

PROGRAM NOTES by Aaron Grad

Christian Wolff (b. 1934) first connected with Cage as a composition student, but soon the French-born teenager was making significant contributions in his own right. (It was Wolff who gave Cage a copy of the *I Ching*, a Chinese system of numerology that fueled years of experimentation with random chance.) At 81, Wolff is still actively exploring intersections of freedom and control in his compositions. Ten years after writing *For Bob*, a celebration of Robert Rauschenberg's birthday, Wolff has honored the late artist again in a new work composed expressly for this program, ***For Bob II***. "Apart from the general spirit of Bob's work," Wolff wrote, "I've worked on it with one of my favorite art works, his *Rebus*, in my mind's eye and in my head, and also the *Erased de Kooning*. The dimensions of the music are modest, and there are of course basic differences in what and how you hear and what and how you look; but I'm trying for some similarities in the (variegated) rhythms of his and my structures."

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