

SHARE THIS SPACE

Stories and Observations

*A flexible, multi-media performance by
Lori Goldston, Kyle Hanson and
Mirah Yom Tov Zeitlyn,
with Britta Johnson,
and Spectratone International*

Commissioned by Portland Institute for Contemporary Art and
The Seattle International Children's Festival

Contact:
Lori Goldston
tel 206 783 6840
lori@lorigoldston.com
www.lorigoldston.com

DESCRIPTION

Share This Place: Stories and Observations is a multi-media performance with original live music by Mirah Yom Tov Zeitlyn and Spectratone International, and animation by Britta Johnson.

Based in part on the writings of the influential French scientist/poet, J. Henri Fabré, the show explores the tender, dramatic, sordid, tragic and triumphant lives of insects. Written by Mirah and Black Cat Orchestra co-founders Lori Goldston and Kyle Hanson, the songs are at once personal and scientific.

Mirah has been recording emotional and ravishingly nuanced songs for Olympia, Washington's K Records since 1997. She has toured extensively throughout the U.S., Europe and Japan. For *Share This Place* she joins forces with long-time collaborators Lori Goldston, who is known for her work with Nirvana, David Byrne and many others, and Black Cat Orchestra co-founder Kyle Hanson. For this new work, they have commissioned the scratchy and radiant work of stop-motion animator Britta Johnson.

After leading the Black Cat Orchestra from 1991 – 2005, cellist Lori Goldston and accordionist Kyle Hanson formed Spectratone International with percussionist Jane Hall and Kane Mathis on oud (a Middle Eastern lute). Their sound is full, subtle and meticulously rendered, moving easily through a wide range of influences, including psychedelia, folk and early music.

Britta Johnson has created luminous stop-motion animated films for each of the songs. The insects, created out of corks, ashtrays, old balloons and other bits of domestic detritus, are seen singing, hatching, rolling balls of dung and otherwise fulfilling their destinies.

Share This Place draws inspiration and fact from many sources, including Karel Capek's surreal *The Insect Play*, where the epic and dramatic lives of the insects overpower the human bystander in their midst. Another long-gone collaborator is the late-nineteenth century entomologist, J. Henri Fabre, - "The Homer of Insects" according to Victor Hugo - who wrote about every encounter with his tiny neighbors so intimately as to give the distinct impression that he viewed his subjects equally alongside himself as weavers of the social fabric of provincial life.

The show was co-commissioned by the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art and The Seattle International Children's Festival. Produced by Phil Elvrum and Steve Fisk, the song cycle is available on K Records as a CD and LP record with the same title.

PERFORMANCE OPTIONS

Share This Place is a flexible production available in several formats, depending on audience and technical parameters of the venue:

Film And Live Music Performance

For this performance a singer and four musicians take the stage while a video is projected onto a circular screen above them. It is designed for venues with specific technical capacities (see Technical Specifications), but can be modified for presentation in a wide variety of spaces, including cinemas, performance spaces and galleries. The length of the show is approximately 50 minutes.

Concert

The music from this performance can be presented in a concert context without the video, and will be augmented with other songs to build a full-length concert performance. The concert can be presented in a wide variety of spaces (concert hall, club, gallery) with no extraordinary technical requirements.

Film Screening

In this format, Britta Johnson's short films are screened individually or in a short program (10-12 minutes) with the original recorded score. Intended as part of a larger evening of shorts or as an opener for feature films, this short-form presentation is well-suited for film festivals, series and one-off events in cinemas of all sizes.

Residencies, Workshops And Classes

Classes and workshops for all ages are available in the following subjects:

- Interdisciplinary collaboration
- history of live music with film
- songwriting
- traditional instruments in non-traditional settings

PRESS

About a previous collaboration between Mirah, Lori Goldston and Kyle Hanson:

“To All We Stretch the Open Arm precedes Mirah's wonderful new album C'mon Miracle; together the albums show the singer/songwriter's increased interest in using music as social protest, as a way of arguing against injustice and for making the world a better place. That's a small part of C'mon Miracle, but here it's the focus, as Mirah leads the Black Cat Orchestra ...through 12 'protest songs', including two Mirah songs and 10 covers. The songs chosen cover a wide spectrum of time, place. What they have in common is they represent artists speaking their minds about society. Here their emotions and messages come across strongly due to Mirah's talent as a singer and song interpreter - she has a lovely singing voice but also an impeccable sense for what's important in the song, musically and content-wise. And the Black Cat Orchestra's relaxed but stirring performances support hers perfectly. Politically minded musicians don't have to be overly serious or aesthetically bland - the best are able to express such sentiments as honestly and gorgeously as they would if performing a song about love or sadness, and that's exactly what Mirah and the Black Cat Orchestra do here. A beautiful album.”

Dave Heaton, Erasing Clouds

About Mirah:

“Mirah is a songwriter with an exceptional ability to rise above the immediate matter of her songs and both in sound and sense, stretch her arms to the infinite.”

Maya Singer, CMJ

About Lori Goldston:

“Goldston's music constituted a kind of physical enactment of listening. She began in silence — absorbing the moment ... and then her sound emerged, shifting and responding to what she took in.”

Matthew Stadler, Artforum

About the Black Cat Orchestra:

“A few things occurred to me after having written and made demos of a number of songs ... the songs appeared to be in a wide variety of styles that might best be interpreted by different groups of musicians...I'd heard the Black Cat Orchestra during a night out in Seattle, and they naturally came to mind when I imagined the way “They Are In Love” might sound. So I flew out there...and we recorded the tune pretty much live.”

David Byrne

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

There are 5 musicians onstage, arranged in a semicircle facing the audience. From SL to SR they are vocalist, oud, cello, accordion, and percussionist. The vocalist stands, all others sit on armless chairs.

The instruments are fairly quiet and require a moderate amount of amplification. The following is a list of acceptable microphones. Where a particular microphone is not available, we will work with the tech crew to find a suitable alternative.

vocal	Neumann KMS 105 is preferred. Shure Beta 58 is acceptable
oud	A small condenser microphone: Neumann KM 184. AKG 451 is also acceptable
cello	DPA 4021. Also acceptable: Shure KSM 32 or AT4050
accordion	a pair of matched condensers, first choice is AKG. Shure or Earthworks is also acceptable
percussion	Sennheiser 421 or SM57, and a small condenser like Shure SM81

Other stage needs:

- 2 monitors with 2 separate mixes
- 4 armless chairs with flat seats
- 2 video monitors positioned on floor DSR & DSL

Video projection:

The presenter will provide:

- Sony SRX-S110, connected via SDI cable to
- Sony J30SDI deck
- An acceptable alternative would be a similar projector and any betasp deck connected via component y/pb/pr cables
- 2 video monitors for performers at foot of stage connected to digibeta deck
- video monitor in booth for projectionist

Company will provide:

A circular screen 12 feet in diameter, centered in the place where the usual projection surface hangs. Preferably, the screen will have a circular mask at the booth and a dark backdrop behind the screen to eliminate projections outside of the circular screen.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS, continued

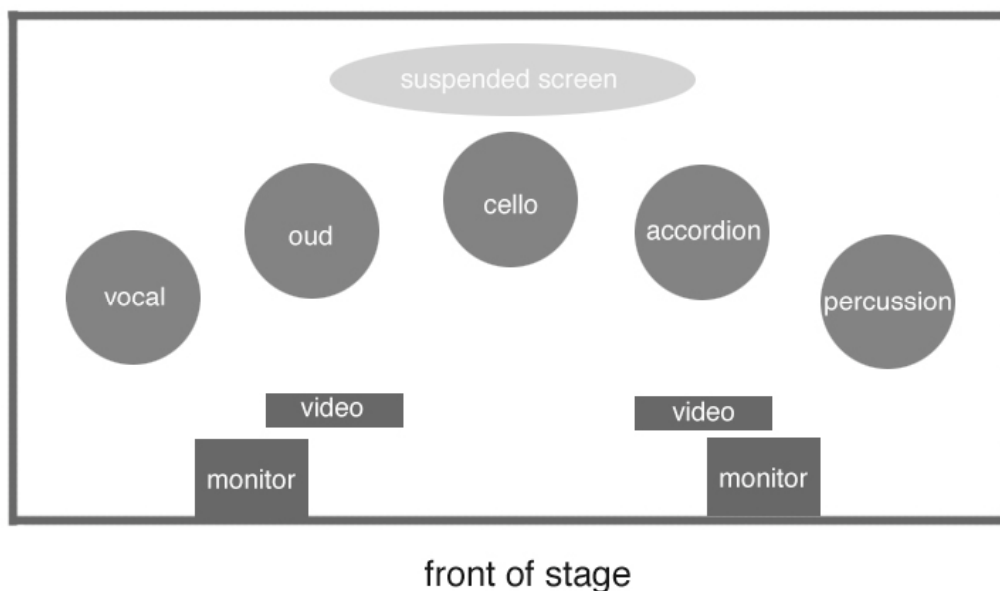
Stage lighting and effects:

Gentle spot on vocalist

General spot on vocalist and band

When available, two or three colors for each for different moods

Stage Plot



Green room/hospitality

Water, tea and coffee, and a variety of healthy foods, included some vegetarian options, are needed. The company travels with a small child and nanny.

Accommodations

The company needs one double room with a trundle bed for a child, and four single rooms.