Cunningham Trust), the premiere of *Microfictions Vol. 3* for NY Philharmonic and Roomful of Teeth, a live orchestral score for Wu Tsang's silent film *Moby Dick* co-composed with Andrew Yee, two albums on Nonesuch (*Evergreen* and *The Blue Hour*), the score for Helen Simoneau's dance work *Delicate Power*, tours of *Graveyards & Gardens* (co-created immersive theatrical work with Vanessa Goodman), and tours with Sō Percussion featuring songs from *Let The Soil Play Its Simple Part*

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(Nonesuch), amid occasional chamber music appearances as violist (Chamber Music Society of Minnesota, La Jolla Music Society). Caroline has written over 100 works in the last decade, for Anne Sofie von Otter, Davóne Tines, Yo Yo Ma, Renée Fleming, Dawn Upshaw, LA Phil, Philharmonia Baroque, Seattle Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, Aizuri Quartet, The Crossing, Dover Quartet, Calidore Quartet, Brooklyn Rider, Miro Quartet, I Giardini, Ars Nova Copenhagen, Ariadne Greif, Brooklyn Youth Chorus, Britt Festival, and the Vail Dance Festival. She has contributed production to albums by Rosalía, Woodkid, and Nas. Her work as vocalist or composer has appeared in several films, tv series, and podcasts including *The Humans*, *Bombshell*, *Yellowjackets*, *Maid*, *Dark*, Beyoncé's *Homecoming*, *Tár*, *Dolly Parton's America*, and *More Perfect*. Her favorite color is yellow, and her favorite smell is rosemary.

Ringdown – featuring composer-musicians Caroline Shaw and Danni Lee Parpan – is an “ecstatically blissful” (*Night After Night*) and “irresistible” (*Feast of Music*) cinematic electro-pop duo creating music that floats up from the dusty record bin between Brahms and Brandi Carlile, and centers around joy, human connection, and trying to inspire people to feel more love (and maybe even reach out to a crush).

The duo was drawn to each other through mutual admiration of each other's work; Shaw has won a Pulitzer Prize and several Grammy Awards for her boundary-breaking compositions and contributed music to films including Beyoncé's *Homecoming* and the upcoming Ken Burns documentary *Leonardo da Vinci*, and Parpan is a dynamic vocalist and folk-pop singer-songwriter who writes emotionally stirring lyrics and relishes in challenging how instruments are “supposed” to be played. Together as Ringdown, they forge a new realm that unlocks ways to write, sing, and perform that they can only access with each other, encouraging each to loosen their grip on the music they have created before and fully revel in the intricate pop music they have both always loved. Their songs are built on late nights of countless back-and-forths on tables covered in instruments and wires, sonically merging Shaw's pull toward the abstract with Parpan's directness, perhaps with a playlist of Sylvan Esso, Glasser, Robyn, James Blake, and The Blow in the background. The result is music that invites deep listening but also welcomes you to sing along, and – they hope – helps people feel everything they have been too afraid to feel.

MEET THE ARTISTS

As for the band's name: A ringdown is the theorized sound two black holes make in the final microseconds when they merge, a sub-bass whoosh and glide that suggest the world's biggest synthesizer, sighing in contentment. This might also describe how Ringdown's music sounds. Or at least how it feels to the band.

Ringdown is working on a debut album for Nonesuch Records and has performed across the U.S. and abroad at Big Ears, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Public Records, SXSW, Thuringia Bach Festival, and more. The duo, who are partners on and off the stage, split their time between Portland, OR and New York, NY. Learn more at ringdownmusic.com and follow them on what they are proud to share is "their friend Virginia's favorite Instagram account" at [@ringdownmusic](https://www.instagram.com/ringdownmusic).

We acknowledge with respect the Seneca Nation, known as the "Great Hill People" and "Keepers of the Western Door" of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. We take this opportunity to thank the people whose ancestral lands the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester currently occupies in Rochester, New York.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sō Percussion's 2025-2026 season is supported in part by awards from:

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The Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation

Sō Percussion uses:

Pearl/Adams Instruments
Vic Firth Drumsticks and Mallets
Zildjian Cymbals
Blackswamp Accessories
Remo Drumheads
Estey Organs
Kyle Dunleavy Steel Pans
MalletMan Steel Drum Mallets

Sō Percussion would like to thank these companies for their generous support and donations.

The logo for Vic Firth, featuring the words "VIC FIRTH" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "i" in "VIC" has a red dot above it, and the letter "i" in "FIRTH" has a red dot above it. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located to the right of the word "FIRTH".The logo for Zildjian, featuring the word "Zildjian" in a stylized, black, cursive font. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located to the right of the word "Zildjian".

UPCOMING EASTMAN SERIES CONCERTS

Tickets for all series concerts can be purchased at EastmanTheatre.org

EASTMAN PRESENTS – KODAK HALL SERIES

The Silkroad Ensemble with Rhiannon Giddens

Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Yo-Yo Ma conceived Silkroad in 1998 as a reminder that even as rapid globalization resulted in division, it brought extraordinary possibilities for working together. Seeking to understand this dynamic, he recognized the historical Silk Road as a model for cultural collaboration – for the exchange of ideas, tradition, and innovation across borders.

Today, under the leadership of Artistic Director Rhiannon Giddens, Silkroad creates music that engages difference, sparking radical cultural collaboration, and passion-driven learning for a more hopeful and inclusive world, materializing on their program: Sanctuary – The Power and Resonance of Ritual.

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

Eastman Virtuosi

Saturday, March 28, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

UPCOMING STUDENT ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

All student performances are free unless otherwise noted.

Trombone Choir

Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Kilbourn Hall

Composers Concert

Monday, March 30, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Hatch Recital Hall

Chamber Jazz Ensemble

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Hatch Recital Hall



For the most up to date information on Eastman concerts and events, scan this code to visit our online calendar.



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