

TEXT

Butterfly, posthumously

Text by Baldwin Giang

(with adapted text from Madama Butterfly: libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa)

I. (To a lover)

I do not move

I do not leave,

Do not resist.

I stay fastened

Down, like a butterfly.

I have caught you.

I hold you as you flutter.

Be mine.

II. (To you)

In my country

When a man catches a butterfly

He'll pierce its heart

With a needle

That it may not escape.

"What is a country but a life sentence?"

III. (To her son)

For you,

That you may go away,

Beyond the ocean.

For you,

When you are older,

Never to feel torn.

For you,

To love another man,

To love him,

Beyond the ocean.

But know,

Your departure

Is a final one.

Like the monarch butterfly,

Only your children

Will return.

But know,

"Only the future

Revisits the past."

IV. (To her husband)

You will return

You will come

Calling "Butterfly"

From the distance.

I will not go to you.

For on the hill, I lie.



BOWERBIRD PRESENTS

BLACK BOX
ENSEMBLE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025
UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

PROGRAM

Annie Nikunen: *All Mass is Interaction* (2023)

Nathalie Joachim: *I'm Right Here* (2023)

Baldwin Giang: *butterfly, posthumously* (2022)

- i. (To a lover)
- ii. (To you)
- iii. (To her son)
- iv. (To her husband)

Ileana Perez Velazquez: *Columnas de Luz* (2019)

James Diaz: *mil cuartos blancos en linea recta* (2023)

ABOUT BLACKBOX ENSEMBLE

BlackBox Ensemble is a NYC-based collective of contemporary performers reshaping the boundaries of new music. We treat sound as a living, porous medium shaped by genre-defiance, interdisciplinary dialogue, and the many meanings the term “black box” holds. In theatre, a black box is a bare, flexible space—four dark walls that can transform into anything, creating an environment ripe for bold experimentation and intimate connection. In science and technology, a black box is a system where you see the inputs and outputs, but the mystery of what happens inside is what makes it compelling. We believe music lives in those same spaces—enacting an ambiguous but vital relationship between artistic expression and social life, where sound, expression, and human experience collide in ways that can’t always be explained, but always resonate. Guided by the spirit of the black box, we create programs that invite risk, innovation, and connection, presenting contemporary music in ways that feel fresh, human, and alive.

Since our founding in 2018, we continue to craft sonic worlds where tradition meets innovation, where music is contextualized by other disciplines, and where sound is a site for reflection, reframing, and resonance. BlackBox’s wide-ranging projects have brought us from renowned concert halls to major museums, the mountainous landscape of the Berkshires to the woods of Michigan, the Hudson River waterfront to an underground karaoke bar in midtown Manhattan. Our 2025-2026 season includes a return to The Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art, debuts at National Sawdust and Bowerbird, and residencies at Penn State, George Washington University, UC Davis, SFSU, Williams College and a year-long appointment as Ensemble in Residence with University of Richmond. Our 2024-2025 season featured the season-opening performance of the Southern Exposure New Music Series at the University of South Carolina, performances at the Bang On a Can Long Play Festival, The Whitney Museum, and Chatham PS21, and residencies at the University of Chicago, University of Florida, and University of Central Florida.

blackboxensemble.org

MUSICIANS

Leonard Bopp, conductor
Amber Evans, soprano
Annie Nikunen, flute
Tyler Neidermayer, clarinet
Lauren Conroy, violin
Miguel Calleja-Rodriguez, violin
Jay Julio, viola
Jordan Bartow, cello
Sam Zagnit, bass
J Clancy, percussion
Matt Schultheis, piano