

## About the Art Installation in the Lobby

Over the past months, the **Juxtaposition Arts Contemporary Art Lab** designed an abstract sculptural installation to go hand in hand with Carlos Simon and Marc Bamuthi Joseph's composition *brea(d)th*, which premieres at this week's concerts. Working with Contemporary Lab Lead **Cameron Downey**, apprentices **Henry Adams**, **Ameerah Harris**, **Naimah Muhammad**, **Myles Pohlman**, **Fynn Schulte** and **Venus Statham** worked to cut, sew, grommet and envision 30-foot panels of green velvet to both adorn and transform the Roberta Mann Grand Foyer lobby space of Orchestra Hall, which hosts the installation from May 11 to 20. Inspired by the likes of Sam Gilliam and Eva Hesse, the apprentices used a material-forward approach to portray, in the words of Myles, "Some of the raw feelings of the sheer breadth of this performance." The physical traits of this installation muse on the sights, sounds and effects of the Hall, the Orchestra and of *brea(d)th* specifically. These lush, iridescent and billowing forms fill and coalesce with the air of the lobby space and even take breaths of their own.

In addition, **Roger Cummings**, artist and Chief Cultural Producer at Juxtaposition Arts, created a series of text sculptural installation projections, presented in the lobby in tandem with Juxtaposition's Contemporary Art Lab fabric sculpture, both inspired by *brea(d)th*. He offers the following artist's statement on his work: "My work is centered around the concept of interconnectedness and the power of words to create a sense of unity. Each installation is composed of a series of projections that cast specific stanzas of the *brea(d)th* libretto onto sculptural elements, creating a dynamic interplay between language, form and light. The installations are designed to create a contemplative space for the audience, where they can engage with the themes of *brea(d)th* and reflect on the ways in which language shapes our understanding of the world around us. Through my work, I aim to invite viewers to participate in a collective experience that transcends the boundaries of language, culture and identity, and to create a sense of community and shared purpose that resonates long after the performance has ended. Ultimately, my hope is that my installations will contribute to the immersive and transformative nature of *brea(d)th*, and help to bring its message of unity and hope to life in a powerful and meaningful way."

## About the Murals in the Target Atrium

In the Target Atrium space, **Memorialize the Movement** has curated a sample of protest murals created during the Minneapolis Uprising of 2020. The murals represent a tangible manifestation of the community's collective outpouring of grief, resolve, hope, anger and love.

Memorialize the Movement (MTM) is a living archive dedicated to collecting, preserving and activating the plywood protest murals that were created during the Minneapolis Uprising of 2020 and beyond. By providing space for youth, artists, and our Black, Indigenous and other communities of color to heal, reflect and learn, MTM seeks to address the issues of police brutality, community safety, and representation for Black and Brown creatives and conservationists.

## Pre-Concert Interview

Join host **Garrett McQueen** in a pre-concert conversation with composer **Carlos Simon** and librettist **Marc Bamuthi Joseph** about their composition *brea(d)th*. The conversations, held in the Target Atrium, begin on Thursday, May 18, at 10:15 a.m.; on Friday, May 19, at 7:15 p.m.; and on Saturday, May 20, at 7:15 p.m.

## Acknowledgements

The Minnesota Orchestra would like to thank the following people who gave counsel during the course of this project, some of which included helping us co-design art-centered opportunities surrounding the performances of *brea(d)th* and beyond.

Brendon Adams  
Jeanelle Austin  
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Roger Cummings  
Andrea Jenkins  
Garrett McQueen  
Marcus Simmons  
Shekela Wanyama

In addition, the creators of *brea(d)th* would like to extend a special note of thanks to **Ms. Angela Harrelson**, who was an oracle, a guide, and an incredible reminder of hope and humanity during our first days in the Twin Cities. Thank you, Ms. Angela, for allowing us to see your nephew through your loving and humane eyes, and for inspiring us to make a work of art in that same spirit.

## Beyond Orchestra Hall

Marc Bamuthi Joseph's libretto for *brea(d)th* poses the question:

Who does the work that's still left?  
So much work has been done.  
The promise of what's possible.  
That's the breadth of the task, the breadth of the promise.

The George Floyd Global Memorial (GFGM) invites Minnesota Orchestra audiences and all community members to continue the work that's still left by participating in the third annual **Rise & Remember** celebration from May 25 to 27. Rise & Remember exists to hold in remembrance those we have lost to the pervasive impacts of systemic racism, and to gather people to pursue racial justice and equity. Throughout Rise & Remember, GFGM will host a two-day conference, a candlelight vigil, a gala and a festival, all to inspire people to rise to the occasion, come together in community and build racial equity. Some performers from this week's Minnesota Orchestra concerts, along with local spoken word artist Brittany Delaney, will perform portions of *brea(d)th* in a chamber version as part of the Candlelight Vigil for Rise & Remember on Thursday, May 25, at 8 p.m. at George Floyd Square. This is a free public event.

A major new element of this year is the **Rise & Remember Conference** on May 25 and 26. The conference, held at Best Buy Headquarters in south Minneapolis, aims to bring together change agents, thought leaders and movement builders committed to racial justice and equity. It will cover a range of topics including cultural preservation, racial healing, policy reform and building power through large organizations and coalitions, and will feature several plenary speakers, skills workshops and panel discussions.

Visit [georgefloydglobalmemorial.org/rise-remember-2023](https://georgefloydglobalmemorial.org/rise-remember-2023) for more information.

Memorialize the Movement invites the community to attend their third annual **Justice for George** event on May 27 and 28 at Squirrel Haus Arts. This community event displays the protest murals from the Minneapolis Uprisings of 2020, highlighting Black, Indigenous, and other artists, speakers and performers of color. The goal of this event is to bring the community together to collectively heal, reflect and learn. This year's event is a public retreat with a goal to activate the murals as a vessel to spark conversation around mental health and holistic healing practices within Black, Indigenous and other communities of color from the effects of the 2020 uprising and the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Visit [memorializethemovement.com/featured-project](https://memorializethemovement.com/featured-project) for more information.