



Photo: Brantley Gutierrez

Conrad Tao

Piano/Composer

Conrad Tao has appeared worldwide as a pianist and composer and has been dubbed “the kind of musician who is shaping the future of classical music” by *New York Magazine*, and an artist of “probing intellect and open-hearted vision” by *The New York Times*. Tao has performed as soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic and Boston Symphony. As a composer, his work has been performed by orchestras throughout the world; his first large scale orchestral work, *Everything Must Go*, received its world premiere with the New York Philharmonic and its European premiere with the Antwerp Symphony, and he was the recipient of a New York Dance and Performance Bessie Award for Outstanding Sound Design/Music Composition, for his work on *More Forever*, in collaboration with dancer and choreographer Caleb Teicher. He is also the recipient of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant and was named a Gilmore Young Artist—an

honor awarded every two years highlighting the most promising American pianists of the new generation.

In the 2023–24 season, Tao made his subscription debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra performing Gershwin’s Concerto in F Major with James Gaffigan. He also reunited with the New York Philharmonic to perform Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 17, following his curated program for them last season as part of the Artist Spotlight series. Meanwhile, he celebrates the 100th anniversary of *Rhapsody in Blue* with multiple performances of the work and a new companion piece commissioned from him by the Santa Rosa Symphony. His return engagements included performances with the Cincinnati Symphony alongside Matthias Pintscher, the Oregon Symphony alongside David Danzmayr, and the Seattle Symphony, whom he play-directed in *Conrad Tao’s Playlist*, weaving Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 24 into an adventurous program of Stravinsky, Purcell, Linda Catlin Smith and Morton Feldman. As part of the celebration of Rachmaninoff’s 150th birthday, Tao brought *Rachmaninoff Songbook* to the 92NY and Germany’s Klavier-Festival Ruhr, presenting a direct line from Rachmaninoff to the music of Billy Strayhorn, Harold Arlen and Stephen Sondheim.

In a concert curated by Tao himself, Tao invited UK-based new-music collective Distractfold to make their NYC debut at Kaufman Music Center with the world premiere of Andrew Greenwald’s *A Thing Made Whole VIII* along with music by Jürg Frey, Hanna Hartman and Mauricio Pauly. The season also included performances with dancer Caleb Teicher in the duo’s *Counterpoint* program, which synthesizes the two seemingly disparate art forms of piano and tap dance. More collaborations include a multi-city tour throughout the season with the Junction Trio, including a program of John Zorn, Ives and Beethoven at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, and the trio’s Detroit debut, among many others.

In the 2022–23 season, Tao performed Mozart with the New York Philharmonic, for whom he also curated a program for their Artist Spotlight series, featuring collaborations with vocalist Charmaine Lee and wind ensemble The Westerlies. Tao also appeared with the Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom and the San Francisco Symphony (both as a soloist in Gershwin’s Concerto in F Major) at Davies Symphony Hall, and as a curator for their SoundBox

series. In Washington, DC, he made his debut with the National Symphony Orchestra performing Shostakovich with Dalia Stasevska, and, following Atlanta Symphony’s premiere of his Violin Concerto with Stefan Jackiw in 2021, he appeared as soloist with the orchestra performing Ravel with Ryan Bancroft. After their successful collaboration with the Finnish Radio Symphony, Tao further reunited with Hannu Lintu to perform Tchaikovsky with the Naples Philharmonic, as well as returned to Finland to open the season with the Tampere Philharmonic and Santtu-Matias Rouvali.

A Warner Classics recording artist, Tao’s debut disc *Voyages* was declared a “spiky debut” by *The New Yorker’s* Alex Ross. Of the album, *NPR* wrote: “Tao proves himself to be a musician of deep intellectual and emotional means.” His next album, *Pictures*, with works by David Lang, Tōru Takemitsu, Elliott Carter, Mussorgsky and Tao himself, was hailed by *The New York Times* as “a fascinating album [by] a thoughtful artist and dynamic performer...played with enormous imagination, color and command.” His third album,

American Rage, featuring works by Julia Wolfe, Frederic Rzewski and Aaron Copland, was released in the fall of 2019. In 2021, Tao and brass quartet The Westerlies released *Bricolage*, an album of improvisations and experiments recorded in a small cabin in rural New Hampshire in June 2019.

Tao was born in Urbana, Illinois in 1994. He has studied piano with Emilio del Rosario in Chicago and Yoheved Kaplinsky in New York, and composition with Christopher Theofanidis.

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Caleb Teicher

Dancer/Choreographer

Caleb Teicher is a New York City-based dancer, choreographer and director regarded widely in the performing arts as a leading voice in interdisciplinary collaboration.

Teicher began their career as a founding member of Michelle Dorrance's critically acclaimed tap dance company, Dorrance Dance, while also freelancing as a contemporary dancer, musical theater performer and swing dancer. In 2015, Teicher shifted their creative focus towards concert dance work through Caleb Teicher & Company, which led to commissions and presentations at some of America's most esteemed performing arts venues: Lincoln Center, The Joyce Theater, New York City Center, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and countless others.

Collaborations with celebrated musicians/composers followed, including: choreographing Regina Spektor's Broadway residency, dancing and singing on

television with Ben Folds, performing as a tap dance soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra and choreographing AJR's *Bang* music video. Teicher has also contributed choreography to film and theater projects (*Sister Aimee*, *Sugar Hill Nutcracker*).

Teicher's work in 2024 centers around three projects: *SWING OUT*, Teicher's acclaimed big-band-swing-dance show celebrating the present-day Lindy Hop community; *Bzzz*, a comedic music-theater work for tap dancers and world-champion beatboxers; and *Counterpoint*, a concert duo with composer and pianist, Conrad Tao. Alongside hometown engagements, Teicher's work will be seen in over a dozen US cities this year as well as international engagements in Paris and Seoul.

Teicher is the recipient of two Bessie Awards, a 2019 New York City Center Choreographic Fellowship, the 2019 Harkness Promise Award, the 2020 Gross Family Prize and a 2019 NEFA National Dance Project Production Grant. Their work has been featured on *NPR's Tiny Desk Concert* (with Conrad Tao), on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* (alongside Regina Spektor) and on countless media sources including *The New York Times*, *Forbes*, *Vogue*, *Interview Magazine* and on the cover of *Dance Magazine*.

www.calebteicher.net