

PROTOTYPE: OPERA | THEATRE | NOW

Announces Ninth Annual Festival, January 8-16, 2021



OPERA | THEATRE | NOW

The festival has been re-envisioned since the COVID-19 crisis, responding to the seismic events of 2020 with a series of multi-disciplinary, cross-platform events that expand the idea of how audiences can experience opera-theatre and music-theatre

Three world premiere vocal theatre performances include a self-guided digital exploration of isolation by 13 composers, an immersive sonic experience in Times Square by Geoff Sobelle & Pamela Z, and a multi-screen film and music installation at HERE by Helga Davis and Shara Nova

Three digital U.S. premieres from abroad will also explore themes of racial violence, environmental disaster, and the profound nature of change

(New York, NY) - October 22, 2020 - **PROTOTYPE: Opera | Theatre | Now**, Beth Morrison Projects and HERE's annual festival announces its ninth season, January 8-16 2021. The season, curated by festival directors **Jecca Barry, Kristin Marting, and Beth Morrison**, has been completely re-envisioned following the COVID-19 crisis, responding to the seismic events of the present moment in a way that would be impossible under normal circumstances, when works are often created over the course of several years. The result is a series of multi-disciplinary, cross-platform events that expand the technological boundaries of opera-theatre and music-theatre, and offer a new vision for the audience experience.

The festival opens with three world premiere vocal theatre works: **Modulation**, a self-guided digital exploration of isolation, fear, and identity by 13 composers; **Times³ (Times x Times x Times)**, an immersive sonic experience in Times Square by Geoff Sobelle & Pamela Z; and **Ocean Body**, a multi-screen film and music installation at HERE by composer/vocalists Helga Davis and Shara Nova and director-filmmaker Mark DeChiazza. There will also be three digital U.S. premieres from abroad – Ben Frost & Petter Ekmann’s **The Murder of Halit Yozgat**, Garin Nugroho and Septina Rosalina Layan’s **The Planet – A Lament**, and Valgeir Sigurðsson’s **Wide Slumber for Lepidopterists** – which explore themes of racial violence and institutional blindness, environmental disaster, and the unsettling nature of change. All festival offerings will be free, except for Modulation.

The Festival directors, in a joint statement, said: "The works our audiences are used to seeing in PROTOTYPE generally take 3-5 years to develop and produce. This year, as COVID necessitated that we put aside our originally planned festival, we recognized an opportunity. Warp-speed festival curation and artistic creation meant we could directly respond to our current time. To what has happened to our world in 2020. While we can't gather together in the dark of our beloved theatres, we can still take our audiences on a journey. A journey for this moment; one that has asked a group of artists to dream in different ways, collaborate in different ways, and create in different ways. The world is suffering in unimaginable ways right now. We believe that the best way for us to respond is to do what we do best – giving audiences a festival filled with astonishing work by breathtaking artists."

PROTOTYPE launches January 8, 2021, with the digital world premiere of **Modulation**, a groundbreaking exploration of how opera and theater can adapt to the digital format. The piece will allow audience members to choose their path through a series of musical and visual experiences that grapple with themes of isolation, identity, and fear. The digital and design experience is created in partnership with **Imaginary Places**, creators of the acclaimed digital quarantine response piece Decameron Row, and the thirteen individual works that make up the experience are composed by some of the most provocative and diverse voices in contemporary music: **Jojo Abot, Sahba Aminikia, Juhi Bansal, Raven Chacon, Carmina Escobar, Yvette Jackson, Molly Joyce, Jimmy López, Angelica Negrón, Paul Pinto, Daniel Bernard Roumain, Joel Thompson, and Bora Yoon.**

On January 9, PROTOTYPE will unveil **Times³ (Times x Times x Times)**, a world premiere sonic journey through Times Square – past, present and imagined. Created by composer Pamela Z and theatre artist Geoff Sobelle, this immersive sound experience weaves seamlessly in and out of the fabric of the city, exploring the history of the pulsing heart of New York City before it was silenced by the pandemic.

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The multi-screen film and music installation ***Ocean Body*** will also premiere on January 9 at HERE. In-person by appointment audiences of eight people at a time will experience an audiovisual experience crafted by composer/vocalists Helga Davis and Shara Nova, director-filmmaker Mark DeChiazza, and visual artist Annica Cuppetelli. The emotionally-charged installation will combine four video screens with surround sound audio, growing from the longstanding musical and personal relationship between Davis and Nova.

In addition to the three world premiere experiences, PROTOTYPE will offer the U.S. digital premiere of three deeply-relevant works, each streamed for free on-demand on the PROTOTYPE website. ***The Murder of Halit Yozgat***, composed by Ben Frost & Petter Ekmann with libretto by Daniela Danz, tells the story of 21-year-old Halit Yozgat, who was assassinated during broad daylight in 2006 in Kassel, Germany in his immigrant parents' café. Combining sound art, electronic music, and dark metal, this production directed by Ben Frost confronts the issues of racial violence, structural racism and institutional blindness. ***The Planet – A Lament***, directed by Garin Nugroho and composed and performed by Septina Rosalina Layan, tells the story of a community devastated by a tsunami, blending song, dance, and ritual with cinematic visuals, to tell a story of creation and destruction set against the backdrop of environmental disaster. ***Wide Slumber for Lepidopterists***, composed by Valgeir Sigurðsson with text by a. Rawlings, and directed by Sara Martí, creates a visceral, visually spectacular world around the cyclic metamorphosis and life cycle of butterflies and moths, bringing audiences into a cocoon where the borders between dreams and reality are blurred.

Tickets for ***Modulation*** will be on sale for \$25, with the remaining shows offered for free in an effort to provide the highest possible level of access to art during these challenging times. Entrance for all shows must be reserved in advance, and can be secured beginning November 16 by visiting prototypefestival.org.

MODULATION

DIGITAL WORLD PREMIERE
IN A CO-PRESENTATION WITH OPERA OMAHA

LAUNCHES JANUARY 8 AT 8PM ET | AVAILABLE TO STREAM JANUARY 8-16
TICKETS TO MODULATION ARE \$25.
TICKETS WILL BECOME AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 16.

Composed by Jojo Abot, Sahba Aminikia, Juhi Bansal, Raven Chacon, Carmina Escobar, Yvette Jackson, Molly Joyce, Jimmy López, Angelica Negrón, Paul Pinto, Daniel Bernard, Joel Thompson, and Bora Yoon

Site Concept and Design by Imaginary Places

As our society continues in a form of suspended animation, we look to art to open new avenues of thought, imagination, wonder, and reckoning. MODULATION is a digital, self-guided exploration of the times created by thirteen of the most provocative and diverse voices in the contemporary music idiom. Traveling through themes of ISOLATION, IDENTITY, and FEAR, with the connection of BREATH, an electrifying auditory and visual journey of new creations awaits.

As our society, country and world continue to exist in a form of suspended animation, we persevere through distance in search of humanity. We reflect on the long days behind us and reveal some answers through this creative effort. The voices of artists show us the hope and the irrepressible power of music to provide comfort and instigate contemplation of ourselves, our art, our world.

TIMES³

(TIMES x TIMES x TIMES)

OUT OF BOUNDS | WORLD PREMIERE SONIC EXPERIENCE

LAUNCHES JANUARY 9 AT 10AM ET | AVAILABLE THROUGH 2021
TICKETS TO TIMES³ (TIMES X TIMES X TIMES) ARE FREE.
TICKETS WILL BECOME AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 16.

Created by Geoff Sobelle & Pamela Z

Such strange times call for a new time signature. Is there still time to sit in the center of a city and hear the tide of traffic? To listen for a heartbeat? Composer Pamela Z and theatre artist Geoff Sobelle collaborate on a site-specific sonic journey through Times Square – past, present and imagined... In this work of sound and space, the listener is brought into a realm where the city and score come together and fall apart and come together again.

OCEAN BODY

WORLD PREMIERE INSTALLATION

LAUNCHES JANUARY 9 AT 12PM ET | AVAILABLE JANUARY 9-16 FROM 12-9PM ET, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
TICKETS TO OCEAN BODY ARE FREE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.
TICKETS WILL BECOME AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 16.

Composed and performed by Helga Davis & Shara Nova
Directed and filmed by Mark DeChiazza

Ocean Body immerses its audience in a landscape of sculpture, multiple video diptychs, and sound utilizing parallel imagery and music to examine

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the efficacy of interracial coalitions and the sometimes tenuous connection of friendship. A layered invitation to commune even as we crave autonomy, even as we are stuck in fear.

THE MURDER OF HALIT YOZGAT

DIGITAL U.S. PREMIERE

LAUNCHES JANUARY 10 AT 12PM ET | AVAILABLE TO STREAM JANUARY 10-16
TICKETS TO STREAM THE MURDER OF HALIT YOZGAT ARE FREE.
TICKETS WILL BECOME AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 16.

Composed by Ben Frost & Petter Ekmann

Direction by Ben Frost

Libretto by Daniela Danz

Musical Direction by Florian Groß

21-year-old Halit Yozgat was assassinated in broad daylight, in his immigrant parents' internet cafe on April 6, 2006 in Kassel, Germany. Five witnesses were present in the 77 square metre space when Halit was shot twice in the head. With his unconventional combination of sound art, electronics, and dark metal, Frost brilliantly and sensitively musicalizes the structural racism and institutional blindness that affects the country's immigrant communities.

THE PLANET - A LAMENT

DIGITAL U.S. PREMIERE

LAUNCHES JANUARY 10 AT 12PM ET | AVAILABLE TO STREAM JANUARY 10-16
TICKETS TO THE PLANET - A LAMENT ARE FREE.
TICKETS WILL BECOME AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 16.

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UNFORTUNATELY, THE PLANET – A LAMENT IS NOT AVAILABLE TO EUROPEAN AUDIENCES AT THIS TIME.

Directed by Garin Nugroho

Composed and performed by Septina Rosalina Layan

A destroyed community struggles in the aftermath of a devastating tsunami. With an alchemical mix of striking cinematics, haunting song, wild dance, and ancient ritual, Nugroho's **The Planet – A Lament** imparts a moving story of creation set against the backdrop of environmental disaster.

WIDE SLUMBER FOR LEPIDOPTERISTS

DIGITAL U.S. PREMIERE

LAUNCHES JANUARY 10 AT 12PM ET | AVAILABLE TO STREAM JANUARY 10-16

TICKETS TO WIDE SLUMBER ARE FREE.

TICKETS WILL BECOME AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 16.

Composed by Valgeir Sigurðsson

Text by a. rawlings

Direction by Sara Martí

Conjuring an ethereal and visceral world of cyclic metamorphosis, **Wide Slumber for Lepidopterists** tracks the stages of sleep and pairs them with the life cycle of Lepidopterae (butterflies and moths), lulling the audience into a cocoon where the borders between dreams and reality are blurred.