

# Different Trains by Steve Reich

## Premiere October 4 at The Jewish Theatre

The Jewish Theatre's director and artistic director, **Pia Forsgren** is staging the work *Different Trains* by Steve Reich. The Fleshquartet performs this piece in a glass installation by the artist Ann Wählström. The performance will also feature a new work written by The Fleshquartet – *Tears Apart*. This movement is a reflection and comment on Reich's *Different Trains*. The musicians and audience will be surrounded by billowing glass shapes in a play with light, harmonies and shifting transparencies. The concert will be played during October and November 2008.

*Different Trains* is a piece in three movements written for a string quartet. The melodies in the work are interwoven with recorded, spoken voices. The American composer **Steve Reich** spent a lot of time on trains as a child, commuting between the American west and east coasts. Had he been living in Europe at the time, in the early 1940s, as a Jew, he would have been put on different trains entirely. *Different Trains* relates both Steve Reich's own childhood journeys and those that took the Jews to the extermination camps. Steve Reich has had a strong influence on contemporary art music; the slow, repetitive rhythms, the phasing into different tempi, the shifts in canon. *Different Trains* was Steve Reich's first work in which he "extracted" music from speech; he later developed this concept in *The Cave* and *City Life*.

**The Fleshquartet** has been active for 25 years and has collaborated with a great variety of artists, including Joakim Thåström, Robyn, Moondog and Elvis Costello. They have been involved in various productions for the stage, for instance dance performances by the choreographer Mats Ek and the Cullberg Ballet, Mikhail Baryshnikov and the Paris Opera. In 2007 they released the album *Voices of Eden*.

Pia Forsgren first contacted the artist **Ann Wählström** about her visions of a theatre environment made of glass, and Ann was intrigued by the idea. Ann Wählström has studied glass-blowing and design in Sweden and at the Pilchuck Glass School in the USA and says that this has given her the best of two worlds: Swedish traditional craftsmanship and American independence from tradition.

**The Jewish Theatre** is based on an old tradition of questioning, curiosity and endless experimentation with the art of incorporating the new and the unfamiliar. Under the leadership of Manager, Director and Creative Director **Pia Forsgren**, the theater has created a unique arena in Stockholm for contemporary dramatic art. The Jewish Theatre is striving to merge art, technology and architecture and develop fresh new physical/technical potential for future stage performances. The Jewish Theatre is part of the privately held Proventus group.

[www.thejewishtheatre.se](http://www.thejewishtheatre.se)

**For more information**

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