

Brooklyn Academy of Music

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Planetarium

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House

Mar 21—23 at 8pm; Mar 24 at 7pm

Approximate running time: two hours and 10 minutes,
including one intermission

By Bryce Dessner, Nico Muhly,
and Sufjan Stevens

Project design by **Deborah Johnson**
for CandyStations

Lighting design **Ben Stanton**

Production manager **Josh Higgason**

Sound engineer **Brandon Reid**

Laser design and operation **Eliav Kadosh**
for Lightwave International

QUARTETS

—intermission—

PLANETARIUM

BAM 2013 Winter/Spring Season sponsor:

Bloomberg

Leadership support provided by
Frances Bermanzohn & Alan Roseman

Planetarium receives endowment support from
the *BAM Fund to Support Emerging and Local
Musicians*

Artist Talk

A Look at the Stars: a stargazing event with
Summer Ash, director of outreach for the Department
of Astronomy & Astrophysics at Columbia University
Mar 21—23, post-show, BAM Fisher Rooftop Terrace
Rain or cloud cover—BAM Fisher (Hillman Studio)

QUARTETS

Little Blue Something composed by **Bryce Dessner**

Selections from *Run Rabbit Run* by **Sufjan Stevens**

Year of the Horse

Year of the Dragon

Year of our Lord

Year of the Boar

Diacritical Marks composed by **Nico Muhly**

No. 1

No. 2

No. 3

No. 4

No. 5

No. 6

No. 7

No. 8

MUSICIANS

Cello **Clarice Jensen**

Violin **Rob Moose**

Violin **Ben Russell**

Viola **Nadia Sirota**

—*intermission*—

PLANETARIUM—movements

Neptune

Jupiter

Venus

Uranus

Mars

The Sun

Pluto

The Moon

Saturn

Earth

Mercury

MUSICIANS

Drums **James McAlister**

Cello **Clarice Jensen**

Violin **Rob Moose**

Violin **Ben Russell**

Viola **Nadia Sirota**

Trombone **Timothy Albright**

Trombone **Joe Barati**

Trombone **Alan Ferber**

Trombone **Ryan Keberle**

Trombone **Benjamin Lanz**

Trombone **Michael Lomand**

Trombone **David Nelson**

Planetarium was originally co-commissioned by the Barbican, Muziekgebouw Frits Philips Eindhoven, and Sydney Opera House

Co-commissioned between the Barbican (London), the Sydney Opera House, and the Muziekgebouw Eindhoven (Netherlands), *Planetarium* is the first “galactic” collaboration between Bryce Dessner, Nico Muhly, and Sufjan Stevens—a 60-minute song cycle dedicated to our solar system: the Moon, the Sun, and nine revolving planets (Pluto is included out of pity).

Extraterrestrial superlatives and Herculean themes notwithstanding, *Planetarium* does not pit itself against Holst’s symphonic paragon, but instead reaches for a far more varied (and humanized) palette, setting lush chamber gestures, belligerent electronics, and processed vocals against a lyrical narrative that seeks to investigate the psychological diversity of the universe around us.

This beguiling suite of songs dodges rigid formalities, beginning with the unorthodox accompaniment of a trombone septet and string quartet alongside Dessner (electric guitar), Muhly (piano, celeste), Stevens (voice, synthesizer), and James McAlister (drums and electronics). Drawing variously on the plight of the Roman gods, Japanese fables, and adolescent lessons learned at Methodist summer camp, *Planetarium* has given the group free reign to intermingle the mythological, personal, and astrological in constructing its own cosmic iconography—one that favors the human heart over the immeasurable (and largely inaccessible) biodiversity of outer space.

Planetarium represents the first comprehensive and fully collaborative effort between these long-term creative companions (and local New Yorkers), giving its stateside debut at BAM an extraterrestrial homecoming significance.



Photo courtesy of the artists

