

Brooklyn College of CUNY
Michelle J. Anderson, *President*

School of Visual, Media and Performing Arts
Maria Conelli, *Dean*
Conservatory of Music
Marianne Gythfeldt, *Director*

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT:

*Music of Wadada Leo Smith
and Marc Mellits*

Douglas Cohen, Andrés León, and Frank Cassara, *Coordinators*

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 7 p.m.

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT:

Music of Wadada Leo Smith and Marc Mellits

Douglas Cohen, Andrés León, and Frank Cassara, *Coordinators*

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 7 p.m.

from *Tight Sweater Remix*

I. Exposed Zipper

II. Trans Fatty Acid's Rein

MARC MELLITS

(b.1966)

Chun-Jo Chang, *percussion*

Cassandra Mehl, *violoncello*

Jeryl Johnston, *piano*

Four Symphonies

Fall

Winter

Summer

Spring

WADADA LEO SMITH

(b.1941)

CEAC ensemble

Eva Redamonti, *flute*

Isaac Matus, *e. guitar/modular synthesizer*

Francois Deville, *computer*

Andrés León, *synthesizers*

Program Notes

Tight Sweater Remix: Exposed Zipper, Trans Fatty Acid's Rein – Mellits

Marc Mellits is an American composer and musician. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, he studied at the Eastman School of Music, the Yale School of Music, Cornell University, and Tanglewood. His composition instructors include Joseph Schwantner, Samuel Adler, Martin Bresnick, Bernard Rands, Christopher Rouse, Roberto Sierra, Jacob Druckman, Paul Ruders, and Steven Stucky. Mellits's music is influenced by minimalist and rock music, and has been identified with the postminimalist stylistic trend. He often composes for electric guitar and other amplified instruments. His commissions include pieces for the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Bang on a Can All-Stars, Assad Duo, Kronos Quartet, and the Meridian Arts Ensemble. His music has also been arranged by guitarist Dominic Frasca and the experimental music group Electric Kompany.

Mellits is a founding member of Common Sense Composers' Collective, which focuses on new and alternative ways of collaborating with performance ensembles. He is also the artistic director and keyboard player in his ensemble, the Mellits Consort.

Marc Mellits teaches composition at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Four Symphonies: Fall, Winter, Summer, Spring – Wadada Leo Smith

The CEAC ensemble performs *Four Symphonies* by Wadada Leo Smith as their last performance of the spring season. The ensemble have been working together during the beginning of this year at the Catalpa Experimental Art Center (CEAC), performing pieces by Pauline Oliveros, John Cage, and compositions written by members of the group itself.

Four Symphonies is a composition that uses the Ankhramation language scores created by Wadada Leo Smith as means of structuring and informing improvisers on how to interpret different pieces. The piece is constructed of four movements that follow four different panels (graphic scores) that are related with each seasonal change. Using scientific information or personal relations with objects and colors that are specific to that score and the scored symbols, each performer creates their own personal interpretation of the images.

Wadada Leo Smith, trumpeter, multi-instrumentalist, composer, and improviser is one of the most acclaimed creative artists of his times, both for his music and his writings. For the last five decades, Mr. Smith has been a member of the legendary AACM collective. He distinctly defines his music as "Creative Music." Mr. Smith's diverse discography reveals a recorded history centered around important issues that have impacted his world.