



BL!NDMAN – MUSIC WITH CHANGING PARTS



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BL!NDMAN

BL!NDMAN has been at the forefront of the music world as a contemporary collective for over 35 years. Originality and experimentation are what drive BL!NDMAN. Since its founding in 1988, visionary Eric Sleichim has fully embraced innovation with an unrelenting passion for sound. With the launch of an unconventional saxophone quartet, he introduced new playing techniques and significantly expanded the instrument's repertoire. Today, BL!NDMAN [sax] shares its expertise with BL!NDMAN [drums], BL!NDMAN [strings], and BL!NDMAN [hybrid]. This has resulted in a unique musical collective composed exclusively of quartets. Driven by unprecedented cross-pollination, BL!NDMAN presents a bold repertoire of both old and new music. A BL!NDMAN performance is a total experience—it challenges the ears, pleases the eyes, and stimulates the listener to be open to daring and unexplored soundscapes.



In 2023, Warner Music Benelux released the triple BL!NDMAN album *ICONS – The American Minimalists*. One of the albums is entirely dedicated to the music of Philip Glass, including a recording of the groundbreaking *Music with Changing Parts*, a composition that varies in length and sounds slightly different with every performance. Especially for the Blender Festival, BL!NDMAN presents a full-length extended version—a gradually transforming, hypnotic, and repetitive trip.

MUSIC WITH CHANGING PARTS

When discussing minimalist or repetitive music, we inevitably arrive at Philip Glass, one of the pioneers of minimal music. Alongside other artists like Julius Eastman, Steve Reich, and Terry Riley (to name a few), he paved the way for one of the most exciting and flourishing movements in 20th and 21st-century music. Remarkably, they continued shaping this path throughout their careers. To this day, Glass continues to build a repertoire that has appealed to a wide and diverse audience since the late 1960s.

In the 1960s, Philip Glass traveled through India, Tibet, and North Africa, encountering a vast array of musical traditions. The modular forms found in much Eastern music resonated with what he was seeking in his own compositions. Although classically trained, he decided to fully embrace the principles of Eastern music, emphasizing rhythmic cycles and slowly evolving harmonies. The meditative and hypnotic nature of this music is often reflected in Glass's works, which tend to be particularly lengthy—his five-hour opera *Einstein on the Beach* is perhaps the most well-known and successful example.

Music with Changing Parts is composed for an unspecified instrumentation, allowing musicians to decide when to transition to the next section. The rhythmic and melodic variations propel the piece forward. By using different cells and repeating them a varying number of times, the listener's expectations are continually challenged until they let go of all anticipation. As the title suggests, there is no external theme to be found here—it is an abstract composition where the different voices evolve continuously in the same direction (either ascending or descending), in parallel, or in constant counter-movement. Long bass tones and sustained sounds emphasize the underlying harmonic rhythm. In this composition—presented by BL!NDMAN as one large orchestral work—Glass creates a sonority that is inseparable from tonal music yet conceptually distinct from anything the Western musical tradition has produced.

Robert Jones writes in the preface to the book *Music by Philip Glass*:
"Terry Riley, Steve Reich, and Philip Glass emerged from a pool of musical innovators who had absorbed 'classical music,' turned their backs on it, and



embraced Eastern forms of musical expression. No single composer invented this new music. It was an eruption of the time—an inevitability. It happened."

CREDITS

Eric Sleichim and Ward De Ketelaere - Artistic direction, arrangements

BL!NDMAN [sax]

- Pieter Pellens – Soprano saxophone
- Hendrik Pellens – Alto saxophone
- Piet Rebel – Tenor saxophone
- Sebastiaan Cooman – Baritone saxophone

BL!NDMAN [strings]

- Stefanie Van Backlé – Violin
- Femke Verstappen – Violin
- Monica Goicea – Viola
- Suzanne Vermeyen – Cello

BL!NDMAN [drums]

- Ward De Ketelaere – Percussion & electric guitar
- Yves Goemaere – Percussion
- Hannes Nieuwlaet – Percussion
- Gideon Van Canneyt – Percussion

Fabian Coomans – Piano & synthesizer