

**BROOKFIELD
PLACE**

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VEILS AND VESPER

**Soundscape Installation:
Oct. 16 - 24**

Composed by John Luther Adams
Curated by John Schaefer as part
of WNYC's New Sounds Live

**Free Live Music Performances:
7:30PM | Winter Garden**

Thursday, Oct. 21
Vesper featuring
Ekmeles vocal ensemble

Friday, Oct. 22
Veils & Vesper featuring
JACK Quartet and Robert Black

BFPL

Statement by John Luther Adams

Veils and Vesper is my most rigorously mathematical work. It's also one of the most unabashedly sensuous. Over the past fifteen years it's been installed all over the world — in museums and galleries, concert halls, atriums, churches, and a monastery. But this installation in the Winter Garden at Brookfield Place is the most complete and extended realization of the work.

This is also the premiere of the performance version. From the beginning, I imagined musicians winding their way through this sonic labyrinth, playing and singing in tune with the acoustically-perfect intervals of the electronic sounds.

There are three *Veils* and one *Vesper*. All are exactly 6 hours in length, and are designed to be heard either successively or concurrently in any combination. The installation in the Winter Garden will run 18 hours a day, for 9 days in a cycle that allows a listener who is present at the same time on successive days to have a completely different experience.

On Thursday evening the Ekmeles vocal ensemble will perform within *Vesper* and on Friday evening, the JACK Quartet and bassist Robert Black will perform within *Veils and Vesper*.

Veils and Vesper is woven from long strands of pink noise, rising, falling, and passing through “harmonic prisms” of filters tuned to prime number harmonics 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 29 and 31— at speeds related to one another by the same numbers as the tunings.

The resulting fields of sound fill the air with many tones sounding at any moment. It's often difficult to distinguish one tone from another because they tend to meld together into rich, ambiguous sonorities in which the higher tones sound like harmonics of the lower tones. The timbres are clear and slightly breathy, like human voices mixed with bowed glass or metal.

The Veils encompass a 10-octave range and a total of 90 polyphonic voices. *Falling Veil* contains 35 voices, *Crossing Veil* contains 30 voices, and *Rising Veil* contains 25 voices. *Vesper* encompasses a 4-octave range and 18 polyphonic voices.

You, the listener, are invited to create your own individual “mix” of this piece. You may choose to move around the installation. Or you may decide to root yourself in a fixed listening point in the Winter Garden, basking in the coloration of a single sonic field.

As you listen, you might ask yourself: Can I distinguish the sonic field of one *Veil* from the others? How many distinct voices can I hear at once? You might try to follow a single voice, one long melodic thread, from the top to the bottom, or the bottom to the top of its trajectory. Or you could just surrender and lose yourself in the sea of sound.

For more information about the forthcoming *Veils and Vesper* limited edition recording on Cantaloupe Music, visit veilsandvesper.com.

Special thanks to Jem Altieri for MAX/MSP programming and Nathaniel Reichman for audio mastering.

About John Luther Adams

For **John Luther Adams (JLA)**, music is a lifelong search for home—an invitation to slow down, pay attention, and remember our place within the larger community of life on earth. Living for almost 40 years in northern Alaska, JLA discovered a unique musical world grounded in space, stillness, and elemental forces.



In the 1970's and into the '80s, he worked full time as environmental activist. But the time came when he felt compelled to dedicate himself entirely to music. He made this choice with the belief that, ultimately, music can do more than politics to change the world.

Since that time, he has become one of the most widely admired composers in the world, receiving the Pulitzer

Prize, a Grammy Award, and many other honors. In works such as *Become Ocean*, *In the White Silence*, and *Canticles of the Holy Wind*, Adams brings the sense of wonder that we feel outdoors into the concert hall. And in outdoor works such as *Inuksuit* and *Sila: The Breath of the World*, he employs music as a way to reclaim our connections with place, wherever we may be.

A deep concern for the state of the earth and the future of humanity drives Adams to continue composing. As he puts it: "If we can imagine a culture and a society in which we each feel more deeply responsible for our own place in the world, then we just may be able to bring that culture and that society into being. This will largely be the work of people who will be here on this earth when I am gone. I place my faith in them."

Since leaving Alaska, JLA and his wife Cynthia have made their home in the deserts of Mexico, Chile, and the southwestern United States.

Statement by John Schaefer, WNYC

For over twenty years, WNYC together with Arts Brookfield have presented New Sounds Live concert events in the Winter Garden at Brookfield Place. There have been many memorable performances; but perhaps the most successful ones were those that utilized and activated the space itself. The Winter Garden, after all, is not a concert hall. All that glass, steel and marble make for a very reflective and reverberant sound; the space is almost a quarter mile long from the stage area on the west wall to the top of the ceiling over the staircase (I know this because the MASS Ensemble built a long string instrument in the space for us about 15 years ago); and then of course there are the sixteen live palm trees growing out of the floor. It is a most improbable venue for live music.

But those same features make it a splendid place for sound installations, especially installations that aren't static, and move through the space – or, as in John Luther Adams' *Veils and Vesper*, allow you to move through the sound. Once the work is installed and begins to run, the atrium of the Winter Garden is transformed into something almost like a cathedral. The installation allows space for the listener to think, or perhaps to clear their head of thoughts. But it also allows space for potential live performances, which is what I suggested to John Luther Adams for this New Sounds Live event. And since John has never met a harebrained scheme he didn't like, he duly created new music – being heard for the first time here – that is meant to exist within the world of *Veils and Vesper*, and rounded up some of his closest musical friends to play it.

We are all excited about presenting this new version of *Veils and Vesper* at Brookfield Place – especially since it required us to organize everything twice: once for last year's planned premiere (cancelled, of course, for the obvious reason), and then again, one year later.

About John Schaefer



John Schaefer is the host and producer of WNYC's long-running new music show *New Sounds* ("The #1 radio show for the Global Village" – Billboard), founded in 1982, and its innovative Soundcheck podcast, which has featured live performances and interviews with a variety of guests since 2002. He created the *New Sounds Live* concert series in 1986, which features new works, commissioned pieces, and a special series devoted

to live music for silent films. Done largely at Brookfield Place and Merkin Concert Hall in NY, the series continues to this day.

Schaefer has written extensively about music, including the book *New Sounds: A Listener's Guide to New Music* (Harper & Row, NY, 1987; Virgin Books, London, 1990); the *Cambridge Companion to Singing: World Music* (Cambridge University Press, U.K., 2000); and the TV program *Bravo Profile: Bobby McFerrin* (Bravo Television, 2003). He has also written about horse racing (*Bloodlines: A Horse Racing Anthology*, Vintage, NY 2006), hosted panels for the World Science Festival, and has been a regular panelist on the BBC's soccer-based program *Sports World*.

About Ekmeles vocal ensemble Performing on October 21



Charlotte Mundy, soprano
Elisa Sutherland, alto
Steve Bradshaw, tenor
Jeffrey Gavett, bass

Ekmeles—praised for their “extraordinary sense of pitch” by the New York Times, and called a “brilliant young ensemble... defining a fresh and virtuosic American sound” by

The New Yorker—is dedicated to the performance of new and rarely-heard works, and gems of the historical avant garde. New York is home to a vibrant instrumental New Music scene, with a relative paucity of vocal music. Ekmeles was founded to fill the gap by presenting new a cappella repertoire for solo voices, and by collaborating with these instrumental ensembles.

In 2019-2020 they performed with the MET Museum’s first commissioned sound installation, Oliver Beer’s *Vessel Orchestra*, and released their debut album *A Howl, That Was Also a Prayer* on New Focus Recordings, with works by Taylor Brook, Erin Gee, and Christopher Trapani. *Fanfare* magazine said the album’s performances were “beyond expert - almost frightening in their precision.”

Other notable collaborations include the U.S. Premieres of Stefano Gervasoni’s *Dir - In Dir* and Wolfgang Rihm’s *ET LUX* with the Mivos Quartet, Mathias Spahlinger’s *über den frühen tod fräuleins anna augusta marggräfin zu baden* with members of Tilt Brass and *loadbang*, Beat Furrer’s *FAMA* with Talea Ensemble, and Luigi Nono’s *Quando Stanno Morendo* with AMP New Music.

About JACK Quartet Performing on October 22

Hailed by *The New York Times* as, “our leading new-music foursome”, the **JACK Quartet** is one of the most acclaimed, renowned, and respected groups performing today. JACK has maintained an unwavering commitment to their



mission of performing and commissioning new works, giving voice to unheard composers, and cultivating an ever-greater sense of openness toward contemporary classical music. The quartet was selected as Musical America’s 2018, “Ensemble of the Year”, named to WQXR’s, “19 for 19 Artists to Watch”, and awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant. Through

intimate relationships with today’s most creative voices, JACK embraces close collaboration with the composers they perform, leading to a radical embodiment of the technical, musical, and emotional aspects of their work. The quartet has worked with artists such as Julia Wolfe, George Lewis, Caroline Shaw, and many more. JACK’s all-access initiative, JACK Studio, commissions a selection of artists each year, who will receive money, workshop time, mentorship, and resources to develop new work to be performed and recorded by the quartet. Comprising violinists Christopher Otto and Austin Wulliman, violist John Pickford Richards, and cellist Jay Campbell, JACK operates as a nonprofit organization dedicated to the performance, commissioning, and appreciation of new string quartet music. *Veils and Vesper* is curated by WNYC’s John Schaefer as part of New Sounds Live.

About Robert Black Performing on October 22



Robert Black tours the world creating unheard of music for the double bass, collaborating with the most adventurous composers, musicians, dancers, artists, actors, and technophiles from all walks of life. He is a founding and current member of the Bang on a Can All-Stars. His current projects include First Fridays with Robert Black — a monthly series of streamed solo bass recitals; a

10-channel audio/video double bass installation reflecting on the Anthropocene with sound artists Brian House and Sue Huang, filmed at the Fresh Kills landfill in NYC; an outdoor environmental work for 24 basses with composer Eve Beglarian; and commissions from Carman Moore, Joan Tower, Nick Dunston, Žibuokė Martinaitytė, Kristis Auznieks, Jakhongir Shukurov, and Daniel Sabzghabaei. His solo recordings include *Philip Glass - Bass Partita and Poetry* (Orange Mountain Music), *Possessed* (Cantaloupe Music), *Modern American Bass* (New World Records), *The Bass Music of Christian Wolff and Giacinto Scelsi* (Mode Records), and *State of the Bass* (O.O. Discs).

About Brookfield Place

Brookfield Place (BFPL) New York is one of Brookfield's most iconic Place Making destinations that brings together modern office space, cultural experiences, curated dining and world-class shopping. One of New York City's most dynamic districts, Brookfield Place is a step away from the everyday and in step with the latest in global and local culture. The 14-acre, 5-building complex on the Hudson River in Lower Manhattan is home to some of the world's most innovative companies and one of New York's most celebrated experiential, culinary and shopping destinations. Brookfield animates its grand indoor and outdoor public spaces year-round through a mix of culture and events, bringing together a diverse array of New Yorkers and visitors. From waterfront cafes along the North Cove Marina to palm trees inside the famed Winter Garden, art installations to live music, Brookfield Place New York is a setting for discovery and inspiration, savoring and indulging, relaxing and socializing.

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About Arts Brookfield

Arts Brookfield supports innovation in music, dance, theater, film, and visual art by pushing boundaries to create unique works of art and cultural experiences presented for free. Thriving for over three decades, the program gathers communities around creativity by animating Brookfield Properties' public spaces.

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New Happenings

BROOKFIELD PLACE



Trivia Tuesdays

SEPT. 7 – DEC. 21

TUESDAYS: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Gather your friends in Hudson Eats and test your knowledge on a variety of topics as you compete for fun prizes and enjoy happy hour specials!



Signs of Your Identity

Curated by the Photoville Festival

SEPT. 20 – NOV. 12

A photography exhibition featuring portraits by Daniella Zalzman in collaboration with indigenous artists Catherine Blackburn, Gregg Deal and Mo Thunder.



Food for Thought

VISIT BFPLNY.COM FOR THE SCHEDULE

Listen to experts speak on topics related to the pursuit of three goals - restart, revive, and reconnect. Join the discussion, live in Hudson Eats, and ask your own questions!



Artwork By Laci Jordan

SEPT. 2021 – JAN. 2022

Discover new vinyl artwork by multidisciplinary designer and illustrator Laci Jordan throughout Brookfield Place.



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By John Luther Adams

Curated by John Schaefer of WNYC

SOUNDSCAPE INSTALLATION:

OCT. 16 – 24

PERFORMANCES: OCT. 21 & 22

Experience an immersive sound installation in the Winter Garden palm trees, accompanied by live performances as part of WNYC's New Sounds Live.



Halloween

OCT. 26 – 31

Celebrate the spooky season with an installation by Gabe BC in the Winter Garden. Receive a special giveaway when you post a picture on social tagging @BFPLNY



Construction

NOV. 4 – 15

View an extraordinary installation of sculptures made from canned food which are later donated to City Harvest.



Art Walk at BFPL

Take a self-guided tour through Brookfield Place and discover the permanent collection and temporary installations on view.

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