

# **Hopkins Center for the Arts**

at Dartmouth

presents

# **The Force of Things: An Opera for Objects**

Performed by International Contemporary Ensemble

**Thursday, Friday & Saturday, January 13, 14 & 15, 7:30 pm**  
**Saturday & Sunday, January 15 & 16, 2 pm**

The Moore Theater • Dartmouth College • 2022

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# Program

Approximate Duration: *1 hour with no intermission*

## Program Note

*The Force of Things* is an immersive installation opera that wrestles with the rising tide of eco-grief inside us. 6 live performers and 24 subwoofers stage a physical encounter with sound that operates outside language, inside the body, and between the crowd. Vibrating too low for humans to hear, this rig of subs sends ripples of energy that tremble through and pulsate the scenic architecture. Two singers snake side-by-side through the crowd, shouting a warning that sounds like a whisper in a language no one can understand. The air feels urgent yet eerily still, as if the timescales are off, as if some siren from the future finds us only in slow motion.

*The Force of Things: An Opera for Objects* premiered at Peak Performances and was developed in collaboration with Lucy Dhegrae, Rebekah Heller, Ross Karre, Levy Lorenzo, Ryan Muncy and Alice Teyssier.

*Ash and Adam Fure*

## Creative Team

Ash Fure, Co-Creator and Composer

Adam Fure, Co-Creator and Scenic Architect

Kelley Shih, Lighting Design

Carlos Soto, Costume Design

Ross Karre, Creative Designer and Audio Technician

Violet Asmara Tafari, Production Manager and Stage Manager

Levy Lorenzo, Audio Design

Jacob Zedek, Associate Lighting Designer

Maciej Lewandowski, Technical Collaborator

Directed by Ash Fure and César Alvarez

Additional Costume Support by Laurie Churba, Bethany Padron, and Anna Winter

# Performers

Samita Sinha (voice)

Pyeng Threadgill (voice)

Ash Fure (percussion/voice)

Clara Warnaar (percussion/voice)

Levy Lorenzo (percussion)

Lester St. Louis (percussion/cello)

# Credits

American Premiere, Alexander Kasser Theater, Peak Performances @ Montclair State University (New Jersey). Co-Produced by Peak Performances @ Montclair State University

Ash Fure's *The Force of Things* is made possible by generous commitments from the International Contemporary Ensemble: First Page Program, University of Michigan Office of Research, Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Dartmouth College Provost's Office Seed Funding Program, the Office of the President at Dartmouth College, the Neukom Institute for Computational Science, Miller Theatre at Columbia University (New York City), and Internationales Musikinstitut Darmstadt (IMD). This project was supported by New Music USA, made possible by annual program support and/or endowment gifts from New Music USA project grants. With the friendly support of the Ernst von Siemens Musikstiftung.

# About the Artists

**Ash Fure** is a sonic artist who blends installation and performance. Called “purely visceral” and “staggeringly original” by *The New Yorker*, Fure's full-bodied listening experiences open uncommon sites of collective encounter. Fure is an Associate Professor of Music at Dartmouth College and holds a PhD in Music Composition from Harvard University. A finalist for the 2016 Pulitzer Prize in Music, Fure also received two Lincoln Center Emerging Artists Awards, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Rome Prize in Music Composition, a DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Prize,

a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grant for Artists, a Fulbright Fellowship to France, a Darmstadt Kranichsteiner Musikpreis and a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship from Columbia University. In 2021 Fure was named co-artistic director of The Industry LA.

**Adam Fure** is an architectural designer, Associate Professor of Architecture at the University of Michigan's Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, and a principal of T+E+A+M. His work has been exhibited widely

## About the Artists *continued*

including the Venice Biennale, Chicago Biennial, Beijing Biennale, The New School in New York, the A+D Gallery in Los Angeles, the Architectural Association in London, the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit and the Grand Rapids Museum of Art. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2014 Architectural League Prize and a residency fellowship at the Akademie Schloss Solitude in Stuttgart, Germany. Fure received his Bachelor of Science in architecture from the University of Michigan and a Master of Architecture from the University of California, Los Angeles, where he was awarded the Alpha Rho Chi Medal.

**César Alvarez (Co-Director )** is a composer, lyricist, playwright and performance maker. They create large experimental musicals as non-normative possibility spaces for embodiment, inter-dimensionality, socio-political transformation, kinship and coexistence across difference. With a background as a jazz saxophonist, band leader and sound artist, César's work inhabits a space between the worlds of theater, music and performance art. César has written five full-length musicals, *FUTURITY* (2016 Lortel Award for Outstanding Musical); *The Elementary Spacetime Show*; *The Universe is a Small Hat*; *NOISE* (a commission of The Public Theater); and *The Potluck*. César also composed the music for Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' *An Octoroon* (Soho Rep, TFANA. Drama Desk Nomination), and The Foundry Theater's *Good Person of Szechwan* (LaMaMa, The Public Theater. Drama Desk Nomination). César was a 2018-20 Princeton Arts Fellow, 2020-22 Hermitage Fellow, a recipient of The Jonathan Larson Award and is currently under commission at Playwright's Horizons and Denver Theater

Center. César is an Assistant Professor of Music at Dartmouth College.

**Ross Karre (Creative Designer and Audio Technician)**, born in Battle Creek, Michigan, is a percussionist and temporal artist based in New York City. His primary focus is on combining media, including classical percussion performance, electronics, theater, moving image, visual art, and lighting design. Ross is a percussionist and the artistic director for the International Contemporary Ensemble.

**Maciej Lewandowski (Technical Collaborator)** is a musician/maker currently living in New York, producing music for concert, video, dance, etc. His work focuses on the capacity for sound to affect the environment/space it is being produced in. Some of his projects have been presented at LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, Brooklyn Studios for Dance, NURTUREart, 67 Ludlow, Outpost Artist Resources, Panoply Performance Lab. In a performing or design capacity, he has been involved in productions shown at NYU Skirball, Abrons Arts Center, National Sawdust, Gelsey Kirkland Academy, Christ Church Philadelphia, JACK, + more.

Born in Bucharest, Filipino-American **Levy Marcel Ingles Lorenzo (Audio Design & Percussion)** works at the intersection of music, art and technology. His body of work spans custom electronics design, sound engineering, instrument building, installation art, free improvisation and classical percussion. With a primary focus on inventing new instruments, he prototypes, composes and performs new electronic music. Lorenzo's work has been featured at MoMA PS1, MIT Media Lab, STEIM,

Pitchfork, BBC, Rewire, Burning Man and *The New York Times* which named him an “electronics wizard.” He is a member of the International Contemporary Ensemble and a core collaborator in Claire Chase’s Density 2036 project. He has worked with artists such as Peter Evans, George Lewis, Alvin Lucier, Leo Villareal, Autumn Knight, Christine Sun Kim, Steve Schick and Henry Threadgill. Dr. Lorenzo is frequently invited to give electronics lectures and is currently Assistant Professor of Creative Technologies at The New School, College of Performing Arts. [www.levylorenzo.com](http://www.levylorenzo.com)

Born and based in New York, **Lester St. Louis (Percussion & Cello)** is a composer, multi-instrumentalist, improviser and curator working in New, improvised and experimental music, jazz, and sound design. His work deals with expansive instrumental technique, flow and real time synthesis. He has presented works in North America, China and Europe at venues and festivals such as The Internationales Musikinstitut Darmstadt, Borealis Festival, Roulette, ISSUE Project Room, Cafe Oto, Lincoln Center, Walker Arts Center, Superblue, G Livelab, The Jazz Cafe and more.

Lester has been commissioned by the JACK Quartet, RAGE THORNBONES, Jennifer Koh, String Noise and And/Play among others. Lester has performed with artists Dré Hočevar, Joe Morris, Tyshawn Sorey, Nate Wooley, SZA, Chance the Rapper, Yaeji, Charmaine Lee, Chris Pitsiokos, Rob Mazurek, Tortoise, Don Byron, The Tri-Centric Orchestra, MOCREP, TAK, Lea Bertucci, Jaimie Branch, Aruan Ortiz, Alarm Will Sound, Metropolis Ensemble, Yo La Tengo and more. Lester can be heard in interviews on

BBC Radio 3, The 5049 podcast, Worldwide FM, Radioštudent and RTV Slovenia.

Artist and composer **Samita Sinha (Voice)** creates multidisciplinary performance works that investigate origins of voice. She synthesizes Indian vocal traditions and embodied practices to create a decolonized, bodily, multivalent language of vibration and transformation. Sinha’s works have been commissioned and presented by Asia Society, Performance Space 122, Danspace, Rubin Museum, Queens Museum and Gibney Dance, among others. Sinha teaches voice extensively.

**Kelley Shih (Lighting Designer)** is a lighting designer, programmer and lighting director for live performance. Recent designs: *Hive Rise* (Ash Fure/The Industry), *The Cosmology of Water; Care Clinic* (Abrons Art Center), The Internet’s Hive Mind World Tour (including Sydney Opera House, London Brixton O2 Academy performances), KYLE at Madison Sq. Garden, Syd’s Always Never Home Tour, *Hive Rise* (Ash Fure/Berghain/CTM Music Festival), *Together Games* (Ash Fure/Ensemble Modern), and Chris Fleming’s *Bobba Everyday* Tour. Lighting Programming: *Merry Wives* (Shakespeare in the Park/The Public), *Kesha Raising Hell* on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, Savage x Fenty Show 2019 (Amazon Streaming), Anderson Paak Summer Tour 2019, VFiles Spring 2020 Show (Barclays Center) and the ACLU Membership Conference 2018. [kellyshih.com](http://kellyshih.com)

**Carlos Soto (Costume Designer)** Credits include: Solange Knowles & Wu Tsang *Passage* (International Woolmark Prize / Saint Heron, 2021); Solange’s *Nothing to Prove / Nothing*

## About the Artists *continued*

to *Say* (Venice Biennale, 2019); *Witness!* (Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg / Sydney Opera House, 2019/20); *When I Get Home* (film and concert tour 2019); *Metatronia* (Metatron's Cube), Hammer Museum, Los Angeles 2018; *Scales*, Chinati Foundation, Marfa, Texas, 2017; *Cosmic Journey / Orion's Rise* world tour, 2017. Costumes and/or scenography: *Hive Rise* by Ash Fure and Lilleth Glimcher (The Industry / MoCA); *Notes Toward Becoming a Spill* by Shikeith (Performa Biennial, 2021); *Only An Octave Apart* with Justin Vivian Bond and Anthony Roth Costanzo, director Zack Winokur (St. Ann's Warehouse); *The No One's Rose* with the American Modern Opera Company and Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, composer Matthew Aucoin, director Zack Winokur, choreographer Bobbi Jene Smith (Stanford Live); *The Black Clown* with Davóne Tines, director Zack Winokur (ART, Lincoln Center, 2018-19); *Triptych (Eyes of One on Another)* by Bryce Dessner, director Kaneza Schaal, Roomful of Teeth (BAM, Holland Festival, Kennedy Center, UMS, 2019). *The Mile-Long Opera*, by Anne Carson, Claudia Rankine, David Lang, Ragnar Kjartansson, and Diller Scofidio + Renfro, 2018. With Robert Wilson (as designer and performer): *Adam's Passion, Bach 6 Solo* (with Lucinda Childs) *Der Messias, Einstein on the Beach, Garrincha, I was sitting on my patio this guy appeared I thought I was hallucinating* (with Lucinda Childs) *The Life and Death of Marina Abramovic, Oedipus*, among others.

**Violet Asmara Tafari (Production & Stage Manager)** is a West Indian, Production and Stage Manager/Manifestor. Violet supports artists of various calibers, mediums and ethos as they unfold their work on and off the stage. Blending the gap between technician and artist,

Violet utilizes her ritual and healing background to create fluid ways to support pushing the boundaries of art and supporting the community that embraces it. Utilizing and embracing their griot background she supports the exploration in the dualities of storytelling, ritual and the creative process. Violet's work with companies such as AFRIKIN, Delirious Dance, NYSAF and many others has allowed her to play various roles within the worlds of interdisciplinary arts, theater, music festivals, gallery exhibitions and more. Art is unending and using love as her medium Violet created Freequency Connects, a landing space to provide production support and ritual guidance as artists navigate new pathways, goals and manifestations of their presented works and creative unfoldments. Select PM credits include: *AFRIKIN: Fire Next Time* (Art Basel), *Whale Fall Opera*, *Young World* (Abrons Arts Center), *Circle Jerk Live* (Fake Friends), *Disclaimer* (The Public), Select SM credits: *Syncing Ink Mixtape*, *The Space Between the Letters* (Here Arts), *IKE*, *Lucky* (NYSAF Virtual Series), *Memory Motel* (Two River), *Female Role Model Project* (Transforma Theatre). [Freequencyconnects.com](http://Freequencyconnects.com)

**Pyeng Threadgill (Voice)** is an American vocalist, songwriter, writer, video artist as well as a voice and movement teacher. As a vocalist/performer, she creates New Porch Music, a form based on the traditions of Black American Folk, Soul, Jazz and improvisational music. She uses these traditions to create connected conversations whereby audiences may reflect on their own life stories and identities for healing and empowerment. In her fourth solo album and multimedia project entitled *Head Full of Hair, Heart Full of Song*, Ms. Threadgill shines a light on hair, adornment and ancestry and the political

as well as spiritual implications of race, hair and identity. Using video installations exploring Black hair rituals, interactive poetry fed from a cotton candy machine, hair artists and curated sound, Pyeng sees this album in particular as a digital talisman for young Black women and girls to use as they move through the world. Currently Ms. Threadgill is writing her first book, later to be released with a companion album, on the power of finding one's voice.

**Clara Warnaar (Percussion & Voice)** is a percussionist, drummer and composer based in New York. Clara performs regularly with the

International Contemporary Ensemble and plays drums in bands Infinity Shred and Real Loud. As a performer and collaborator, she thrives in collaborative, devised and interdisciplinary projects. Recent premieres and recordings include: Ted Hearne *PLACE* (Brooklyn Academy of Music), Missy Mazzoli *Proving Up* (Opera Omaha and Miller Theater), Steve Reich/*Richter* (The Shed NYC), Ellen Reid *Run/Playground* (Opera Omaha) and So Percussion *A Gun Show*. Clara also runs an experimental compilation series called, *A New Age for New Age* which invites artists to question and reinvent the New Age genre. [www.clarawarnaar.com](http://www.clarawarnaar.com)

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