

# Nois

2024 ~ 2025 Season





Take your preconceived notions of 'noise' and toss them out the window. Equal parts **"fiendishly good and fiendishly goofy"** ([Chicago Tribune](#)), ~Nois is a Chicago-based saxophone quartet dedicated to **connecting with diverse audiences through the creation of new work**. Since its founding in 2016, "~Nois continues to legitimize the saxophone quartet as a premiere ensemble formation for classical music" ([Brutal New Music](#)) through commissioning repertoire that is thought-provoking, engaging, and honestly just really good, by some of today's most inspiring compositional voices.

Hailed as “**technically superb and musically brilliant**” (Cleveland Classical), and renowned for their “supremely sensitive balance and control” (Chicago Classical Review), The ensemble has also been awarded top prizes at numerous prestigious chamber music competitions including the M-Prize International Arts Competition, the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. Over the past seven years, ~Nois has presented over **130 performances spanning 24 states.** These engagements have included performances at Big Ears, LONG PLAY, the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, Princeton Sound Kitchen, and the University of Chicago Presents Series.

As educators, ~Nois has held residencies at some of the nation's top academic institutions including the University of Chicago, Princeton University, Michigan State University, and more. In addition to their yearly touring schedule, as **proud residents of Chicago**, the ensemble members seek to serve the diverse neighborhoods of the city through an annual season of self-presented concerts and programs.



At the core of ~Nois' ethos is a fierce **dedication to the commissioning of living composers**. In doing so, the ensemble aims to create new works that reflect and exemplify the values of human connection which are central to the quartet's mission. With more than **100 world premieres to date**, the members of ~Nois have had the privilege of working closely with some of the world's leading voices in composition to create new works for saxophone quartet, including Nico Muhly, Augusta Read Thomas, Shelley Washington, Alex Mincek, Hans Thomalla, and Tonia Ko, among others.

~Nois' recorded output boasts a wide variety of genres and styles, spanning back to 2020, when the ensemble released their debut album, "Is This ~Nois".

Heralded as “fresh and intense” (The Whole Note), the album (which was absolutely not named in honor of a record by The Strokes) exclusively featured works by composers with ties to the quartet’s hometown of Chicago and was included in the “Best of Bandcamp” list for the contemporary classical category in June of 2020. The group’s highly anticipated sophomore album,

**"Kinds of ~Nois"**, will be releasing in **March of 2024** on the label **Bright Shiny Things**, in collaboration with the composer collective **Kinds of Kings**.

Additionally, ~Nois' recorded output has been featured on some of the country's leading classical music radio stations, including WFMT in Chicago and WQXR's "New Sounds" Series on New York Public Radio.

~Nois is Hunter Bockes, János Csontos, Jordan Lulloff, and Julian Velasco.  
For more information, please visit [www.noissaxophone.com](http://www.noissaxophone.com).

TECHNICALLY  
SUPERB

AND

MUSICALLY  
BRILLIANT

*~Cleveland Classical*



TRULY

INNOVATIVE

MUSICIANSHIP

*~Cacophony Magazine*

SUPREMELY SENSITIVE

BALANCE  
AND  
CONTROL

*~Chicago Classical Review*

GEN Z'S ANSWER <sup>to</sup> the  
PRISM QUARTET

*~Chicago Tribune*



FIENDISHLY GOOD

*~Chicago Tribune*



Repertoire selected from:

2024

2025

## CONCERT PROGRAMS

### Discovery

(75 to 90 Minutes)

With over **100 premieres to-date**, ~Nois has positioned themselves at the forefront of contemporary saxophone literature. This concert offers ~Nois' **personally curated selection of fresh sounds** for saxophone quartet by some of the country's leading composers. The saxophone's intersection between classical, contemporary, popular, and jazz worlds makes for a diverse and adventurous evening of music.

What new discoveries await you?

The Trans-Diametric Vibe-Cycle Pulse-Wave Optimizer - **Alex Mincek**

*New Work* - **Nico Muhly** | Sunthrower - **Darian Donovan Thomas**

Shakespeare's Jesters - **Augusta Read Thomas** | *New Work* - **Alex Temple**

Threads|Threats - **Will Healy** | Eternal Present - **Shelley Washington**

Night Music - **Emma O'Halloran** | Brushy Fork - **Bryce Dessner**

Perihelion - **Elijah Daniel Smith** | Saxophonquartett - **Georg Friedrich Haas**



2024

2025

# CONCERT PROGRAMS



## Kinds of ~Nois *(60 Minutes)*

A live performance of their electric sophomore album of the same name (released March 2024 on **Bright Shiny Things**), ~Nois highlights the work of the **Kinds of Kings** composer collective with music by Maria Kaoutzani, Gemma Peacocke, and Shelley Washington. This program spans a wide array of human emotion, from the soft, somber tones of Peacocke’s “Dwalm” exploring ideas of death and loss, to the aggressive dueling baritone saxophones in Washington’s “BIG Talk” depicting the relentless nature of sexual harassment targeted at female-identifying individuals.

Described by The New Yorker as “**distinguished young creators who work in diverse styles,**” Kinds of Kings focuses on advocating for underrepresented voices and producing immersive, inclusive works. The Kinds of ~Nois program is the culmination of 3 years of close collaboration between the two groups.

### Program

Dwalm	Gemma Peacocke
Shore to Shore	Maria Kaoutzani
BIG Talk	Shelley Washington
Eternal Present	Shelley Washington
Count Me In	Maria Kaoutzani
Hazel	Gemma Peacocke

2024

2025

# FEATURED COMMISSIONS

Available in the "Discovery" Program



**NICO MUHLY**

Supported by the The Serge Koussevitzky Music Foundation in the Library of Congress, the 2024/23025 season for ~Nois will see the premiere of Nico Muhly's first saxophone quartet. This 12-minute work will explore the full sonic capabilities of the saxophone with the masterful sensitivity and finesse that Nico has become renowned for.



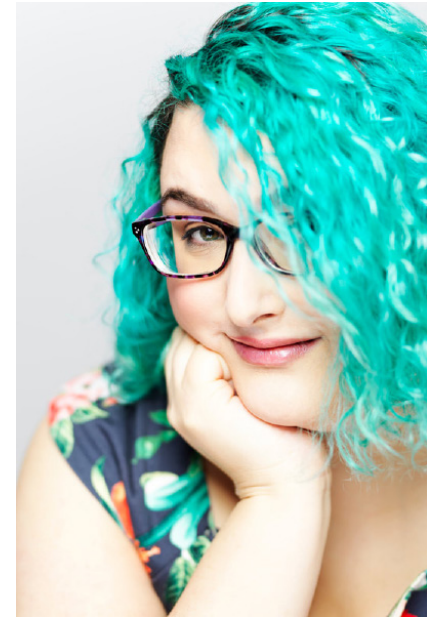
**AUGUSTA READ  
THOMAS**

"Shakespeare's Jesters" is a rollicking 9 minute tour-de-force that channels the energy of Shakespearean dancers in a way only Grammy award winning composer Augusta Read Thomas could. Commissioned by ~Nois and premiered in April of 2024, audiences across the country in the fall of 2024 will be the first to hear this captivating new work.



**SHELLEY  
WASHINGTON**

Commissioned in partnership between ~Nois and the WQXR Artist Propulsion Lab, Shelley Washington's "Eternal Present" is a captivating two movement work and the centerpiece of ~Nois' sophomore album, "Kinds of ~Nois". An accomplished saxophonist herself, Washington's compositional voice shines bright in her first work for the saxophone quartet medium.



**ALEX TEMPLE**

Set to premiere in September 2024, Alex Temple's saxophone quartet will toe the boundary of funny and frightening while reclaiming socially disapproved-of ("cheesy") sounds. A staple of the Chicago music community, this new work comes on the tails of her critically acclaimed album with Spektral Quartet and Julia Holter, "Behind the Wallpaper".

## Selected University Residencies, Masterclasses, and Performances

Bowling Green State University ~ Bowling Green, OH  
James Madison University ~ Harrisonburg, VA  
Manhattan School of Music ~ New York, NY  
Michigan State University ~ East Lansing, MI  
Northern Arizona University ~ Flagstaff, AZ  
Northwestern University ~ Evanston, IL  
Oklahoma State University ~ Stillwater, OK  
Princeton University ~ Princeton, NJ  
Stony Brook University ~ Stonybrook, NY  
University of Southern California ~ Los Angeles, CA  
University of Chicago ~ Chicago, IL  
University of Colorado - Boulder ~ Boulder, CO  
University of Georgia ~ Athens, GA  
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point ~ Stevens Point, WI

## Selected Past Festivals and Venues

Areté ~ Brooklyn, NY  
Big Ears ~ Memphis, TN  
Bang on a Can Long Play ~ Brooklyn NY  
Chicago Jazz Festival ~ Chicago, IL  
Chicago Cultural Center ~ Chicago, IL  
Continuum Music Festival ~ Memphis, TN  
Equal Sound Series ~ Los Angeles, CA  
Frequency Series at Constellation ~ Chicago, IL  
Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival ~ Detroit, MI  
Interference Series ~ Flagstaff, AZ  
MKE Unplugged ~ Milwaukee, WI  
Omaha Under the Radar Festival ~ Omaha, NE  
Outpost Concert Series ~ Riverside, CA  
Rockwood Music Hall ~ Manhattan, NY  
Roulette ~ Brooklyn, NY







## FOR BOOKING

Jordan Lulloff | Executive Director

[jordan@noissaxophone.com](mailto:jordan@noissaxophone.com)

[www.noissaxophone.com](http://www.noissaxophone.com)

# CONTACT

# US