**Conrad Tao to be featured in World Premiere performance**

**of David Lang’s new opera *The Loser* at BAM, September 7-11**

*The piece, which features mezzanine-only seating with Conrad and baritone Rod Gilfry performing atop raised platforms, opens the 2016 Next Wave Festival*



New York, NY - [**Conrad Tao**](http://conradtao.com) will be one of two visible performers featured in the World Premiere of **David Lang**’s new opera monodrama *The Loser,* which will open **BAM’s 2016 Next Wave Festival** September 7-11 at theHoward Gilman Opera House. The work tells the story of an angry, misanthropic man whose dream of becoming a concert pianist is crushed when he and his friend encounter the genius of Glenn Gould.

Performances will feature an unusual stage design with custom-built platforms for Conrad and baritone Rod Gilfry, allowing the **mezzanine-only audience** to envision a loner engulfed in the void of an empty theater. Below and out of site will be conductor Karina Canellakis, and an ensemble of musicians associated with Bang on a Can.

In addition to the opera, Conrad also bookended his recent Warner Classics album, [***Pictures***](http://conradtao.com/music/pictures/), with two pieces by David Lang alongside Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exhibition*. The *New York Times’* Anthony Tommasini called it “a fascinating album [by] a thoughtful artist and dynamic performer…played with enormous imagination, color and command.”

At just 22 years of age, **Conrad Tao** has been praised as a musician of “probing intellect and open-hearted vision” by *The New York Times*, a “thoughtful and mature composer” by *NPR*, and “ferociously talented” by *Time Out New York*. He was also the only classical musician selected to the *Forbe*s influential “30 Under 30” list of people changing the world in 2011.