



yMusic + Gabriella Smith

The adventurous ensemble and innovative composer collaborate in a response to climate change

A call for commissioning support for a major new work. The 40-minute piece for amplified ensemble is inspired by **ocean ecosystems** and provides a point of dialogue for audiences on the broad issue of **climate change**.

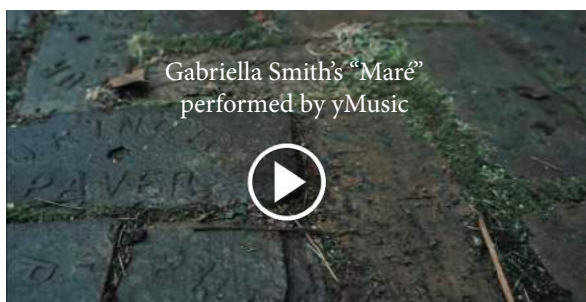


Most people think of the ocean as a silent place, but in reality it is incredibly noisy and vibrant, with many species making sounds just as we do on the surface. In tidepools, you can hear the scurrying of crabs emerging from and retreating back into their holes and the sound of mollusks opening, closing, and straining water. In coral reefs, you can hear the constant crackling of shrimp like background static, the grunting sounds some fish make for communication, and a crunching noise that is the sound of parrot fish eating coral. The ocean and other underwater ecosystems are alien to most—and yet most of our planet is covered in water. In order to conserve the environment, it is important to feel a connection to it. One of my goals with this piece is to make the ocean less foreign and more tangible to listeners, and to provide them with a connection to the ocean in a way they probably haven't experienced before—through sound.

Written for yMusic and underwater field recordings, this piece will use sounds from a diverse range of ecosystems, including coral reefs in French Polynesia, tidepools along the California coast, open ocean, and freshwater marshes, lakes and streams. The piece will be divided into different sections organized by ecosystem. The recordings will be both raw and processed (pitch-shifted, stretched, cut and looped into grooves, etc.) and the melodies, harmonies and rhythms in the music will emerge from the natural pitches and rhythms of the organisms and ecosystems I have recorded.”

Gabriella Smith (Artistic Statement)

Previous works for yMusic by Gabriella Smith



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