

**PROTOTYPE: OPERA | THEATRE | NOW**  
**Announces Details for**  
**Tenth Anniversary Season, January 7-16, 2022**

**PROTOTYPE**

**OPERA | THEATRE | NOW**

Celebrating its tenth anniversary season and a return to live performances, PROTOTYPE will present an array of new opera and music-theatre projects with a hybrid online and in-person festival.

The festival will present five world premieres and one United States premiere, and will feature a diverse group of over 600 artists.

**(New York, NY) - September 14, 2021** - PROTOTYPE: Opera | Theatre | Now, Beth Morrison Projects and HERE's annual festival, announces its tenth anniversary season running from January 7-16, 2022. Curated by festival directors Jecca Barry, Kristin Marting, and Beth Morrison, this season will mark PROTOTYPE's return to live performances following COVID-19, with a hybrid online and in-person festival. Leading up to the season, live digital streams will take place each month as part of PROTOTYPE X. The festival will present five world premieres and one United States premiere, and will feature a diverse group of over 600 artists, including composers, librettists, performers, and more.

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## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTORS

As we celebrate both our milestone tenth anniversary and a return to in-person performance, we've chosen to share a vast spectrum of imaginative music-theatre and opera-theatre work, from New York City, around the US, and the world, including five world premieres and one US premiere. Building on the success of last year's mostly digital festival, we will also offer two digital events - a livestream of one of our productions and an innovative international work. Above all, we are thrilled to be able to once again gather and engage with our community of opera lovers, theatre lovers, presenters, and adventurous souls, and to have the opportunity to bring everyone together to experience astonishing work by breathtaking artists.

- Jecca, Kristin, Beth

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With PROTOTYPE's tenth anniversary season on the horizon, the opportunity to celebrate and reflect on its boundary pushing work has taken shape in **OPERA | THEATRE | X** as a pre-cursor to the season. The free digital streams to be featured through the end of 2021 are *Acquanetta* on September 10, *Train With No Midnight* on October 13, *Cion: Requiem of Ravel's Bolero* on November 18, and *MODULATION*, featuring Angélica Negrón's *Otra Cosa* on December 9. All streams are live on the [PROTOTYPE homepage](#) for one showing only. Each stream will be followed by a conversation with the creators. No registration required, free to attend from anywhere in the world.

Opening PROTOTYPE's tenth anniversary season on January 7 is Taylor Mac's *The Hang*, rooted in the jazz tradition and operatic form, with music by Matt Ray, and directed by Nigel Smith. *The Hang* is about the final moments of Socrates' life imagined as a centuries-long communal consideration of virtue. This world premiere, commissioned, developed, and produced by HERE, is a celebration of queerness and living in the eternal moment. *The All Sing - "Here Lies Joy"* has its world premiere in Times Square on January 8, and is produced

by PROTOTYPE. The music is composed by Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR), the librettist and creative director is Marc Bamuthi Joseph, and is conducted by Carolyn Kuan. *The All Sing - "Here Lies Joy"* will unite over 1,000 voices in a vibrant tapestry of sound, poetic justice, and hope under the public programming initiative, "Out of Bounds." The goal of *The All Sing* is to celebrate the connectedness of community, our capacity to love, and to raise our voices together in joyful song. All are welcome to share in the moment either in-person, or via livestream. Also opening January 8 is ***Trade***, a world premiere production by Beth Morrison Projects, Irish National Opera, and Trinity Church Wall Street, commissioned by Beth Morrison Projects, Irish National Opera, Trinity Church Wall Street, and Nancy & Barry Sanders, and developed by Beth Morrison Projects. Emma O'Halloran (winner of the BMP's Next Generation Competition), librettist Mark O'Halloran, and director Tom Creed have collaborated to create a full length opera that tells the story of two men in working-class Dublin, both trapped within their own lives.

***Cannabis! A Viper Vaudeville***, is an immersive theatrical event commissioned, developed, and produced by HERE and co-presented with La MaMa. This cross-discipline musical exploration of the US history of cannabis makes its world premiere on January 8. The piece is based on Martin A. Lee's book, *Smoke Signals: A Social History of Marijuana - Medical, Recreational, and Scientific*, and composed by Grace Galu, written and co-directed by Baba Israel, and co-directed by Talvin Wilks. Following its world premiere, ***Book of Mountains & Seas*** has its United States premiere on January 11 at PROTOTYPE Festival. *Book of Mountains & Seas* was commissioned by Beth Morrison Projects, Ars Nova (Copenhagen), Toronto Soundstreams, Koorbiennale, Hong Kong New Vision Festival, Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech, and Linda & Stuart Nelson, with words and music by Huang Ruo, and direction and production design by Basil Twist. *Book of Mountains & Seas* is co-presented with St. Ann's Warehouse. It is a new work of vocal-theatre inspired by ancient Chinese myths. The work for 12 singers, two percussionists, and large-scale puppetry was first transcribed in 4th century B.C. It is a 21st-century adaptation through the lens of our modern-day relationship with the natural world. Finally, ***Marchita*** is the world premiere creation by Silvana Estrada opening on January 14. Estrada exposes the songs from her debut album of the same name, using choreography by Clara Pampyn and the vocal sounds of the Ka'y Ha' Quartet in an intimate ritual with

melodies that burst from tradition, loss, and love. Roberto Verástegui has arranged Estrada's original music, along with music direction by Laura Itendehui.

PROTOTYPE's tenth anniversary season will be presented in a digital format as well as in-person. One live production will also be available for online live streaming. Additionally, an international presentation will be streamed through the PROTOTYPE website. Details of the digital offerings will be announced at a later date.

There will be one in-person talkback for each show. Additionally, there will be a members' only virtual conversation with the directors at the tail-end of the festival on January 17.

Tickets can be secured at [prototypefestival.org](https://prototypefestival.org).

Tickets for members go on sale November 1.

Tickets for the public go on sale November 10.

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#### SAFETY STATEMENT

PROTOTYPE puts the safety of our artists and audiences first. We will be adhering to the safety protocols as outlined by our partner venues in accordance with CDC guidelines. Continue to check [prototypefestival.org](https://prototypefestival.org) for the current COVID protocols prior to attending each performance.



*Essential to the evolution of American opera.*  
— **The New Yorker**

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Pre-Season Digital Streams

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**OPERA | THEATRE | X**

*September – December, 2021*

*FREE Digital Streams at [prototypefestival.org](http://prototypefestival.org)*

[MORE INFO](#)

**Acquanetta** September 10, 2021, 4pm ET

**Train With No Midnight** October 13, 2021,  
7:30pm ET

**CIION: Requiem of Ravel's Boléro** November 18,  
2021, 3pm ET

**MODULATION**, featuring Angélica Negrón's  
*Otra Cosa*, December 9, 2021 6pm ET

## Listing Info

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### THE ALL SING

#### *"Here Lies Joy"*

*January 8, 2022*

*(January 9, 2022 – Rain date)*

*Times Square*

WORLD PREMIERE

COMMISSIONED, DEVELOPED, AND PRODUCED BY PROTOTYPE

**Music Composed by** Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR)

**Libretto and Creative Direction by** Marc Bamuthi Joseph

**Conducted by** Carolyn Kuan

*The All Sing* brings more than 1,000 people together to weave a vibrant tapestry of sound, poetic justice, and hope. From the voices who tread the boards of some of our most hallowed stages to those who tread the tiles of their shower, all are welcome in this ebullient celebration of connection, community, and our capacity to love. Together as one we will craft an unforgettable moment and sing for a return to a more just, healthy, and music-filled life in a post-COVID world.

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## THE HANG

*January 7-9 & 12-16, 2022*  
*HERE Arts Center, Mainstage*

WORLD PREMIERE

COMMISSIONED, DEVELOPED, AND PRODUCED BY HERE

**A HERE & Back Production**

**Book and Lyrics by** Taylor Mac

**Music by** Matt Ray

**Directed by** Niegel Smith

*The Hang* is a ritual celebration of queerness, questions and the eternity of a moment. Rooted in the jazz tradition and operatic form, it imagines the final hours of Socrates' life as a centuries-long communal consideration of virtue.

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## TRADE

*January 8-10 & 13-15, 2022*

*Venue TBD*

WORLD PREMIERE

COMMISSIONED BY BETH MORRISON PROJECTS, IRISH NATIONAL OPERA, TRINITY CHURCH WALL STREET, AND NANCY & BARRY SANDERS

DEVELOPED BY BETH MORRISON PROJECTS

PRODUCED BY BETH MORRISON PROJECTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH IRISH NATIONAL OPERA AND TRINITY CHURCH WALL STREET

**Music by** Emma O'Halloran

**Libretto by** Mark O'Halloran

**Direction by** Tom Creed

**Conducted by** Julian Wachner

Scored for two principal singers, ten instrumentalists and electronics, *Trade* tells the story of two men in working-class Dublin, both trapped within their own lives. Set in a cheap hotel room, Older Man has solicited Young Man for a sexual encounter, a ritual that has happened many times before. Older Man is trapped by his marriage, his sexuality, and his deepening feelings for Young Man. Young Man is trapped by his need for money to support a young baby. In this dingy hotel room, they wrestle with their own inner demons and their need for each other.

Contact: Andrew Ousley | Unison Media | [andrew@unison.media](mailto:andrew@unison.media) | 917.331.2337



A piece about duty, morality, and desire, *Trade* is the full-length commission awarded to emerging composer Emma O'Halloran as winner of BMP's Next Generation Competition.

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## CANNABIS! A VIPER VAUDEVILLE

*January 8-9 & 11-15, 2022*

*Ellen Stewart Theatre, La MaMa*

WORLD PREMIERE

CO-PRESENTED WITH LA MAMA

COMMISSIONED, DEVELOPED, AND PRODUCED BY HERE

### **A HERE Artist Residency Production**

**Music Composed by** Grace Galu

**Libretto and Co-Direction by** Baba Israel

**Dramaturgy and Co-Direction by** Talvin Wilks

*Cannabis! A Viper Vaudeville* is a theatrical concert exploring the history of cannabis using music, dance and spoken word. The team includes Baba Israel as writer, performer and co-director; Grace Galu as composer/performer; and dramaturg/co-director Talvin Wilks in collaboration with Soul Inscribed and an ensemble of dancers. Inspired by Martin A. Lee's book *Smoke Signals: A Social History of Marijuana - Medical, Recreational, and Scientific*, this theatrical concert weaves the histories of icons such as Louis Armstrong and Bob Marley, and grassroots activists such as Dennis Perron and Brownie Mary with personal narrative. Join us for a time-traveling tale of jubilation, injustice and transformation.

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## BOOK OF MOUNTAINS & SEAS

*January 11-15, 2022*  
*St. Ann's Warehouse*

U.S. PREMIERE

CO-PRESENTED WITH ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE

COMMISSIONED BY BETH MORRISON PROJECTS, ARS NOVA (COPENHAGEN),  
TORONTO SOUNDSTREAMS, KOORBIENNALE, HONG KONG NEW VISION FESTIVAL,  
MOSS ARTS CENTER at VIRGINIA TECH, AND LINDA & STUART NELSON

DEVELOPED AND PRODUCED BY BETH MORRISON PROJECTS

**Music and Libretto by** Huang Ruo

**Direction and Production Design by** Basil Twist

**Conducted by** Paul Hillier

*Book of Mountains & Seas* is a work of vocal-theatre for 12 singers, two percussionists, and large-scale puppetry. It is inspired by the ancient Chinese compilation of early myths of the same title, which was first transcribed in 4th century B.C. Over the years, these mythological stories have become part of Chinese written and oral history, shifted and reshaped to match contemporary times. *Book of Mountains & Seas* is a 21st-century adaptation through the lens of our modern-day relationship with the

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natural world. The creation stories conjure a sense of respect and awe for the environment and the water stories challenge us to be good stewards of the natural resources we have been given.

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## MARCHITA

*January 14-16, 2022*

*Dorothy B. Williams Theater, HERE Arts Center*

WORLD PREMIERE

COMMISSIONED, DIRECTED, AND PERFORMED BY SILVANA ESTRADA

**Music Arrangements by** Roberto Verástegui

**Music Direction by** Laura Itendehui

**Choreographed by** Clara Pampyn

**Featuring** Ka'y Ha' Quartet

A musical universe born with the need to poeticize and understand how words become actions. In this special performance, Silvana Estrada summons a new passage for her debut album *Marchita* by exposing the songs using the movement of the body and a vocal quartet in an intimate ritual with melodies that burst from tradition, loss, and love.



*Shifts the whole paradigm of what opera is and can be*  
— The New York Observer

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## ABOUT PROTOTYPE

**PROTOTYPE – OPERA | THEATRE | NOW** is a co-production of Beth Morrison Projects and HERE. The annual festival produces and presents a wide spectrum of works, from intimate black-box experiences to larger chamber opera productions. The festival has been hailed as “essential to the evolution of American opera” by *The New Yorker*, and as “One of the world’s top festivals of contemporary opera and theater” by the *Associated Press* in January 2021. PROTOTYPE gives voice to a diverse group of composers, librettists, performers and musicians across all genres, backgrounds, and cultures. The festival has become a global reference of artistic excellence in the field of opera and music-theatre. [www.prototypefestival.org](http://www.prototypefestival.org)

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## ABOUT HERE

Since 1993, HERE has been one of New York’s most prolific producing and presenting organizations, and today stands at the forefront of the city’s presenters of new multi-genre art. HERE’s aesthetic represents the independent, the innovative, and the experimental. HERE is committed to providing boundary breaking artists including those working in music-theatre and opera-theatre with commissioning, development, and producing support. Premieres developed and produced at HERE include Kamala Sankaram’s first opera *Miranda*, Yoav Gal’s *Mosheh*, Stefan Weisman & David Cote’s *The Scarlet Ibis*, Paul Pinto’s *Thomas Paine in Violence*, and Leah Coloff’s *ThisTree*. In 2013, HERE joined forces with Beth Morrison Projects to found the PROTOTYPE festival. In addition, HERE has developed such acclaimed works as Eve Ensler’s *The Vagina Monologues*; Basil Twist’s *Symphonie Fantastique*; Young Jean Lee’s *Songs of The Dragons Flying to Heaven*; Trey Lyford and Geoff Sobelle’s *all wear bowlers*; and Taylor Mac’s *The Lily’s Revenge*. Most recently, HERE commissioned and developed Taylor Mac’s *Gary: A Sequel to Titus Andronicus*, which made its Broadway debut to critical success in 2019 and was nominated for 7 Tony Awards. HERE has garnered 18

Obies, 2 Bessies, 5 Drama Desk Nominations, 4 Doris Duke Awards, and 2 MacArthur Fellowships. [www.here.org](http://www.here.org)

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## ABOUT BETH MORRISON PROJECTS

Beth Morrison Projects (BMP) is one of the foremost creators and producers of new opera-theatre and music theatre, with a fierce commitment to leading the industry into the future, cultivating a new generation of talent, and telling the stories of our time.

Founded by “contemporary opera mastermind” (LA Times) Beth Morrison, who was honored as one of Musical America’s Artists of the Year/Agents of Change in 2020, BMP has grown into “a driving force behind America’s thriving opera scene” (Financial Times), with Opera News declaring that the company, “more than any other... has helped propel the art form into the twenty-first century.”

Operating across the US and internationally, with offices in Brooklyn and Los Angeles, BMP’s unique model offers living composers the support, guidance, and freedom to experiment, allowing them to create singularly innovative and impactful projects. Since forming in 2006, the company has commissioned, developed, produced and toured over 50 works in 14 countries around the world, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning chamber operas *Angel’s Bone* and *p r i s m*.

In 2013, BMP co-founded the PROTOTYPE Festival with HERE Arts Center, which has been called “utterly essential” (The New York Times), “indispensable” (The New Yorker), and “one of the world’s top festivals of contemporary opera and theater” (Associated Press). <https://www.bethmorrisonprojects.org>

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