

# AMOC\*

AMERICAN MODERN OPERA COMPANY  
2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



*“[AMOC] is not just the future of opera  
—but the future of everything”  
/ Peter Sellars in *The New Yorker**



We are thrilled, on behalf of the Board of Directors and artists of AMOC, to offer this glimpse into the fruits of our 2020-2021 season, one of reflection, creation, and (safe) gathering.

With performance activities being so limited this past year, the ongoing support of our funders has been essential for our ability to continue experimenting and working together, anticipating the welcome time when substantial-capacity live performances could occur again. Among many other activities, your generosity made possible over 80 artist workshop weeks for four new productions; the premiere of a new, outdoor production at The Clark Art Institute in August 2020; and the recording of new compositions by Matthew Aucoin, which were recently released on AMOC's first commercial album in collaboration with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project.

We hope you enjoy seeing what our AMOCkers have been cooking up, and we look forward to much more in seasons to come.

With very best wishes,

Matthew Aucoin and Zack Winokur / Co-Founders  
Jennifer Chen / Managing Director

# AMOC\*

## AMERICAN MODERN OPERA COMPANY

The mission of AMOC (American Modern Opera Company) is to build and share a body of collaborative work. As a group of dancers, singers, musicians, writers, directors, composers, choreographers, and producers united by a core set of values, AMOC artists pool their resources to create new pathways that connect creators and audiences in surprising and visceral ways.

[www.runningamoc.org](http://www.runningamoc.org)

## THE COMPANY

### CORE ENSEMBLE

JONNY ALLEN, percussionist  
PAUL APPLEBY, tenor  
DOUG BALLIETT, double bassist, composer  
JULIA BULLOCK, soprano  
JAY CAMPBELL, cellist  
ANTHONY ROTH COSTANZO, countertenor  
MIRANDA CUCKSON, violinist, violist  
JULIA EICHTEN, dancer, choreographer  
EMI FERGUSON, flutist  
KEIR GOGWILT, violinist, writer  
CONOR HANICK, pianist  
COLEMAN ITZKOFF, cellist  
OR SCHRAIBER, dancer, choreographer  
BOBBI JENE SMITH, dancer, choreographer  
DAVÓNE TINES, bass-baritone

## CO-FOUNDERS

MATTHEW AUCOIN, composer, conductor, pianist  
ZACK WINOKUR, director, choreographer, dancer

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

ZACK WINOKUR

## MANAGING DIRECTOR

JENNIFER CHEN

## PRODUCER

CATH BRITTAN

## COMPANY MANAGER

MARY MCGOWAN

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KATHY SCHUMAN, president  
MARTA MILLER, vice president  
MATTHEW BIRD, treasurer  
ADAM CHARLAP HYMAN, secretary  
STEPHEN A. NOVICK



# NONO

The Clark Art Institute  
Williamstown, MA  
August 21 & 22, 2020

AMOC's first, sold-out live performances since March 2020 took place on The Clark's stunning Ando Terrace. The program featured Miranda Cuckson and Christopher Burns's award-winning rendition of Luigi Nono's *La lontananza nostalgica utopica futura*, a richly theatrical, spatialized composition for violin and electronics. Staged especially for the breathtaking encounter of landscape and architecture at The Clark, this thought-provoking work explores the question: "how do we move forward when no path seems to exist?"

Luigi Nono's *La lontananza nostalgica utopica futura*  
for violin and electronics (1988-9)

featuring

MIRANDA CUCKSON, violin

CHRISTOPHER BURNS, electronics

JULIA EICHTEN, dancer

ZACK WINOKUR, director

JULIA EICHTEN, assistant director



# Broken Theater

October 19 - November 1, 2020  
Mass MoCA, North Adams, MA

November 16 - December 6, 2020  
La MaMa, New York, NY

Created in a period of isolation and fear, *Broken Theater* is a letter to our time, born of a deep desire to connect. Bobbi Jene Smith and her collaborators excavate the connections between effort and humiliation, abuse of power and love, and chaos and structure. Scenes in the piece stage the farcical theatrics of authoritarian world leaders, whose denials of the pandemic, and of their own brokenness and vulnerability, had catastrophic consequences for their citizens (and in many cases their own health). *Broken Theater* is a microcosm reflecting what we see as a collective politics of death: the valuing of short-term power and profit over human life; the dehumanizing categorization of those who functioned within their vision of society, and those rejected as broken.

*Broken Theater* was captured as a feature film in Fall 2020 (release date to be announced).  
A live version will premiere and tour in Fall 2022.

Directed by BOBBI JENE SMITH

Performances by:

JULIA EICHTEN  
VINSON FRALEY\*  
COLEMAN ITZKOFF  
JESSE KOVARSKY\*  
YIANNIS LOGOTHETIS\*  
OR SCHRAIBER  
BOBBI JENE SMITH  
MOUNA SOUALEM\*  
EMILY TERNDRUP\*

With music performed by:

PAUL APPLEBY  
JULIA BULLOCK  
CONOR HANICK

Filmed by:  
DERRICK BELCHAM\*

Commissioned by AMOC  
Co-Commissioned by Mass MoCA and  
La MaMa Experimental Theater

\**guest collaborator*

# The No One's Rose

Stanford Live  
Stanford University, CA  
August 25-29, 2021  
(Workshop March 14-28, 2021)

AMOC's largest project yet was workshopped almost exactly one year after originally scheduled. A brand new devised work with original music by Matthew Aucoin, directed by Zack Winokur, and choreographed by Bobbi Jene Smith, *The No One's Rose* is a music, dance, and theater piece that reflects on the deeply personal experience of grief and the collective process of rebuilding after immense loss.



featuring  
JULIA BULLOCK, soprano  
ANTHONY ROTH COSTANZO, countertenor  
PAUL APPLEBY, tenor  
DAVÓNE TINES, bass-baritone  
JULIA EICHTEN, YIANNIS LOGOTHETIS,  
OR SCHRAIBER, BOBBI JENE SMITH, dancers  
KEIR GOGWILT, violin  
COLEMAN ITZKOFF, cello  
JONNY ALLEN, percussion  
PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA

MATTHEW AUCOIN, conductor  
ZACK WINOKUR, director  
BOBBI JENE SMITH, choreographer  
JOHN TORRES, lighting designer  
CARLOS SOTO, costume designer  
CATH BRITTAN, producer  
BETSY AYER, production stage manager

Co-Commissioned by Philharmonia Baroque  
Orchestra and Stanford Live

Co-Produced by Philharmonia Baroque  
Orchestra and AMOC



# Comet Poppea

Guggenheim Works & Process  
Residency March 29 - April 3, 2021  
Showing April 4, 2021

Guggenheim Works & Process hosted AMOC artists in a bubble residency to workshop new material from George Lewis's AMOC-commissioned opera based on the W.E.B. DuBois short story *The Comet*. This opera will premiere as part of *Comet Poppea*, a new work directed by Yuval Sharon and produced in partnership with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Anthony Roth Costanzo, and Cath Brittan.

featuring  
JONNY ALLEN, percussion  
DOUG BALLIETT, double bass  
ANTHONY ROTH COSTANZO, countertenor  
MIRANDA CUCKSON, violin

EMI FERGUSON, flute  
CONOR HANICK, piano  
AARON WOLFF, cello\*  
CHIEH-FAN YU, viola\*  
\*guest artist

# EASTMAN

Little Island Festival  
September 3-4, 2021  
(Workshop April 5-16, 2021)

*EASTMAN* is a multi-dimensional performance piece that reflects the performers' consideration of Julius Eastman's art and the larger context of his life, creativity, and humanity. This first workshop was just the beginning of a long journey with Julius Eastman's work, and we were thrilled to make our return to live performance in New York by closing the inaugural Little Island Festival with an in-process presentation of the production.

featuring  
DOUG BALLIETT, double bass  
MIRANDA CUCKSON, violin  
EMI FERGUSON, flutes  
CONOR HANICK, piano  
SETH PARKER WOODS, cello\*  
DAVÓNE TINES, bass-baritone  
\*guest collaborator

ZACK WINOKUR, director  
IAN ASKEW and MARY MCGOWAN,  
associate directors  
TESSA BOOKWALTER, lighting designer  
MARK GREY, sound designer  
CATH BRITTAN, producer  
BETSY AYER, production stage manager



# Gallup (Na'nízhoozhí)

A new short film released May 28, 2021  
in collaboration with LA Opera

As part of LA Opera's Digital Short series, AMOC artists recorded a new work, composed by Matthew Aucoin with poetry by Jake Skeets, which serves as the backdrop for an unflinching yet tender portrait of one of the hardest-hit areas affected by the pandemic: Gallup, New Mexico (called Na'nízhoozhí in Skeets's and Lowe's native Navajo language).

The audio recording of this piece is featured on AMOC's first commercial album, *Orphic Moments*, released in partnership with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project.

BLACKHORSE LOWE, filmmaker  
MATTHEW AUCOIN, composer  
JAKE SKEETS, poet  
ADAM ABESHOUSE, audio producer

JONNY ALLEN, percussion  
ANTHONY ROTH COSTANZO, countertenor  
MIRANDA CUCKSON, violin  
EMI FERGUSON, flutes  
CONOR HANICK, piano  
COLEMAN ITZKOFF, cello  
DAVÓNE TINES, bass-baritone

A new short film released September 24, 2021  
in collaboration with Soundbox Percussion

Co-Produced by AMOC, *AMETHYST* is one of eleven short films comprising Soundbox Percussion's Grammy Award-nominated album, *Seven Pillars*, featuring music by composer Andy Akiho. Filmed in Vermont in April 2020, AMOC's Jonny Allen and Julia Eichten bring to visual life the haunting dichotomies of Akiho's work: other-worldly and nostalgic; man-made and natural.

ALISA YANG, director  
ANDY AKIHO, composer  
JONNY ALLEN, percussion  
JULIA EICHTEN, choreographer & dancer  
AIDEN EARLEY, director of photography  
OR SCHRAIBER, cinematographer  
JUNIPER, production assistant

# AMETHYST

"A lush, brooding celebration of noise"  
- *The New York Times*



There was earth inside them...

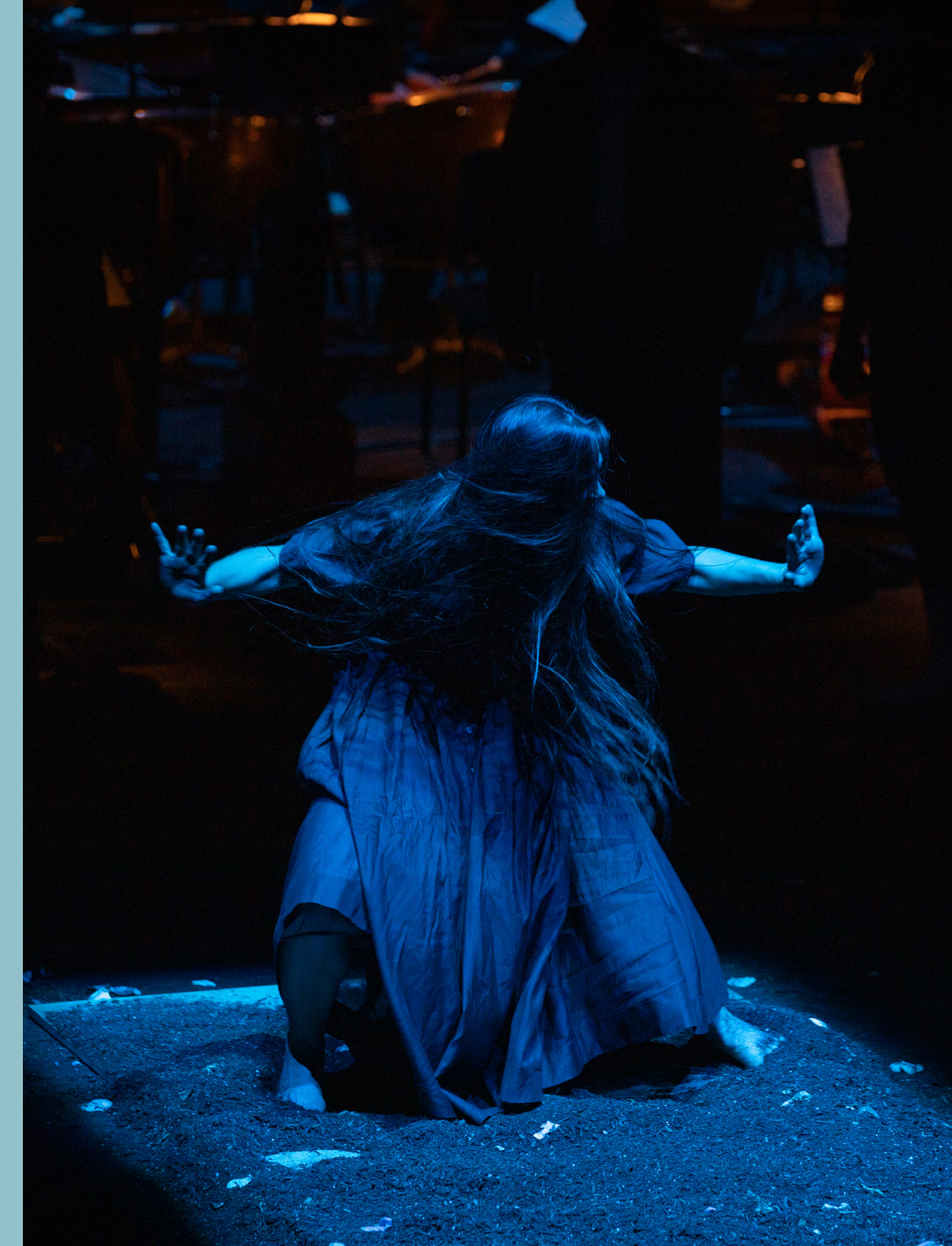


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