



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FEMENINE 4/20

Julius Eastman's minimalist masterpiece from 1980s New York.

Thursday, April 20, 2023

6:00 pm Soup and Cocktails - 7:00 pm Concert

Straub Collaborative - 3333 NW Industrial Street

[Tickets at 45thparallelpdx.org](https://45thparallelpdx.org)

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WHAT TO EXPECT

45th Parallel Universe is thrilled to present Julius Eastman's brilliant masterpiece *Femenine*, a one-hour minimalist meditation on beauty, spontaneity, and community. The program will start with an adaptation of the iconic radio piece "Boys" by Meredith Monk, A WORLD PREMIERE!!

Featuring pianist Darrell Grant, vocalist Bora Yoon, violist Kenji Bunch, guitarist Mike Gamble, and the virtuosos of 45th Parallel Universe, this evening promises to be a remarkable, stirring, and unconventional concert experience.

It's said that Eastman often served soup at his 1970s NYC concerts. So, we're partnering with Portland's own Stone Soup! All ticket holders are encouraged to come early and enjoy beautiful wines and local beers from our cash bar, and delicious free samples of locally made soups crafted by the team at this incredible, community-minded nonprofit org.

ABOUT JULIUS EASTMAN:

Julius Eastman (1940–1990) was an African-American composer, pianist, vocalist, and dancer. Eastman grew up in Ithaca, New York, where he began studying piano at age 14 and made rapid progress. He made his debut as a pianist in 1966 at Town Hall in New York City. In New York, Eastman became involved in the avant-garde music scene, established himself as a performer, conductor, and composer, and was associated with some of the most innovative musicians and composers of his time, including Philip Glass, Steve Reich, and John Cage.



Despite his significant contributions to music, Eastman's life was marked by personal struggles and financial difficulties. After he died, alone in a Buffalo hospital at age 49, it took eight months for an obituary to be published.

ABOUT FEMENINE:

The first time I heard this piece I cried. Feminine is beautiful, joyful, and provocative and defiant, just like Julius Eastman. As a jazz performer I can't wait to immerse myself alongside these thoughtful musicians in the emotional sound world of this daringly individualistic Black American composer. - Darrell Grant

Eastman's 1974 work *Femenine* (pronounced feh-meh-NEEN), a mesmerizing 70-minute groove that unfolds one beautiful moment after another. It's a masterpiece of collective, ecstatic music-making.

Even putting the historical significance of Eastman's work aside, *Femenine* is simply great music, an epic meditation on beauty, spontaneity, and community. It's an open score, meaning the players get to choose who's in the band, and also have great latitude in how the piece evolves, with Eastman's 4 page score giving the players very spare direction. The line between composer and performer is moved significantly in favor of the musician, with the result being performances that are utterly original and specific to that moment in time.

ARTISTS

[Bora Yoon](#) - (Professor of music at Reed College)

[Kenji Bunch](#) - Viola (Femenine)

[Darrell Grant](#) - Piano (Femenine)

[Mike Gamble](#) - Guitar (Creative Music Guild)

45th Artists: Marilyn de Oliveira, Ron Blessinger, James Shields, Jason Schooler, Sergio Carreno, Kevin Schlossman, Kirt Peterson, John Nastos

ABOUT 45TH PARALLEL UNIVERSE

45th Parallel Universe is a collective of musicians who come together to celebrate and reimagine great chamber music with intimate artistic experiences.

Since 2009, 45th Parallel Universe has happily broken down distinctions between old and new chamber music, bluegrass and jazz, fiddle and folk. By bringing fragmented audiences together, 45th Parallel reflects Portland's surging creative communities in fresh and imaginative ways.