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7NMS | Everett Asis Saunders and Marjani Forté Saunders, *Prophet: The Order of the Lyricist*. Performed at Abrons Art Center, NYC. Photographer: Whitney Browne

Multimedia Material:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/s0o20vc320rj8vd8gug8t/h?rlkey=fudds9a3nrbrz5inzeqng37eh&dl=0>

MCA Chicago's *Resonance* Spring Performance Series Begins March 28

CHICAGO— Each spring the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Chicago presents a suite of performances shaped by a rigorous curatorial theme reflecting our contemporary moment. The 2024 series, *Resonance*, features works by four artists who explore the physicality of sound and voice. Together, their performances invite audiences to consider sound as a force for greater understanding, compassion, and change.

Resonance is organized by Tara Aisha Willis, former Curator in Performance, with Laura Paige Kyber, Assistant Curator for Performance.

Get 20% off when you buy tickets to all four *Resonance* performances [with a package](#).

Resonance Programming

Anna Martine Whitehead

FORCE! An opera in three acts

March 28–30 | 7:30 pm

Edlis Neeson Theater

To introduce her work *FORCE!*, Anna Martine Whitehead writes, “This is an opera, but what is an opera? If opera is defined simply as ‘big work,’ what could be blacker?” *FORCE!* features a live band that blends gospel, folk, pop, and jazz, with experimental dance, song, and spoken word. Set in a prison waiting room, Whitehead’s sprawling opera explores how people occupy, move through, and make sound in these spaces. As the performers manifest the free worlds of which they dream on stage, their voices resound with collective power. A meditation on often-ignored carceral spaces, *FORCE!* uses silence, sound, and rhythm to build a shared experience of joy and solidarity between performers and audience members.

[Purchase *FORCE!* tickets here.](#)

Samita Sinha

Tremor

April 18–20 | 7:30 pm

Edlis Neeson Theater

In *Tremor*, artist and composer Samita Sinha explores what she describes as “the practice of attuning oneself to the raw material of vibration and its emergence in space, as well as unfolding the possibilities that arise from encounters between this sonic material and other individuals.” *Tremor* is born from Sinha’s practice of “decomposing,” distilling, and transforming Indian vocal traditions through the body, employing sound as a vessel that harnesses and liberates energy through oneself. In *Tremor*, Sinha asks how we might become more attuned to life through our sense of vibration, despite the numbing and distorting effects of coloniality and modernity. How can our voices be vessels to repair the fabric of our interconnection and open generative possibilities? How can we relearn to listen?

Tremor was co-commissioned by Western Front (Vancouver, CA) and Danspace Project (New York).

[Purchase *Tremor* tickets here.](#)

Laura Ortman

Smoke Rings Shimmers Endless Blur

April 26–27 | 7:30 pm

Edlis Neeson Theater

Renowned composer and multi-instrumentalist Laura Ortman performs two evenings of live, solo, multimedia concerts during which Ortman’s original music is presented alongside her video work. Informed by her practice as a sculptor and installation artist, Ortman bridges the

gap between music and fine art in her performances, describing her musical approach as “sculpting sound.” An accomplished violinist, her work encompasses a variety of textures and atmospheres created with the classical violin, Apache violin, effects pedals, piano, guitar, and voice.

[Purchase *Smoke Rings Shimmers Endless Blur* tickets here.](#)

7NMS | Marjani Forté-Saunders and Everett Saunders

[***Prophet: The Order of the Lyricist***](#)

May 9–11 | 7:30 pm

Edlis Neeson Theater

A multi-genre storytelling project about the life journey of a lyricist, *Prophet: The Order of the Lyricist* illuminates the distinctive practices, systems, philosophies, and political ideologies that have shaped hip-hop’s emcees. Combining craft, prose, oration, and exposé, the work presents the coming-of-age story of an emcee, immersing audiences in a world of courage, self-determination, and devotion. Using text, sound, film, and performance, *Prophet* stands as a critical offering to scholarly, civic, and ancient bodies of radical Black expression.

[Purchase *Prophet* tickets here.](#)

SUPPORT

Lead support for the 2023–24 season of MCA Performance and Public Programs is provided by Elizabeth A. Liebman.

Generous support is provided by Ginger Farley and Bob Shapiro, Martha Struthers Farley and Donald C. Farley, Jr. Family Foundation, N.A., Trustee; Susan Manning and Doug Doetsch; Carol Prins and John Hart/The Jessica Fund; and an anonymous donor.

Additional generous support is provided by Diane Kahan and Anne L. Kaplan.

The MCA is a proud member of the Museums in the Park and receives major support from the Chicago Park District.

Resonance is in-part funded by the New Works Initiative, a structure for the MCA to fund and support the development of new artworks, placing the creative process at the heart of the museum’s relationship with Chicago. This year, 7NMS, through the help of the New Works Initiative, will present *PROPHET: The Order of the Lyricist*.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART CHICAGO

The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The MCA interweaves exhibitions, performances, collections, and educational programs while providing a place for audiences to contemplate and discuss contemporary art in pursuit of a creative and diverse future. The MCA believes in the values of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA) as a platform to enact structural

change. The museum is generously supported by its Board of Trustees; individual and corporate members; private and corporate foundations, including the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; and government agencies. Museum capital improvements are supported by a Public Museum Capital Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The MCA is a proud member of Museums in the Park and receives major support from the Chicago Park District.

The [MCA is located at 220 E. Chicago Avenue](#) and is open 10 am to 5 pm Wednesday to Sunday and Tuesdays (free for IL residents) from 10 am to 9 pm. The museum is closed on Mondays. Admission is free for all youth 18 and under, members of the military and veterans, and MCA members. Find more information about MCA's exhibitions, programs, and special events at mcachicago.org or at 312.280.2660.



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