Spitalfields music festival

Me Without You

Emily Levy and Mella Faye

Thursday 4th June 2024 | Metronome London

Creative Team

Mella Faye Writer/Director

Emily Levy Composer/Performer

Performers

Fionn Cox-Davies voice, dance

Tara Franks cello, voice

Mirabelle Gremaud voice, harp, dance

Preetha Narayanan violin, voice Tom Penn - voice, double bass, violin

Sal Pittman visual artist

Tom Clutterbuck visual technician

Simon Booth sound engineer

Sam Halmarack videographer

Jackie Newbould senior producer

Katrina Pike assistant producer

Composer Emily Levy and Writer-Director Mella Faye present an unflinching, heartfelt and uplifting exploration of love, loss and survival.

Music, dance and recorded interviews from conversations across the UK are richly layered by a world class ensemble of musicians, dancers and actors to create an extraordinary elegy to the power of story and human connection. Me Without You celebrates those we've lost and those of us who are still here.

"I'm still a sister. Your sister. Though it's more like a secret over time. I catch myself looking for the empty places inside other people. It's a way of not letting you go." Emily Levy, Composer

As part of the making of this piece, we've been around the country, having conversations with people about their experiences of loss and how their lives have been shaped by the people they love who are no longer here. This active listening has been our creative driving force, recognising the value of sharing stories and being heard, and it is these stories that make the framework for our piece.

This ethos of listening also gives us a performance language to work with as our cast move fluidly between singing, instrumental playing and dance, whilst interacting with recorded speech and live and filmed visuals by Sal Pitman. The goal is always to

Partners

Supported by Arts Council England Project Grant
Co-Commissioners: Britten Pears Arts, Opera North, Spitalfields Music With support from Sound and Music for initial research and development

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

PRS Foundation

HINRICHSEN FOUNDATION

THE MARCHUS TRUST

creatively amplifying the voices and stories at the heart of the piece.

We all carry with us the people that we miss, and the impact on us of their lives and their death. This can be something that we talk about often or hold close as a very private part of us. Me Without You is a recognition of and testament to this part of all our lives and we have strived to create something this is hopeful as well as sad, playful as well as serious.

Accompanying the live performance is an online archive or scrapbook of stories and responses to our theme and the initial questions that we used in our conversations all over the country. This is an open resource and we warmly welcome anything you wish to contribute whether it's text, voice memos, videos, artwork, photos or anything else. These can feature names or be completely anonymous, it's entirely up to you.

www.mewithoutyou.co.uk
Instagram - @mewithoutyoushow
Twitter - @MWYshow

Emily Levy is a singer and composer with particular interest in voice, sound design and narrative. Her musical influences range from medieval to classical, folk to jazz and the format ranges from solo projects, small and large ensemble, radio soundtrack, theatre and co-creation in many settings.

'Dazzling, immediate and seductive' - The Stage
'Persuasive, timeless and haunting' - The Guardian

Mella Faye is a multi-award winning writer-director with a passion for celebrating the creative and sensual chaos of the female gaze. She is Artistic Director of Pecho Mama, makers of radical gig-theatre that reclaims the myths from the contemporary male perspective. Mella regularly works with other artists as mentor, script consultant, director and dramaturg.

'A truly breathtaking theatrical experience' - Culture Fix
"Thrilling and entirely original' - The Stage

For over 40 years Spitalfields Music has been putting music at the heart of East London.

We aim to bring artists, audiences and communities together so that everyone can find, explore and share extraordinary music in one of the most vibrant areas of London. We do this through high-quality performances, an industry leading artist development programme and award-winning projects in schools, special educational needs and disabilities settings, care homes and community centres.

This work is only possible thanks to the generosity of our funders and supporters, including people like you.

If you share our belief in music to change society, you can find out more about our work and how to support it at spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk