

DISTINGUISHED VISITING ARTIST

**JEFF BEAL,**  
**COMPOSER & PIANIST**

Monday, May 6, 2024  
Hatch Recital Hall  
7:30 PM



**EASTMAN**  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

## PROGRAM

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**New York Études** (2021)

Jeff Beal

Riverside Revelations

(b. 1963)

Sun Surrounds (us)

Invocation (for Joan)

I'm With You (for Rosemary)

Elation

Gratitude (hymn)

Winter (snowflake)

The More Things Change

Come Down, Angel

Corridors of Calm

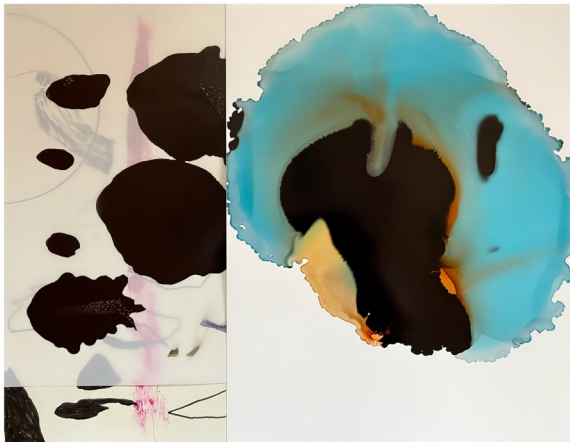
## PROGRAM NOTES

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Beal meticulously composed the *New York Études* at his Manhattan home in the months after he relocated to New York in 2021, resulting in ten works for solo piano that reveal Beal's mastery of composition, voice leading and harmony. Renowned for his extensive experience in composing for TV and film with credits including *House of Cards*, *Monk*, *Blackfish* and *Pollock*, these new works on the piano serve as a reintroduction to Beal's artistry and offer a new window into his work.

Beyond deepening his work as a multifaceted composer, the New York Études are rooted in the highly personal. When Beal was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2007, he began researching ways to combat its degenerative effects on motor skills and cognitive function, learning about the tremendous impact of piano playing on neuroplasticity, or the process of rewiring the brain around areas of damage. The *New York Études* are the organic result of his commitment to the betterment of his mind, body and soul in the face of chronic illness. "An added benefit I discovered while composing and practicing the Études", Beal says, "was the sense of calm and focus I experienced. I've become keenly aware of the importance of wellness rituals for all of us that promote good mental, spiritual and physical health."

# JEFF BEAL NEW YORK ÉTUDES



## MEET THE ARTIST

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Five-time EMMY® winner **Jeff Beal's** improvisatory method, sense of timing, and sophistication have made him a favorite of directors including Ed Harris (*Pollock* and *Appaloosa*), David Fincher (*House of Cards*), Oliver Stone (*JFK Revisited* and *The Putin Interviews*), Lauren Greenfield (*The Queen of Versailles* and *Generation Wealth*) and Rob Reiner (*Shock and Awe*). His work on documentaries *Blackfish*, *The Biggest Little Farm*, Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Sequel*, *Athlete A*, Frank Marshall's *Rather* and dramatic scores for HBO's *Rome*, *Carnivàle*, *The Newsroom*, USA's *Monk*, Netflix *House of Cards*, AppleTV+'s *Raymond & Ray* have shown him to be one of the most distinctive and recognizable composers working today.



In addition to his distinguished scoring career, Beal is a prolific composer of concert music. Recent commissioned works include *The Paper-Lined Shack* for Leonard Slatkin, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and soprano Hila Plitmann, *Sunrise* for the The Los Angeles Master Chorale, A flute concerto for Sharon Bezaly / Minnesota Orchestra, and *Body in Motion*, a violin concerto for Kelly Hall-Tompkins.

Beal's performing, conducting, and composing worlds converged in 2016 when he led the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center in the premiere of *House of Cards* in Concert, with further performances in Miami, Denmark, The Netherlands (Concertgebouw) and Jerusalem. This symphonic work was recorded by BIS Records on the double SACD *House of Cards Symphony*, which includes Beal's flute and guitar concerti, which was all conducted by the composer.

Beal has also conducted The Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra in his original score for Keaton's silent film *The General*, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra for the film score of *Boston*, as well as the Boston Pops Esplanade for the live-to-picture premiere of *Boston*. In March of 2019 he led the Qatar National Symphony in the world premiere of his work *The Radiant Pearl*, commissioned for the opening of the Qatar Museum in Doha. He also led the Rochester Philharmonic and Eastman Philharmonia in the world premiere of an antiphonal orchestral work *The Cathedral*, in honor of the centennial of the Eastman Theater.

## MEET THE ARTIST

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Beal will give his Carnegie Hall Debut in June leading the Silver Nitrate Big Band and Fourth Wall in a concert of his score to *The Cabinet Of Dr. Caligari*, presented as a part of Carnegie Hall's 2024 Weimar Festival.

Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Beal's grandmother was a pianist and accompanist for silent movies. An avid jazz fan, she gave him Miles Davis' / Gil Evans' Sketches of Spain album that would influence his development as a Jazz trumpet player and composer. In addition to studying both classical and jazz trumpet, Jeff was a self-taught pianist and spent countless hours in the library learning music theory and composition on his own. Encouraged by conductor Kent Nagano, Jeff composed a trumpet concerto at age 17, which he performed with the Oakland Youth Symphony, as well as a number of large ensemble jazz charts that are still in publication today.

It would be across the country at the Eastman School of Music that Jeff would discover both his musical voice, as a student of Christopher Rouse and Rayburn Wright, and the love of his life, soprano Joan Sapiro Beal, who frequently performs his music. In 2015, the couple donated funds for the creation of The Beal Institute for Film Music and Contemporary Media at Eastman. The Beals have also donated to fund the collaborative Music and Medicine initiative at the University of Rochester, having experienced the impact of music on health in their own lives. Beal was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 2006, and his recent recording of solo piano etudes, *New York Etudes*, focuses on the connection of music making and mindfulness. He lives in New York City.

*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.*



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