

# Voicing Innocence

Trauma, Memory, and Contemporary Opera  
in the Work of Kaija Saariaho

TUESDAY | 7 APRIL 2026

WEDNESDAY | 8 APRIL 2026

William P. Kelly Skylight Room, Ninth Floor

William P. Kelly Skylight Room, Ninth Floor

8:30 AM Registration

**Welcome & Introduction:** Tina Frühauf (Director of the Brook Center), Jarmo Sareva (Consul General of Finland in New York), Joshua Brumberg (President at the CUNY Graduate Center)

**Session 4** | Chair: Federico Favali (Conservatorio di Alessandria)  
**Philipp Lojak** (Yale University), *Timeless Voices: Folk Vocality and the Politics of Time in Kaija Saariaho's Innocence*

9:30 AM **Session 1** | Chair: Jonathan Gilmore (Baruch College and CUNY Graduate Center)

**Liisamaija Hautsalo** (Sibelius Academy, University of the Arts Helsinki), *Returning to the Past: Archaic Vocal Traditions and Musico-Dramatic Meaning in Kaija Saariaho's Innocence*

**Paola Livorsi** (Centre for Music and Technology, University of the Arts Helsinki), *Relational Voices at the Threshold of Speech and Song*

10:15 AM **Olga Manulkina** (Independent Scholar), *The Da Vinci Code: Saariaho's Operatic Fresco*

**Meeri Pulakka** (Sibelius Academy, University of the Arts Helsinki), *In the Transitional Spaces of Saariaho's Vocal Writing: Experience-based Artistic Research on Singing Émilie*

11:00 AM Coffee Break

Coffee Break

11:30 AM **Session 2** | Chair: Nickolas Pappas (CUNY City College and Graduate Center)  
**Yayoi Uno Everett** (CUNY Hunter College and the Graduate Center), *Kaija Saariaho's Adriana Mater (2006): A Narrative of Trauma and Ambivalence*

Vilma Jää **in Conversation with** Lindsey Eckenroth (RILM and the New School's Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts)

12:15 PM **Danielle Buonaiuto** (CUNY Graduate Center), *Staging Collective Trauma: Compassionate and Care-full Approaches to the Depiction of Gun Violence in Simon Stone's Production of Innocence*

Sofi Oksanen **in Conversation with** Yayoi Uno Everett (CUNY Hunter College and the Graduate Center)

1:00 PM Lunch

Lunch

2:00 PM **Session 3** | Chair: Peter Eckersall (CUNY Graduate Center)

**Session 5** | Chair: Ralph Whyte (RILM and Columbia University)

**Olga Heikkilä** (Sibelius Academy, University of the Arts Helsinki), *Innocence and Its Performers: Significant Expansion of Operatic Vocality and Prosodic Possibility*

**Federico Favali** (Conservatorio di Alessandria), *The Concept of Hidden Theatricality in the String Quartets by Kaija Saariaho*

2:45 PM **Naama Perel-Tzadok** (University of Pittsburgh), *Resonant Tongues: Exploring the Sound of Language in Kaija Saariaho's Opera Innocence*

**You-Kyung CHO** (Tokyo University of the Arts), *Memory as Reconstruction: Temporal Entanglement and Musical Mediums in the Operas of Zimmermann, Saariaho, and Pagh-Paan*

3:30 PM Coffee Break

Elebash Recital Hall

4:00 PM **Aleksi Barrière in Conversation with** Frank Hentschker (Director of the Martin E. Segal Theatre Center, CUNY Graduate Center)

Jean-Baptiste Barrière **in Conversation with** G. Steven Everett (CUNY Graduate Center)

5:00 PM Coffee Break

6:00 PM **Closing Concert** | Saariaho with Electronics  
Hosted in collaboration with the *overdrive* festival for experimental electronic music and multimedia art.

6:30 PM **Reception** (by invitation)

**Program**

*Lonh* (1996)  
*Fall* (version for harpsichord, 1995)  
*Jardin secret I* (1984)  
*Jardin secret II* (1986)  
*Petals* (1988)  
*Im Traume* (1980)

**Olga Heikkilä** | soprano  
**Tuija Hakila** | harpsichord, piano  
**Hannah Collins** | violoncello  
**Joann Whang** | violoncello