



**presents *Quartet for the End of Time***

**Choreography and Artistic Direction by** Loren Groenendaal

**Dance performance by** Miryam Coppersmith, Loren Groenendaal,  
Chloe Marie and Kate Seethaler

**Music Composition by** Olivier Messiaen "Quatuor pour la fin du temps" (1941)

**Music Direction by** Melinda Faylor

**Music performance by** Melinda Faylor (piano), Julie Kim (cello),  
Mara Mayer (clarinet) and Charlotte Munn-Wood (violin)

**Lighting Design, Operation, and Production Coordination by** Su Güzey

**Technical Assistance by** Jack Sterling

**Box Office Management and Production Assistance by** Katherine Kiefer Stark

**The Icebox Project Space**, 1400 N American St, Philadelphia, PA 19122  
Friday, November 22, 2024 8pm & Saturday, November 23, 2024 2pm & 8pm

- Following the Friday 8pm and Saturday 2pm shows, there will be brief talk backs with the artists, with the Saturday show and talk back being youth-friendly.

# **Quartet for the End of Time**

*(Quatuor pour la fin du temps)*

<u>Music Movement Titles</u>	<u>Dance Section Titles</u>	<u>and Casting</u>
1. <i>Liturgie de Cristal</i> - full music ensemble	<b><i>Glistening Delirium</i></b> - full dance ensemble	
2. <i>Vocalise pour l'Ange Qui Annonce la fin du Temps</i> - full music ensemble	<b><i>At the End of Time</i></b> - Miryam Coppersmith & Kate Seethaler	
3. <i>Abime des Oiseaux</i> - clarinet	<b><i>Abyss of Birds</i></b> - Chloe Marie	
4. <i>Intermède</i> - cello, violin & clarinet	<b><i>Reverie</i></b> - full dance ensemble	
5. <i>Louange à l'Éternité de Jésus</i> - piano & cello	<b><i>With the Ongoingness of Life</i></b> - Loren Groenendaal & Chloe Marie	
6. <i>Danse de la Fureur pour les Sept Trompettes</i> - full music ensemble	<b><i>Dance of Frenzy</i></b> - full dance ensemble	
7. <i>Fouillis d'Arc-en-Ciel, pour l'Ange Qui Annonce la Fin du Temps</i> - full music ensemble	<b><i>Tangle of Rainbows</i></b> - full dance ensemble	
8. <i>Louange à l'Immortalité de Jésus</i> - piano & violin	<b><i>Ecstatic Forest</i></b> - full dance ensemble	

## Notes from the Artistic Director, Loren Groenendaal:

While this work deals with the difficult themes of apocalypse, existential questioning of time, humanitarian and environmental disasters, the overall expression is poetic, hopeful and uplifting, seeking to provide solace in difficult times. Composer and pianist Olivier Messiaen composed "Quatuor pour la fin du temps" or "Quartet for the End of Time" in 1941 while he was held by Nazis as a prisoner of war. The work has eight movements that make one continuous piece. I started working on this choreography in 2017 when resistance to authoritarianism felt especially important. Most of the inspiration for the dance work comes directly from the music, bringing the sounds and feelings into the visual and visceral realm. Our process was supported by literary and embodied research into Messiaen and elements of nature that were particularly inspiring. Thank you for being here and existing in time with us. With attention, care, and action, both tender and fierce, we can survive together.     -Loren Groenendaal

## About the Artists:

**Vervet Dance** is a Philadelphia-based contemporary dance company directed by Loren Groenendaal. The dance works draw on both the legacy of modern dance and cross-cultural influences to create innovative movement vocabularies and imaginative choreographies. Vervet strikes a unique balance between classic forms, new ideas, and ancient purposes for dance. Although subject matter varies, what is characteristic of the company is an ongoing intellectual diligence meeting a curious playfulness and an exploration of the visual, visceral, and musical components of dance.

Artistic Director, Choreographer, Dancer Loren Groenendaal (they/she) is dancer, improviser, choreographer, curator, and movement educator who lives on Lenape land known as Philadelphia. Loren earned an MFA in Choreography at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a BA in Dance and Visual Arts from Oberlin College and is a Certified Movement Analyst from the Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies. Loren was born in rural central Pennsylvania and nurtured on a forested mountain in the ancestral homeland of the Susquehannock. She has been actively creating, curating, and presenting work since 2003. Loren is the founder, artistic director, and choreographer for Vervet Dance. Much of the work is interdisciplinary, collaborative, references patterns in nature, and investigates the community building possibilities of live art, the spectrums between improvisation and composition, and between ritual and performance. Movement vocabulary draws influence from Loren's experience with varied dance forms of modern, Balinese, social, breakin' and contact improvisation. Loren's work has been performed from Canada to Mexico and many places in between and has been supported by multiple venues and organizations including Abington Art Center, CEC, fidget, FringeArts, Green Space, Movement Research, and more. She has self and co-produced concerts and concert series of *BOING! colorFULL*, *Making the Rounds*, *Semi-Composed*, and *The H-O-T Series of Philadelphia*, mostly at Mascher Space Cooperative when it was in Kensington 2005-2019.

Music Director and Pianist Melinda Faylor is a versatile pianist and composer based in New York City. Ms. Faylor weaves together dense and mercurial sound worlds using field recordings, synthesized sound and piano. Current projects include a solo electroacoustic album, Melia Duo with flutist Melanie Chrignan, Sari-Sari Storybooks with Music, and her interdisciplinary piece MeMeMeMe. She is currently collaborating with Vervet Dance of Philadelphia as Music Director and pianist for their upcoming November concerts of Olivier Messaien's "Quartet for the End of Time". She is a pianist for the Joffrey Ballet School, the Garden Players and FoHI Improv. Ms. Faylor is the recipient of the Ma-Yi Theater grant (2021), NMUSA Creator Fund grant (2023) the Queens Art Fund grant (2023) and the Anti-Social Music Tiny Fund Award (2024).

Dancer **Miryam Coppersmith** (she/they) is a Philadelphia-based performance artist, writer, and teacher. She creates using movement, speech, and sound coming from her own body. Her solo dance/theater piece *Mirele Lernt Zich Yiddish* was hailed a "must-see performance" by The Dance Journal and has been performed in Catskill, NY, Phoenix, AZ and Philadelphia. Miryam teaches Contact Improvisation, Yiddish dance, Six Viewpoints, and Blues dance. They also write and edit for thINKingDANCE.net. Recent: "The Oven of Aknai" with Rabbinic Arts Company. Upcoming: *Untitled Abundance/Scarcity Project* and *Women of Chelm*. Miryam has appeared in earlier Vervet Dance works of *Mind Murmuration* (2023) and collaborated with Loren on *The \_\_\_\_\_ and Something and Everything Game* (2023).

Dancer **Chloe Marie** (she/they) is a performer and choreographer based on the Lenni Lenape land also known as Philadelphia. Chloe's rich artistic background commenced in high school where she attended the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts. There she received rigorous ballet, jazz, and modern dance training, and performed in many classic modern dance repertoires by great dance pioneers; some including Donald McKayle, Christopher Huggins, and Jose Limon. Chloe continued her performance dance education at the University of the Arts in 2013, and performed in works by Doug Varone, Yazmeen Godder, Sidra Bell, and Faustin Linkeyula. Since earning her degree in 2017, she has actively engaged in numerous collaborative and solo projects that explore themes of identity, community, and the human experience. Chloe has appeared in earlier Vervet Dance works of *The Philadelphia Global Water Dance* (2021), *Ravishing and Ravenous* (2019), and *In the Light* (2018). Chloe recently premiered her solo work "Afraid of the Abstract" at Judson Church as part of Black Aesthetics; a weekly performance evening, curated by Arien Wilkerson and Malcolm-x Betts. Her versatility has led her to perform in a variety of settings, from the Philadelphia Museum of Art to the Fringe Festival. In addition to her performance work, Chloe has ventured into video projects, contributing her movement to dance films, and music videos, and as an educator, she shares her passion for dance with children and adults. With each endeavor, Chloe continues to push creative boundaries, hopefully making a meaningful impact in the Philadelphia dance landscape.

Dancer **Kate Seethaler** (she/they) is a dance artist, movement educator, choreographer, improviser, mother, and unabashed goofball based in the Strawberry Mansion neighborhood of Philadelphia. Besides dancing as part of Vervet Dance, Kate is currently on a parental leave from teaching Pilates and dance, relishing time spent with her second little babe. Before parental leave, she taught at Movement Source Pilates and University of the Arts. As a freelance artist, Kate has most recently created duet dance works (*OPEN/OPEN* and *Carnivore*) and co-taught technique class series with Meghan Frederick. In addition to performing in their own dances, Kate has performed for many choreographers including Kellie Lynch, Deborah Goffe, Katie Martin, Paige Phillips and Tammy Carrasco. Kate received a BA in Dance (summa cum laude) from Springfield College and an MFA in Dance/Choreography & Performance from Smith College. Kate has appeared in earlier Vervet Dance works of *Aflame* (2022), *The Philadelphia Global Water Dance* (2021), and in collaboration with Loren and Melinda in *... of changes* (2017) and *SWARM!* (2017).

Cellist **Julie Kim** has a musical versatility that has culminated in a delightfully multifaceted career. Hailing from sunny California, Julie is now based in NYC. Feeling equally at home in a wide variety of styles ranging from classical performance to improvisation, she has become a frequent flyer at venues across NYC such as Lincoln Center, Roulette, and The Stone. As well, she has made appearances at a number of festivals including the Bowdoin International Music Festival, The Next Festival of Emerging Artists, and the Internationales Jazzfestival Bern. She completed her undergraduate degree in the studio of Fred Sherry at the Mannes School of Music and is currently studying in the MM Performer-Composer program at The New School.

Clarinetist **Mara Mayer** is based in NYC and a graduate of the Eastman School of Music. Artist residencies include Summit Music & Arts, Avaloch Farms New Music Initiative, Clarinetist for Composing in the Wilderness at Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival, and Earthdance E|Merge. In addition to their duo Slüthaven, for which they compose music, Mara has performed in a wide range of ensembles from classical music to free improv including with GABI, The Curiosity Cabinet, Nouveau Classical Project, The Great Comet on Broadway, Corvus New Music Ensemble, CACensemble, Contemporaneous, Ensemble Ipse, Banda de los Muertos, and more. Mara is on faculty at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music where they teach Clarinet and Chamber Music.

Violinist **Charlotte Munn-Wood** is an improviser, chamber musician, and sought-after educator in New York City. Her music and visual art explore the textures and timbres of the natural world and of inner psychological environments. Munn-Wood is a founding member of Du.0 (du-point-oh), a two-violin ensemble specializing in experimental contemporary and noise-based improvised music. Formed with Aimée Niemann in 2015 and released its debut studio album, *Thoughts From the Future*, in May 2024. Munn-Wood is a founding member and Executive Director of the Telos Consort, a group of creatives seeking to reimagine the concert experience through the performance of new and newer works by living composers. Munn-Wood is a graduate of the Contemporary Performance Program at the Manhattan School of Music where she studied with Dr. Curtis Macomber, and of Western Michigan University as a student of Renata Knific. Away from the violin, she is an avid runner, rock climber, and prolific fiber artist.

Lighting Designer and Operator and Production Manager **su güzey sterling** is an artist and lighting designer from Istanbul currently based in Philadelphia. They worked alongside many international choreographers and they created their own company configuring animal in 2022, in collaboration with many wanderers traveling within interdisciplinary waters. They are interested in working within/ through mediums from performing arts to dance theater, lighting design and sound compositions, visual arts and installations, and teaching as facilitating a space of assembly, connection, conversion, listening and sovereignty. su's artistic research is initiated from their own experience of transmigration, fluctuating phenomenologies of relation and space, and practicing a practice for sovereignty in "errantry." How to acknowledge that we are constantly in motion, in relation, and in a changing space and how to, as a transmigrant, find ways of negotiation of temporary inhabitation, while still in entanglement and relation with "all."

## Appreciation:

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We could not have completed this project without all of you! Thank you so much!

**We are still accepting donations to support this work through December 4, 2024**

<https://vervetdance.betterworld.org/campaigns/quartetpremiere>

**We are always accepting tax deductible donations via Fractured Atlas:**

<https://fundraising.fracturedatlas.org/vervet-dance-loren-groenendaal>

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