



Presented by the Arthur Zankel Music Center
in partnership with the Department of Music

Philip Glass & Tenzin Choegyal
Be the Sky
World Premiere Concert

Performed by Tenzin Choegyal, Attacca Quartet,
& Alex Ring Gray, with special guests

Friday, November 14th, 2025, 7:30PM
Arthur Zankel Music Center
Helen Filene Ladd Concert Hall

Program

Heart Sutra

From a Single Thought

Who Am I

The Dance of the Lute Players (Dranyen Shapdro)

Be the Sky (video interlude)

Karmic Mandala

Until Space Remains

Black Hat Dance (Zhanak)

Snowy Mountains (Gangri)

Be the Sky is a short film of Tenzin Choegyal and Philip Glass made by Saori (New York) and Tashi T. Richards (Australia) during the recording of the title track of the album, *Be the Sky*.

The Tibetan Black Hat dance is a Buddhist ritual of blessing and protection, and tonight Tsering Dorjee Bawa performs it alongside a ballet interpretation by Skidmore student Siena Yannotti, invoking a parallel to Western tradition.

About the Artists

Philip Glass is a pioneering American composer and pianist, celebrated as one of minimalism's most influential architects. Educated at the University of Chicago, Juilliard, Aspen (with Darius Milhaud), and in Paris under Nadia Boulanger and Ravi Shankar, he developed his signature style of “music with repetitive structures.” Glass founded the Philip Glass Ensemble in 1968 and has since created a vast and varied body of work—including operas like *Einstein on the Beach*, *Satyagraha*, and *Akhnaten*; 14 symphonies; numerous concertos, quartets, chamber pieces, and film scores (earning multiple Grammy and Academy Award nominations). His collaborations span artists across theatre, visual arts, and popular music, and his accolades include the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, the National Medal of Arts, Kennedy Center Honors, and a Lifetime Achievement award from the World Soundtrack Academy.

Tenzin Choegyal is a Tibetan composer, singer-songwriter, and cultural ambassador whose deeply evocative voice and mastery of traditional instruments such as the dranyen (Tibetan lute) and lingbu (bamboo flute) have earned him global recognition. Born into a nomadic family in Tibet and raised in exile in Dharamsala, India, Choegyal's music draws from his heritage while pushing into contemporary and cross genre collaborations—from chamber orchestras and avant garde composers like Philip Glass to projects with Laurie Anderson. Over a career spanning more than two decades, he has released multiple albums (including Grammy nominated *Songs from the Bardo*), performed at prestigious venues like Carnegie Hall and WOMAD festivals, and founded cultural initiatives such as Brisbane's Festival of Tibet.

Attacca Quartet is a dynamic, two-time Grammy Award-winning string quartet, founded in 2003 at the Juilliard School by Amy Schroeder (violin) and Andrew Yee (cello). Hailed as “a true quartet for modern times,” the ensemble deftly navigates a vast repertoire—from

classical masters to electronica, video game scores, and contemporary collaborations—while passionately championing new works. Their recordings with Caroline Shaw (*Orange* in 2020 and *Evergreen* in 2023) have earned Grammy recognition. Signed to Sony Classical in 2021, they released *Real Life* (featuring artists like TOKiMONSTA and Squarepusher) and *Of All Joys* (melding Renaissance music with works by Philip Glass and Arvo Pärt). The Quartet performs widely at esteemed venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, SFJazz, and international festivals across Europe.

Alex Ring Gray is a Nashville-born composer, performer, and multimedia artist whose creative work spans concert music, film scores, and installations, drawing on conceptual processes, procedural generative systems, and improvisation. His stylistic roots blend free jazz, austere minimalism, Appalachian folk, and ambient electronics. In addition to his solo output, Gray co-founded the artist-run label *cmntx* records, serves as Technical Director of the ensemble *InfraSound*, and works as an engineer for the Nief-Norf Summer Festival. Since 2018, he has also served as music assistant to Philip Glass—supporting both new and archival projects—and has collaborated with composers like Nico Muhly, Angélica Negrón, and Alex Weston. He earned degrees in composition and musicology from the University of Tennessee (BM) and New York University (MM), studying under Michael Gordon, Julia Wolfe, Morton Subotnick, and Andrew Sigler.

Tsering Dorjee (Tsering Bawa) is an award-winning actor and master of Tibetan performing arts with 30+ years on stage and screen. Trained at the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (M.A., 2000), he advanced from student to instructor, specializing in Tibetan opera and Cham ritual dance. His screen work includes the Oscar-nominated *Himalaya*; contributions to the Emmy-winning *Women of Tibet: A Quiet Revolution*; the indie feature *My Son Tenzin* (co-producer/star); and recent roles in *Demonte Colony 2* (2024) and *100 Sunset* (TIFF Discovery, 2025). Theater credits include cultural

consultant/choreographer and performer for Sarah Ruhl's *The Oldest Boy* (Lincoln Center Theater and national productions) and the lead in the international play *Pah-Lak*, toured across India and Europe. A Craig Noel Award nominee and TBA Award winner, Dorjee also lectures at UCLA, UC Berkeley, and more, and since 2007 has led a Bay Area school preserving Tibetan language, music, and dance.

Program Notes

Curated by Zhenelle LeBel. Technical direction and sound by Frank Moscowitz. Lighting design by Gavin Perrine. Special thanks to Teresa Rockwell and Vicki Tremper, and Zankel's student workers, for making this performance possible.

Performer Roster

(In order of appearance)

Tenzin Choegyal (vocals, dranyen, flute)

Attacca Quartet

Amy Schroeder (violin)

Domenic Salerni (violin)

Nathan Schram (viola)

Andrew Yee (cello)

Alex Ring Gray (piano, electronics)

Zhenelle LeBel (spoken word)

Tsering Dorjee Bawa (vocals, dranyen, dance)

Francis Davies** (tenor banjo)

Russell Haight* (sax)
Teresa Rodrigues** (sax)
Ezri Rubenstein-Miller** (sax)
Ellie Ushakov** (mandolin)

Skidmore String Ensemble

Directed by Michael Emery

Violin 1

Clara Frost, Concertmaster
Zach DeGennaro
Nora Carroll
Marlowe Jacques
Michael Emery*

Viola

Sasha Stern, Principal
Stephani Emery*
Rebecca Perl

Cello

Callista Koon, Principal
Jameson Platte*
Myla Vijayan

Violin 2

Milo DiCostanzo, Principal
Josh Rodriguez*
Cinthya Sanchez
Anika Scherer
Della Huntley

Bass

Noanddi Manigat

Siena Yannotti** (dance)

Skidmore Vocal Soul Collective

Directed by Floyd Ricketts

Emma Bedard

Zivitte Bergman-Igra

Gwendolyn Clark

Damon Core

Emmanuelle

Donaldson

Dylan Dreizen

Flora Elghanayan

Calvin Gramling

Grace Higginbotham

Aline McElwee

Zara Nwosu

Addie Oliphant

Adeline Rudolph

Abigail Scifres

Lalita Stromayer

*Skidmore Faculty

**Skidmore Student

Children of Saratoga Springs

Waldorf School of Saratoga Springs

Anina Becker	Bear Cahill	Jaxon Sharp
Charlie Beall	Opi Cruz	Lily Sharp
Caroline Beall	Anderson	Wes Speerschneider
Cecelia Beam	Ally Gunderson	Emerson Straight
Jules Bogin		

Caffè Lena School of Music

Theo Ashby

Pilar Castle-Kuhl

Upcoming Events

SKIDMANIA '75

Friday, November 21, 8:00pm
Saturday, November 22, 8:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:

Brass & Woodwind Ensembles
Saturday, November 22, 5:30pm

Skidmore in Concert: Orchestra
Tuesday, December 2, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:

Concert Band
Friday, December 5, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:

Skidmore in Concert:

Big Band + Cuban Music Ensemble
Saturday, December 6, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:

Small Jazz Ensembles + Guitar
Sunday, December 7, 1:00pm

Skidmore in Concert: Guitar
Ensemble
Sunday, December 7, 4:00pm

Skidmore in Concert: String
Ensembles

Monday, December 8, 7:00pm

Global Music Showcase (String
Band, Indian, Mongolian, + West
African Ensembles)
Saturday, December 6, 2:00pm

Skidmore in Concert: Vocal
Chamber Ensemble + Chorus
Wednesday, December 10, 7:00pm