

ELLEN SOUND

SOCIALLY
DISTANCED
SOUND ART

Created and Composed by ELLEN REID

REID



WALK

Ellen Reid SOUNDWALK was co-commissioned by the New York Philharmonic, Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, Mann Center for the Performing Arts in association with The Fairmount Park Conservancy, and the Britt Festival Orchestra.

Ellen Reid SOUNDWALK was made possible in part by the support of *Mindscapes*, Wellcome's international cultural programme about mental health.



THIS IS SOCIALLY-DISTANCED PUBLIC ART.

‘Soundwalk’ turns Central Park into
an intoxicating musical adventure.

THE WASHINGTON POST

THIS IS A DIFFICULT TIME.

We are experiencing the stress and trauma of a life-threatening illness circling the globe, compounded by the stress of not being able to physically connect; we miss our communities and we miss the very thing that makes a place special—its people.

I hope Soundwalk will inspire us and make us feel connected to something larger than ourselves.

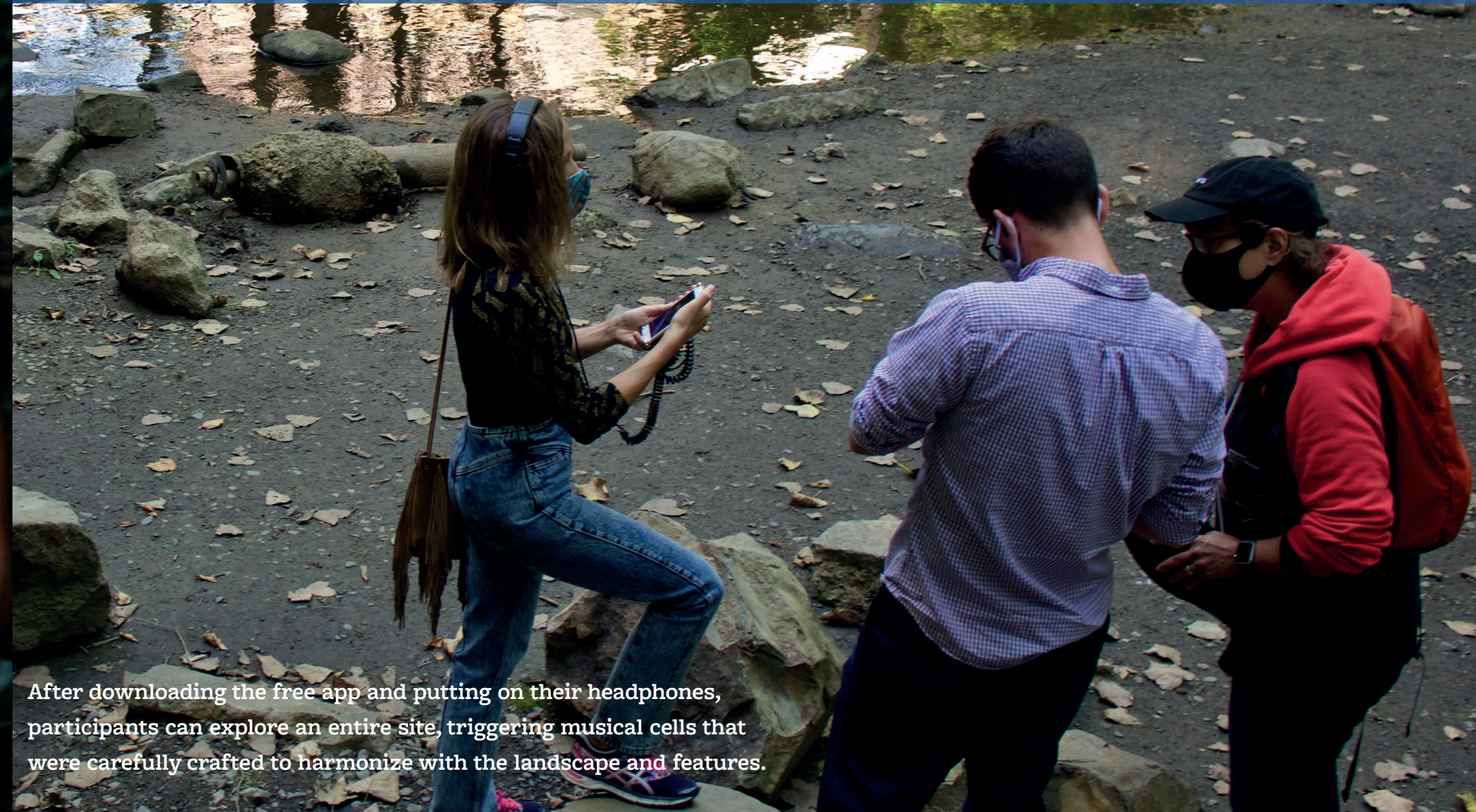
This project is my gift to the city. It is meant to serve as artistic nourishment as well as a much-needed break from the news cycle and our current reality.

COMPOSER Ellen Reid



“Soundwalk” doesn’t just smudge the fine lines between individual and community, public and private. It turns the park into a hall and your map into a score. Walkers and joggers become composers and conductors, just by following their own paths. In the best, most multidimensional sense of the word, it’s an experience.

THE WASHINGTON POST



After downloading the free app and putting on their headphones, participants can explore an entire site, triggering musical cells that were carefully crafted to harmonize with the landscape and features.



MUSIC

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

AN EXPERIENCE GUIDED BY THE LISTENER:

The path you choose dictates the music you hear and no two visits will be exactly the same. As you walk, various musical “cells,” as Ms. Reid calls them, are triggered by your location. So each walk results in a different piece. The music is designed to continually evolve as the you progress through the park in real time as opposed to a set playlist. Individual segments last 2 to 16 minutes, but with the whole experience is built on what Reid calls “orbiting soundscapes” and “cascading cycles,” there are almost endless possible variations.

“It’s like a kaleidoscope”

The music shifts to reflect changes in your location, the landscape, and famous landmarks and structures. In wooded areas, music is dense and rhythmic, in fields, the music is spacious, custom-tailored to the landscape of your park or public space. Localized sound elements including recorded works by local orchestras, ensembles, choirs, and spoken word can be incorporated into each new version.

Soundwalk is marvelously ambitious [and maybe a bit Orwellian considering the app always knows where you are], with an impressive musical range

DAVID PATRICK STEARNS WQXR



Ellen Reid is one of the most innovative artists of her generation.

A composer and sound artist whose breadth of work spans opera, sound design, film scoring, ensemble and choral writing, she was awarded the the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Music for her opera, *prism*.

Along with composer Missy Mazzoli, Ellen co-founded the Luna Composition Lab. Luna Lab is a mentorship program for young, female-identifying, non-binary, and gender non-conforming composers. Since the fall of 2019, she has served as Creative Advisor and Composer-in-Residence for Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.

Ellen received her BFA from Columbia University and her MA from California Institute of the Arts. She is inspired by music from all over the globe, and she splits her time between her two favorite cities – Los Angeles and New York.

Her music is released on Decca Gold.

CAMPUSES



EXPERIENCE YOUR ENVIRONMENT
IN A NEW WAY, AS PART OF A TAILOR
MADE SONIC LANDSCAPE BY PULITZER
PRIZE-WINNING COMPOSER ELLEN REID



PUBLIC PARKS



URBAN SPACES



SOUND WALK IS
APP-BASED &
GPS-ENABLED

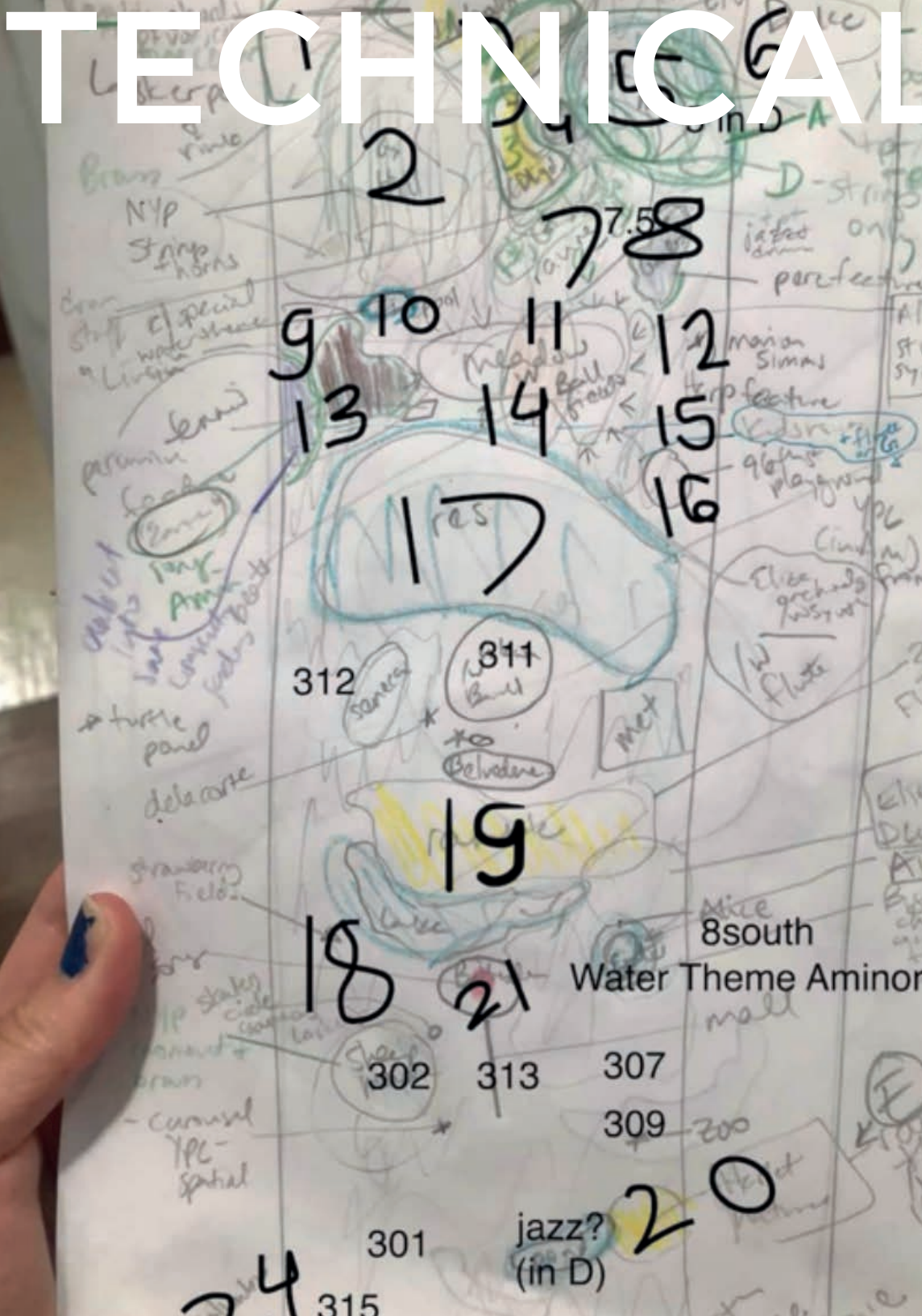
A SHAPE-SHIFTING
MUSICAL EXPERIENCE
MAPPED ONTO A
LOCATION

AVAILABLE TO ANYONE
WITH A SMARTPHONE

CREATING A SENSE
OF TOGETHERNESS

A SHARED EXPERIENCE

TECHNICAL



PLACE

SOUNDWALK premiered in New York's Central Park and will be created and modified for each unique location by the composer during a site visit. Audience can enter SOUNDWALK from any location within the covered area. There is no specific or defined entrance or path which makes each experience unique. It is easily adaptable to parks, outdoor gardens, campuses and urban landscapes.

Mapping and site visits can take place virtually with the composer and local presenter.

MUSIC

SOUNDWALK features original music composed by Ellen Reid and created using a variety of pre-recorded sound elements that are layered by the composer creating a variety of sound modules. Localized sound elements including recorded works by local orchestras, ensembles, choirs, and spoken word can be incorporated into each version. This mix of exsisting music as well as working with local musicians or orchestras provide content that is unique to each location.

APP

SOUNDWALK uses GPS location technology from ECHOES LAB to control a sonic experience based on the listener's location. As the listener walks, the sound shifts and reflects their change in location. It has been built to be sonically immersive. The sound will be triggered stochastically, so each time the listener does the Soundwalk, the sonic experience will be slightly different. The sound will be almost cinematic, illuminating the surrounding environment.

USERS

To experience SOUNDWALK, participants need a smartphone, the free app, and a pair of headphones. To ensure everyone's enjoyment of the experience, we do not encourage people to listen to the SOUNDWALK on speakers or out loud. SOUNDWALK is most effective as a "phone-in-pocket" experience. SOUNDWALK was designed with social distance in mind — it is best experienced when each participant uses their own smartphone and headphones. You can experience SOUNDWALK for as long as you'd like! The infinitely changing soundscape can be experienced for a few minutes at a time or over an entire day spent exploring.

Ellen Reid's hand-written notes for SOUNDWALK in Manhattan's Central Park.



Ellen Reid mapping parts of Central Park

CREATIVE TEAM



creator + composer + sound design
ELLEN REID

gps mapping + app design
ECHOES-LABS

Founder: JOSH KOPECEK
ECHOES.XYZ/ECHOES-LABS

Audio Engineer: DANIEL NEUMANN
Asst. Sound Designer: DANTE GREEN
Curatorial Advisor: REBECCA JACOBS
Art Design: PLAYTIME STUDIOS

performed by

SOUNDWALK
Ensemble

JOSHUA RUBIN, CLARINET
RACHEL DREHMANN, HORN
RILEY MULHERKAR, TRUMPET
SIDNEY HOPSON, PERCUSSION
KYLE POOLE, DRUMS
ASHLEY JACKSON, HARP
ELLEN REID, SYNTHESIZER
ELIZA BAGG, VOICE
MONA TIAN, VIOLIN
NADIA SIROTA, VIOLA
GABRIEL CABEZAS, CELLO

NYC premier featured:

THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC
THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHORUS OF NYC
POOLE & THE GANG



THE OFFICE

performing arts + film

THE OFFICE works as a creative producer to develop and support new work by artists whose vision and artistry we are deeply compelled by, such as Carrie Mae Weems, William Kentridge, Theater of War, Rithy Panh, and Angelique Kidjo. We become the engine room for these projects, shepherding them often from the early stages of creative inspiration through developmental workshops, fundraising and commissioning, tour planning, and on to world premieres and beyond. Our producing work has encompassed large-scale site specific public art projects, like The Mile Long Opera on the Highline in NYC and Triumphs and Laments on the banks of the Tiber River in Rome, and unique festivals like the annual FreshGrass Festival and the 3-week long opening of the REACH at the Kennedy Center. We are delighted and inspired to be working with Ellen on this project. More about our work can be found here theofficearts.com

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

ECLIPSE PROJECTS

Eclipse Projects is a boutique arts management & consulting firm based in Los Angeles & New York City. Founded in 2016 by James Lemkin and Nadia Sirota. More about our work can be found here: eclipseprojects.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Erica Zielinski, Managing Director and Producer erica@theofficearts.com
Bruna d'Ávila, Associate Producer bruna@theofficearts.com