

Unique Places of Death NYC & Secret Island

A pre-performance of excerpts including a panel discussion with Melinda Hunt from The Hart Island Project and the composer Volker Goetze

Tuesday May 23rd at 7 PM

Turtle Bay Music School - Concert hall - 224 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022

Volker Goetze – Composer, Trumpeter, Filmmaker

Oran Etkin – Clarinet

Max ZT – Dulcimer

Yacouba Sissoko – African Harp

Nick Dunston – Upright Bass

Mario Layne Fabrizio – Drums

Composer and multimedia artist Volker Goetze created a new original work for African harp, dulcimer, bass clarinet, trumpet, percussion utilizing New York City sounds and visuals.

The composer uses 3D immersive audio and 360 video to fully capture the “Unique places of Death;” places in New York City where an individual died outside of a hospital, nursing home or hospice. They are buried among other unclaimed and unidentified people in a mass gravesite on Hart Island on the eastern edge of the Bronx.

The composer visited the “Unique Places of Death” throughout the city for inspiration and to compose music onsite becoming intimately connected to the places.

“Secret Island” is a photography and music project about the forgotten borough of New York - Staten Island – telling untold stories about historic events which shaped Staten Island going back to the prehistoric ice age up until today.

The concert will consist of 20 minute excerpts of both projects followed by a panel discussion with the composer and the director of The Hart Island Project.

Unique Places of Death NYC is commissioned by the New York State Council on the Arts and is made possible in part with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts. Sennheiser generously donated the AMBEO 3D Microphone in support of creating the work. This composition was created with the support of the EtM Con Edison Composers' Residency, administered by Exploring the Metropolis. The EtM Con Edison Composers' Residency program is funded by Consolidated Edison, The Amphion Foundation, the George L. Shields Foundation, AOH Foundation, DJ McManus Foundation, The Reed Foundation and individuals. This program is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. Secret Island is made possible by a DCA Premier Grant from Staten Island Arts, with public funding from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

Special thanks to the Turtle Bay Music School for providing their space for composing and rehearsing the music.



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