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NYCHORAL JOINS ARTIST FELIX KINDERMAN TO PRESENT "INDIVIDUALITY AS SOCIAL FORM"





New York, July 2022- Members of <u>The New York Choral Society</u> were featured in Felix Kinderman's "Individuality as Social Form" on July 27, 2022, in the opening performance of the Whitebox Front Window Summer Series in New York City. Based on Kinderman's "Choir Piece" with a score by composer Natalie Dietterich, "Individuality as Social Form", questions the physical, mental, and social dimensions of the individual vis-à-vis the collective human body.

Through rearrangement, fragmentation, and techniques of acoustic distortion, *Choir Piece* creates a feeling of alienation, destabilizing the interrelated appearance and effect of the choir as a familiar cultural asset, blurring the lines which are dissolved through the play with essential opposites like harmony and disharmony, the individual and the collective. NYCYHORAL Sopranos Claire Harbison, Alicia Lu, Frances Murphy, Alto Colleen Geier and Baritone Logan Pitts performed composer Natalie Dietterich's Composition *for Separated Musicians* which applies Kindermann's far reaching intervention on the coherent structure of the ensemble, such that its harmony remains intact. Using Kindermann's text, her composition allows for a permanent spatial modulation of the singers of NYCHORAL, whilst staying connected via acoustic set pieces, despite their actual spatial modulation. As the sound of the voices echo from the front window onto the street, the themes of separation and connection are translated into choreographic movements between the interior and the exterior, the private and the public.

<u>Felix Kindermann</u> (b. Cologne, Germany) lives and works in Brussels. Recent exhibitions and performances include Fondation CAB, Brussels, BE; Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Ghent, BE; 76,4, Brussels, BE; Deborah

Bowmann,Brussels, BE; These Things Take Time, Ghent, BE; Galerie Nadine Feront (2014, 2015, and 2016); and Kunsthalle Baden-Baden (45cbm), DE. Kindermann, who earned an MFA in Industrial Design from Hochschule für bildende Künste Hamburg and an MFA from Sint-Lukas Brussels in 2010. He is currently artist in residence at The International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP) in New York which supports the creative development of artists and curators, and promotes exchange through residencies and public programs

Applauded by Performance Today for her "pulsatingly beautiful and moving" music, <u>Natalie Dietterich</u> is a composer, violinist, and vocalist from Harleysville, PA, primarily known for her orchestral and choral works, rhythmic layering, and creative use of unconventional texts. Recent projects include light, beloved, an acoustic-electric guitar concerto for virtuoso JIJI, which premiered at Carnegie Hall; and Choir Piece, a multidisciplinary collaboration with German artist Felix Kindermann and choreographer Florian Fischer. Natalie's orchestral music has been performed and/or presented at the Albany Symphony as part of the American Music Festival, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra as part of the Edward T. Cone Composition Institute, by the New York Youth Symphony, the Shanghai Symphony, and the Cabrillo Festival among others

<u>Whitebox</u> is a non-profit art space that serves as a platform for contemporary artists to develop and showcase new site-specific work, and is a laboratory for unique commissions, exhibitions, special events, salon series, and arts education programs. Through site-specific exhibitions, performances, screenings, readings, lectures, and panel discussions, Whitebox provides the opportunity to experience an artist's practice in a meaningful way to the surrounding communities of Chinatown, the Lower East Side, and cultural tourism. It is Whitebox's artistic vision to provide artists with sustained exposure and create the environment for more in-depth interaction between audiences and artists' practices.

Founded in 1959, <u>The New York Choral Society</u> is hailed as one of the mainstays of the city's music scene, known for its adventurous repertoire. Committed to presenting a diverse repertoire that spans from well-known choral works, great compositions rarely heard in concert halls, and newer culturally significant choral works, innovative collaborations and exceptional artistry highlight the essential joy and power of live choral music for New York patrons each season. Made up of more than 150 voices, ages 19-90, the choir is led by Music Director David Hayes and has performed at prestigious venues throughout the New York metropolitan area such as Carnegie Hall, and partnered with major arts institutions like American Ballet Theatre, Lincoln Center, the New York City Ballet and Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, and many others. From their debut concert at the David Geffen Hall, formerly known as Philharmonic Hall with just over a dozen singers in 1965, the New York Choral Society continues to expand its artistic mission, educational commitment, and legacy, bringing choral music into the twenty-first century and beyond.

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