



Image: Machine Dazzle. Photo by Gregory Kramer

Bassline Fabulous

Catalyst Quartet

2022-2023 Quartet in Residence

with Machine Dazzle

Friday, December 16 and Saturday, December 17 at 7 pm

Vanderlyn Panorama Room, The American Wing

Catalyst Quartet

Karla Donehew Perez, violin

Abi Fayette, violin

Paul Laraia, viola

Karlos Rodriguez, cello

Geoff Sobelle, director

Jeremy Lydic, director of production

Alban Sardzinski, lighting design

Nicholas Pollock, associate lighting designer

and operator

Laura Hirschberg, stage manager

Kathe Mull, elf

Jason Coles, stagehand

Christopher Dividu, stagehand

Please note that this performance contains sexual content.

This performance is made possible by the Adrienne Arsht Fund for Resilience through Art.

Additional support is provided by Barbara Tober, the Muriel Kallis Steinberg Newman Fund, and the Grace Jarcho Ross and Daniel G. Ross Concert Fund.

MetLiveArts thanks Barbara Tober for generously hosting the invited dress rehearsal, and The Frederick R. Koch Foundation for its support of the special event.

Notes on the Program

Conceived during a car trip, The Bach/Gould Project was our first major creative undertaking as an ensemble. During that trip, we discovered Glenn Gould's only published composition, his String Quartet, Op. 1, completed just before his hallmark debut album of J. S. Bach's *Goldberg Variations* in 1955. We were intrigued by Gould's dynamic relationship with the work and the influence it imparted on him as a composer. We created The Bach/Gould Project to explore the connection of Bach and Gould through the string quartet medium. Since the *Goldberg Variations* did not exist in string quartet form, we set out to arrange our own fully realized four-voice version to record with Gould's String Quartet, Op. 1.

With *Bassline Fabulous*, we collaborate with the fabulous Machine Dazzle to examine the inescapable evolution of the *Goldberg Variations* through a real-time performance installation. The bass line remains constant through 30 movements of canons, *fughetti*, dances and arabesques, a staunch pillar of infrastructure around which a world steadily develops. The return of the opening aria brings the audience back home, yet the way it's felt changes fundamentally after the long journey. The *Goldberg Variations* stand as one of Western art music's wildest (yet most logical) exercises in transformation, and with *Bassline Fabulous*, its transformative power is felt anew.

—Catalyst Quartet

When I listen to music, I see shapes. The shapes create a palette of ideas. The ideas come together to tell a story. The *Goldberg Variations* inspire so many things instinctually and emotionally, I'm having fun linking them all together. A literal "chain" of events visiting pleasure, pain, laughter and longing.

—Machine Dazzle

Learn more about the Catalyst Quartet [here](#) and Machine Dazzle [here](#).

Program

Goldberg Variations, BWV 988

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Arrangement by Catalyst Quartet

Aria

Variatio 1. a 1 Clav.

Variatio 2. a 1 Clav.

Variatio 3. Canone all'Unisono. a 1 Clav.

Variatio 4. a 1 Clav.

Variatio 5. a 1 ô vero 2 Clav.

Variatio 6. Canone alla Seconda. a 1 Clav.

Variatio 7. a 1 ô vero 2 Clav. al tempo di Giga

Variatio 8. a 2 Clav.

Variatio 9. Canone alla Terza. a 1 Clav.

Variatio 10. Fughetta. a 1 Clav.

Variatio 11. a 2 Clav.

Variatio 12. a 1 Clav. Canone alla Quarta in moto contrario

Variatio 13. a 2 Clav.

Variatio 14. a 2 Clav.

Variatio 15. Canone alla Quinta. a 1 Clav.: Andante

Variatio 16. Ouverture. a 1 Clav.

Variatio 17. a 2 Clav.

Variatio 18. Canone alla Sexta a 1 Clav.

Variatio 19. a 1 Clav.

Variatio 20. a 2 Clav.

Variatio 21. Canone alla Settima

Variatio 22. a 1 Clav. alla breve

Variatio 23. a 2 Clav.

Variatio 24. Canone all'Ottava. a 1 Clav.

Variatio 25. a 2 Clav.

Variatio 26. a 2 Clav.

Variatio 27. Canone alla Nona. a 2 Clav.

Variatio 28. a 2 Clav.

Variatio 29. a 1 ô vero 2 Clav.

Variatio 30. a 1 Clav. Quodlibet

Aria da Capo

Machine Dazzle, 2019. Photo: Gregory Kramer.

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