



BAM 2018 Winter/Spring Season

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC PETER JAY SHARP BUILDING 30 LAFAYETTE AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11217—1486

BAM presents a performance and exhibition by experimental artist, Ben Vida

***And So Now* is a new live vocal work that examines the aural threshold between verbal sense and nonsense, May 12**

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

And So Now

Composed and directed by Ben Vida

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space, 321 Ashland Pl.)

May 12 at 7:30pm

Tickets: \$18 (\$14 for members)

And So Now: Speech Act Scores

Featuring works by Ben Vida

On view Mar 19—Jun 16

BAM Fisher (lower lobby, 321 Ashland Pl.)

Monday-Saturday, 12-6pm

Free

March 19, 2018/Brooklyn, NY—BAM is pleased to present artist and musician **Ben Vida's** new experimental vocal work *And So Now*. Examining the aural threshold between verbal sense and nonsense the piece features a vocal quartet—**Nina Dante, Brandon Lopez, Jessica Pavone,** and Vida. The language of *And So Now* oscillates between the phonetic and the linguistic, where the tempo and rhythm of the speech intermittently lifts the language outside the realm of conventional communication, transposing it into pure sound. The sonic pallet of *And So Now* combines live voices and an electronically synthesized musical score resulting in a pulsing, mesmerizing swirl of text and aural transmissions.

The work juxtaposes cyclical singing with spoken monologues, foregrounding the material aspects of language. As the vocalists exchange words and phrases, a narrative develops that reveals how the communicative “signal to noise” ratios have fallen out of balance in our current social constructs. Over the course of the work, verbal meaning breaks down and rebuilds itself over and over again. The spoken word is deconstructed into its elemental parts and countered with a destabilizing recurring spoken trope, “and so now.” This process verbally anchors ephemerality in the immediate moment. Through these moments the language slows and once again returns as communicative material.

The verbal score of *And So Now* is inspired by the text sourcing methods used in John Cage's *Diary* and Thomas Bernhard's *Voice Imitator*, the rhythmical essays of Gertrude Stein, and the parsing systems of the Conceptual Writers movement.

The program is complemented by an exhibition on view in the BAM Fisher Lower Lobby from March 19—June 16 showcasing three large ink and gesso "Speech Act" paintings. The process of creating these visual works were central to the development of *And So Now*.

Based in New York, Ben Vida has been an active member of the international experimental music community for two decades. In the mid-1990s Vida co-founded the minimalist quartet Town & Country, and released solo records under the moniker Bird Show. He has released records on numerous labels including Alku, PAN, Future Audio Graphics and Kranky. His most recent LP *Damaged Particulates* was released on Shelter Press. His work has been featured in *Artforum*, *Modern Painters*, *The Paris Review*, *The New York Times*, *Art Review*, *Wire*, *The Creators Project*, and *WIRED* among others. In addition to his musical endeavors, Vida has exhibited his work as a contemporary artist with recent solo exhibitions at Lisa Cooley Gallery (NYC) and 356 S. Mission Rd (LA). In the fall of 2016 Vida presented iterations of a new durational piece scored for choir and electronics titled *Reducing the Tempo to Zero* at Italy's Centro Pecci and The Rossini Art Site, and at STUK in Belgium. His pieces have been presented widely in venues such as the Guggenheim (NYC); The MCA (Chicago); The ICA (London); The Kitchen (NYC); Performa Biennial, (NYC); EMPAC, (Troy, NY); Leap Gallery (Berlin); Lampo (Chicago); Cricoteka Museum (Kraków); The Artist's Institute (NYC); Sydney Opera House; Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna; Borderline Festival (Athens); and the Royal Festival Hall (London).

For press information, contact Sarah Garvey, BAM Publicity at sgarvey@BAM.org or 718.724.8025.

Credits

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