

NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY and THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
*present*

## “WHAT I HEAR”

A SPECIAL BSO PRELUDE PROGRAM

WITH **KEVIN PUTS**

MODERATED BY ERIC VALLIERE, BSO ARTISTIC ADMINISTRATOR  
MUSICAL DIRECTION BY STEPHEN DRURY

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21 NOVEMBER 2024 \* 5:30 PM \* BROWN HALL

**KEVIN PUTS**  
(b. 1972)

from *Alternating Current* (2022)  
II. Deliberato

August Baik, piano

### *Air*

Jonah Kernis '25, cello  
Joseph Vasconi '25 MM, piano

**FRANZ SCHUBERT**  
(1797–1828)

from *Piano Quintet in A, D. 667 “The Trout”*  
IV. Andantino – Allegretto

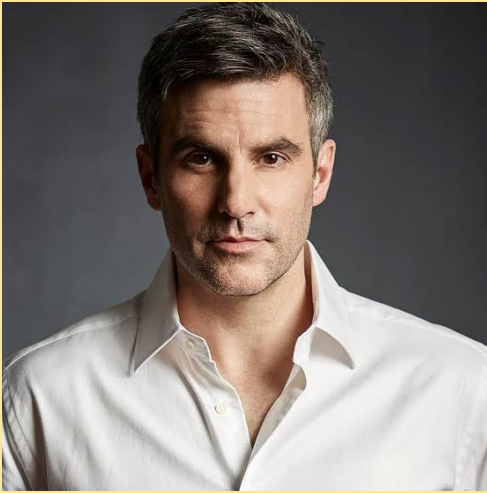
Theresa Katz '25, violin  
Po-Sung Huang '25 MM, viola  
Miruna Eynon '25, cello  
Alyssa Peterson '25, double bass  
Ranfei Wang '25 MM, piano

**KEVIN PUTS**

from *Red Snapper*, quintet for piano and strings  
II. Scherzo: Prestissimo – Energico

Theresa Katz '25, violin  
Po-Sung Huang '25 MM, viola  
Miruna Eynon '25, cello  
Alyssa Peterson '25, double bass  
Ranfei Wang '25 MM, piano

*The Boston Symphony Orchestra will perform Kevin Puts' The Brightness of Light  
tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Symphony Hall.*



Pulitzer Prize and Grammy®-winning composer Kevin Puts has established himself as one of America’s leading composers, gaining international acclaim for his “plush, propulsive” music (*The New York Times*), and described by *Opera News* as “a master polystylist.” He has been commissioned and performed by leading organizations around the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, Philadelphia Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, Opera Philadelphia, Minnesota Opera, and many more, and has collaborated with world-class artists such as Renée Fleming, Yo-Yo Ma, Yannick Nezet-Seguin, and Marin Alsop, among others.

In March 2022 Puts’ fourth opera, *The Hours*, had its world premiere on the concert stage by the Philadelphia Orchestra under the baton of Yannick Nezet-Seguin, and was hailed as a “historic event ... with a lush orchestration that hits you in the solar plexus.” (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*). *The Hours* premiered to sold-out houses as a fully staged production at the

Metropolitan Opera in November 2022 starring sopranos Renée Fleming, Kelli O’Hara and mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato and was called "a stunning triumph" by *Variety Magazine*. The opera's revival in May 2024 played to packed houses and marked the first instance in the Metropolitan Opera's history of a work returning the season after its premiere. Other highlights of 2022 included the west-coast premiere of *The Brightness of Light* featuring Renée Fleming and Rod Gilfry with the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra. Written for Time for Three, his triple concerto *Contact* had its world-premiere in March 2022 with the Florida Orchestra and continues to receive performances around the world. A recording of the piece by the Philadelphia Orchestra and Xian Zhang, conductor was released on the Deutsche Grammophon album *Letters for the Future* and was awarded "Best Contemporary Classical Composition" at the 2023 Grammy® Awards. Mr. Puts was named *Musical America's* Composer of the Year in 2022

Puts’ breakthrough opera *Silent Night* – for which he was awarded the 2012 Pulitzer Prize following its 2011 premiere by Minnesota Opera – has been heralded as “remarkable” (*The New York Times*) and “stunning” (*Twin Cities Examiner*). In addition to the Pulitzer Prize, Mr. Puts has received numerous honors and awards for composition. Since 2006, he has been a member of the Composition Faculty at the Peabody Institute and will serve as Distinguished Visiting Composer at the Juilliard School in the 2024-2025 academic year. He will also return to his role as Director of the Minnesota Orchestra Composer’s Institute in 2025.

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Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall, and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited. Assistive listening devices are available for all Jordan Hall concerts; contact the head usher or house manager on duty or inquire at the Coat Room. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.



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