

PROTOTYPE: OPERA | THEATRE | NOW
Announces Details for
10th Anniversary Season, January 5-15, 2023

PROTOTYPE

OPERA | THEATRE | NOW

The PROTOTYPE Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary season in 2023 which was originally planned for 2022 and rescheduled due to the surge of the Omicron variant in winter 2022.

The festival will present five world premieres, an East Coast premiere, and an animated opera.



Some of the most daring new operas of the day.
— **The New York Times**

(New York, NY) - July 12, 2022 - The 10th Anniversary [PROTOTYPE: Opera | Theatre | Now](#) season will resume January 5 - 15, 2023 after it was postponed due to the ongoing pandemic. Three of the original pieces scheduled for the 2022 festival were subsequently presented as standalone shows which includes Taylor Mac's [The Hang from January 20 - March 6, 2022](#), produced by HERE; Huang Ruo's [Book of Mountains & Seas from March 15 - 20, 2022](#), produced by [Beth Morrison Projects](#); Grace Galu and Baba Israel's [Cannabis: A Viper Vaudeville from July 14 - 31, 2022](#) produced by HERE.

The works that will be presented during the festival's tenth anniversary now include the double bill presentation of *Trade/Mary Motorhead* by Emma O'Halloran, *mas:nm* by Gelsey Bell, *In Our Daughter's Eyes* by Du Yun, *The All Sing: Here Lies Joy* by Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR). The international works in this year's festival include *Marchita* by Silvana Estrada, *note to a friend* by David Lang, commissioned by Japan Society (and co-produced by Japan Society and Tokyo Bunka Kaikan), and animated opera *Undine* by Stefanie Janssen & Michaël Brijs.

The PROTOTYPE Festival continues its 10th anniversary with its founding directors Kristin Marting and Beth Morrison; former co-director Jecca Barry continues as a co-curator this season.

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTORS

Welcome!

We are finally back and thrilled to share our 10th Anniversary PROTOTYPE Festival (reboot), which includes three postponed productions from our 2022 line-up. The festival includes five monumental World Premiere opera-theatre and music-theatre works, an East Coast premiere, and an exciting animated opera.

We invite you to immerse yourself in ground-breaking new work at this season's festival - a festival that is not to be missed. Mark your calendars for January 5-15, 2023!

Until soon,

Beth & Kristin

Opening PROTOTYPE's 10th Anniversary Season is ***In Our Daughter's Eyes*** on January 5 which reunites Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Du Yun, and multidisciplinary librettist & director Michael Joseph McQuilken in this one man opera about a father who goes on a journey to become the man his daughter would be proud of. On January 6 is the world premiere of ***m̥s:n̥*** (*pronounced as "mourning"/ "morning"*) by composer/writer Gelsey Bell which explores the legacy of an Earth devoid of humans. The double-bill world premiere of Emma O'Halloran's ***Trade/Mary Motorhead*** opens on January 7. ***Mary Motorhead*** portrays a convicted murderer pushed to the edge by circumstance, now finding the road back to herself. ***TRADE*** is the story of a rent boy and his closeted client in working-class Dublin, both trapped within their own lives. ***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 Damien Sneed.

Marchita is a world premiere by Silvana Estrada with music arranged by Roberto Verástegui, music direction by Laura Itandehui, choreography by Clara Pampyn, and the vocals of Ka'y Ha' Quartet opening January 12. Also opening January 12 is ***note to a friend***, a promotional partnership with PROTOTYPE, and co-produced by the Japan Society and Tokyo Bunka Kaikan. The animated opera ***Undine*** by Stefanie Janssen & Michaël Brijs can be streamed digitally through the run of the festival. ***Undine*** is about a mermaid who is addicted to hard plastic, and a lonely wife and philosopher who become seduced by her.

There will be one in-person conversation for each show.

Tickets can be secured at prototypefestival.org.

Tickets for members go on sale November 1.

Tickets for the public go on sale November 15.

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 for the current COVID protocols prior to attending each performance.



Essential to the evolution of American opera.

— The New Yorker

Listing Info



IN OUR DAUGHTER'S EYES

January 5-6, 10-11 & 13-14, 2023 at 8pm | January 7 & 15, 2023 at 3pm | 75 mins. (no intermission)*

Baruch Performing Arts Center

CHAMBER OPERA | EAST-COAST PREMIERE

COMMISSIONED BY BETH MORRISON PROJECTS, TRINITY CHURCH WALL STREET, LINDA & STUART NELSON, THE ARTHUR F. & ALICE E. ADAMS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, THE VIRGINIA B. TOULMIN FOUNDATION, OPERA AMERICA, AND FRANCIS GOELET CHARITABLE LEAD TRUSTS. THE COMMISSIONING OF DU YUN FOR *IN OUR DAUGHTER'S EYES* RECEIVED FUNDING FROM OPERA AMERICA'S OPERA GRANTS FOR FEMALE COMPOSERS PROGRAM, SUPPORTED BY THE VIRGINIA B. TOULMIN FOUNDATION.

A Beth Morrison Projects Production

Composed by Du Yun

Libretto by Michael McQuilken

Directed by Michael McQuilken

Conducted by Kamna Gupta

Starring Nathan Gunn

Told through the perspective of a new father, *In Our Daughter's Eyes* shows the journey of the protagonist as he wrestles with truly becoming a man that his daughter would be proud of. He imparts passages from the journal he keeps -- a gift for his unborn daughter -- as the moments of this journey unfold before him. The story traces his wife's joyful and fraught pregnancy, the legacy of the family's past, and his personal demons that he vows to vanquish before assuming the role of a father. Along the way, mounting complications take the story through unexpected and sobering turns that test our flawed hero as he discovers a strength of self and purpose that he never imagined possible. This moving and heartfelt one man opera reunites Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Du Yun and multidisciplinary librettist & director Michael Joseph McQuilken after their lauded co-creation of Pulitzer Prize-winning *Angel's Bone* in 2016.

This production is made possible, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

In Our Daughter's Eyes is dedicated, in loving memory, to Stuart Nelson.

*The performance on January 10 will be followed by an artist conversation

Photo credit: Craig T. Matthews



TRADE/MARY MOTORHEAD

January 8 & 14 at 4pm, January 10–11 at 7pm, January 7 & 13 at 7:30pm, 2023*
| 105 min (possible intermission)
Abrons Arts Center

CHAMBER OPERA | WORLD PREMIERE
CO-COMMISSIONED BY BETH MORRISON PROJECTS, IRISH NATIONAL OPERA,
TRINITY WALL STREET, AND NANCY & BARRY SANDERS.

A Beth Morrison Projects Production

Composed by Emma O'Halloran

Libretto by Mark O'Halloran

Directed by Tom Creed

Music Director Elaine Kelly

Starring Kyle Bielfield, Marc Kudisch, and Naomi O'Connell

In the compelling monodrama *Mary Motorhead*, a convicted murderer invites us to hear her secret history—the disappointments and betrayals that shaped her life—in the hope that it may shine some light upon the darkness of her actions. Mezzo-soprano

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Naomi Louisa O'Connell stars as the woman pushed to the edge by circumstance, now finding the road back to herself.

TRADE is the story of a rent boy and his closeted client in working-class Dublin, both trapped within their own lives. Meeting secretly in a cheap hotel, they wrestle with their own inner demons and their need for each other. Three-time Tony nominee Marc Kudisch star of LA Opera's *Wonderful Town* and anatomy theater portrays a family man whose world is crumbling apart, with international recording artist Kyle Bielfield as a young hustler determined to take charge of his future.

*The performance on January 8 will be followed by an artist conversation.

Photo credit: Open



morning
[morning//mourning]

January 7-8, 15 at 5pm and January 6, 9, 11-13 at 7:30pm, 2023 | 85 mins. (no intermission)*

HERE Mainstage

MUSIC-THEATRE | WORLD PREMIERE

COMMISSIONED & DEVELOPED THROUGH HERE ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Contact: Andrew Ousley | Unison Media | andrew@unison.media | 917.331.2337

A HERE Production

Created by Gelsey Bell

Directed by Tara Ahmadinejad

An experimental opera inhabits a world in which all humans have disappeared from Earth. An ensemble of five vocalist/multi-instrumentalists witness and guide the audience through the changes on Earth as forests grow back, new species evolve, and the human-made world erodes away. The piece is a fantastical and playful exploration into the dire political and ethical contradictions that structure current human relations with nature.

The commissioning of Gelsey for *m.m.m.* received funding from OPERA America's Opera Grants for Women Composers program, supported by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation. Production design support provided by the Edith Lutyens and Norman Bel Geddes Design Enhancement Fund, a program of the Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York (A.R.T./New York). This production is made possible, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

*The performance on January 11th will be followed by an artist conversation.

Photo credit: Mia Bergeron



MARCHITA

January 12-14, 2023 at 6pm and 9:30pm | 60 mins.
Dorothy B. Williams Theater, HERE Arts Center*

MUSIC-THEATRE | WORLD PREMIERE

Composed, directed and performed by Silvana Estrada

Music Direction by Laura Itandehui

Musical arrangements by Roberto Verástegui and Juanma Trujillo

Choreographed by Clara Pampyn

Featuring the Ka'y Ha' Quartet

After an international tour across the globe, Silvana Estrada summons a new passage for her debut album *Marchita* in a ritual of melodies that burst from tradition, loss, and love. You will not want to miss this intimate performance by this rising star of the international folk music scene!

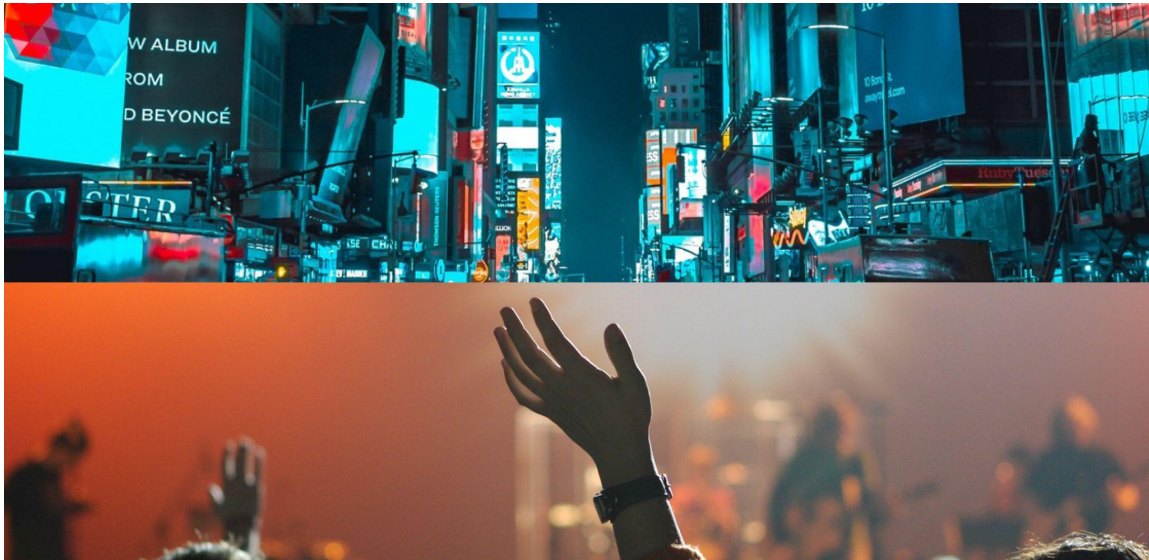
This engagement of Silvana Estrada is made possible through Performing Arts Global

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Exchange, a program of Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

*The performance on January 14 will be followed by an artist conversation

Photo credit: Sol Talamantes



THE ALL SING

"Here Lies Joy"

January 8, 2023 | 15 mins.

Times Square

OUT OF BOUNDS | WORLD PREMIERE

COMMISSIONED, DEVELOPED, AND PRODUCED BY PROTOTYPE

Co-created by Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR), Marc Bamuthi Joseph, **Composed by** Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR)

Libretto and creative direction by Marc Bamuthi Joseph

Music direction by Damien Sneed

Featuring an incredible line-up of MET soloists, to be announced at a later date

In an exuberant cri de coeur, PROTOTYPE will celebrate its 10th anniversary season by bringing communities together through what we know best - the voice. Originally commissioned in direct response to the forced isolation of the pandemic, *The All Sing*

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is an ode to song and human connection that brings hundreds of people together in 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 for joy. Together we will craft an unforgettable moment and sing for a return to a more just, healthy, and music-filled life.

Photo credit: Open



note to a friend

January 12th & 14 2023 at 7:30pm | January 15th, 2023 at 3pm | 60 minutes
Japan Society

CONTEMPORARY OPERA | WORLD PREMIERE

Composed by David Lang

Text by Ryunosuke Akutagawa

Directed by Yoshi Oida

Starring Theo Bleckmann

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In response to Japan Society's commissioning for a new chamber opera, Pulitzer Prize-winning composer David Lang picked up texts written by iconic Japanese novelist Ryunosuke Akutagawa. The result is this stunning and haunting song cycle, *note to a friend*, addressing an eternal human fascination with death and suicide. Theater luminary Yoshi Oida, Paris-based opera director and longtime member of Peter Brook's international theater company, directs this world premiere for the one-and-only New York vocalist Theo Bleckmann. Tokyo Bunka Kaikan in Japan, co-producer of this production, selects the featured string quartet members. You can't miss this meetup of international gems!

Commissioned by Japan Society. Co-produced by Japan Society and Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, in a promotional partnership with PROTOTYPE. *note to a friend* is supported, in part, by Doug and Teresa Peterson, and The Japan Foundation, New York. This project is part of a promotional partnership with PROTOTYPE.

*Please note the performance on Thursday, January 12 will be followed by a MetLife Meet-the-Artist Reception, and the performance on Saturday, January 14 will be followed by an artist conversation.



UNDINE

Streaming January 5-15, 2023

Live virtual Q & A with Artists on January 9 at 4pm

ANIMATED OPERA | DIGITAL STREAM

PRODUCED BY STEFANIE JANSSEN FOR STICHTING WILDERMOED, PÁDRAIG FAGAN
FOR PAPER PANTHER PRODUCTIONS, SJARON MINAILO FOR STUDIO MINAILO

Based on a story by Stefanie Janssen

Original Music by Stefanie Janssen & Michaël Brijs

Story by Stefanie Janssen, Sjaron Minailo & Michaël Brijs

Directed, edited and screenplay by Sjaron Minailo

Music and foley recording, mixing, production, mastering by Richard van Kruysdijk

An epidemic of addiction is raging in the world of mermaids. The mermaid Undine is addicted to hard plastic! In search of her daily dose, she ends up moving between an aquarium and a hydroponic garden in an apartment building in the middle of a city.

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There she meets the deeply unhappy Rodmenia, the wife of a tailor, and her neighbour Anselmo, an eccentric philosopher. Undine stays in the aquarium in Anselmo's study, where she appeases her addictive hunger with plastic busts of famous philosophers. Undine's arrival shakes Rodmenia and Anselmo out of their respective ruts. The two neighbors become obsessed by the mermaid. Her magic world, in which she manipulates and seduces, stirs up an unprecedented desire for something glorious. Whereas Rodmenia sees this as a chance to escape her lonely, depressing existence and take charge of her own life, Anselmo sees Undine as a trophy, and the answer to the philosophic questions upon which his life has foundered. They each abandon themselves to their excessive desires, with far reaching consequences.

*There will be an artist conversation for Undine on January 14 at 7:30pm ET



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

ABOUT PROTOTYPE

PROTOTYPE – OPERA | THEATRE | NOW is a co-production of Beth Morrison Projects and HERE, two trailblazers in the creation and presentation of contemporary, multi-disciplinary opera-theatre and music-theatre works. The pioneering festival is the only one of its kind in New York City and is a model now emulated around the country – producing and presenting a wide spectrum of works, from intimate black-box experiences to larger chamber opera productions, valuing artistic, curatorial, and producerial risk-taking.

PROTOTYPE is committed to surprising our audiences and confounding their expectations through content, form, and relevance. The festival gives voice to a diverse group of composers, librettists, performers and musicians across all genres, backgrounds, and cultures. In providing a recurring showcase of visionary opera-theatre and music-theatre pieces, the touring life of the work extends around the world. The festival also presents groundbreaking new works by international artists and has become a global reference of artistic excellence in the field of opera and music-theatre. <https://prototypefestival.org/>

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>

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 supports work that does not fit into a conventional programming agenda. As the ultimate in hybrid forms, music-theatre and opera-theatre commissioning, development, and producing feature prominently in HERE’s programming. Premieres developed and produced at HERE include Taylor Mac and Matt Ray’s *The Hang* (slated originally for Prototype 2022 and ran for a sold-out six

week winter run earlier this year), Grace Galou and Baba Israel's *Cannabis: A Viper Vaudeville* (slated originally for Prototype 2022 and running for four weeks this summer), Kamala Sankaram's first opera *Miranda* as well as her more recent critically acclaimed *Looking at You*, Yoav Gal's *Mosheh*, Christina Campanella and Stephanie Fleischman's *Red Fly/Blue Bottle*, Corey Dargel's *Removable Parts*, Nick Brooke's *Border Towns*, Stefan Weisman & David Cote's *The Scarlet Ibis*, Paul Pinto's *Thomas Paine in Violence*, and Leah Coloff's *This Tree*, among others. In 2013, HERE joined forces with Beth Morrison Projects to found the PROTOTYPE festival, now acclaimed as "shift[ing] the whole paradigm of what opera is and can be." 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 & Geoff Sobelle's *all wear bowlers*; and Taylor Mac's *The Lily's Revenge*. HERE has garnered 17 OBIE awards and 2 OBIE grants for artistic achievement, 5 Drama Desk nominations, 4 NY Innovative Theatre Awards, and a Pulitzer Prize nomination. HERE was named a Top Ten Off-Off Broadway Theatre by *Time Out New York*, and *The New York Times* has called HERE "one of the most unusual arts spaces in New York."