

The Kukuruz Piano Quartet features 4 pianists on the unfamiliar combination of 4 upright or 4 grand pianos and sheds new light on the music of Julius Eastman.

The Kukuruz Piano Quartet was founded by [Simone Keller](#) in 2014 and has presented its programs in all over Europe. Some of the places where the Quartet has performed include documenta14 in Athens (Megaron Concert Hall), Volksbuehne Berlin and Schauspielhaus Zurich.

The Kukuruz Piano Quartet is a close-knit group of divergent artistic personalities, emergent from training in disparate musical fields: Simone Keller is a versatile pianist in contemporary and classical music, Philip Bartels is an experimental theatre stage director, Duri Collenberg studied composition in Amsterdam und Lukas Rickli has broad experience in improvisation.

The Kukuruz Quartet has placed a special emphasis on the music of Julius Eastman. After Eastman's death his manuscripts were scattered and some vanished. Only after years of detective work, led by Mary Jane Leach, has a corpus of scores been assembled. The Kukuruz Quartet plays not only the so-called "Nigger Series" (he often gave his pieces titles with provocative political intent), which Eastman composed in the late 1970s, as well as other piano interpretations, including Fugue no.7, a draft written by Eastman in 1983 upon invitation by Swiss artist Dieter Hall to play a concert in Zurich. Kukuruz Quartet plays also its own arrangements of Eastman pieces, whose transmission is too cryptic and fragmentary to be simply transferred to the concert hall as for example "Buddha" which is a graphic score.

The Kukuruz Quartet recorded some of Eastmans piano pieces which will be released in 2018 on [Intakt Records](#).

