



MEDIA RELEASE

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Zeitgeist & Scott L. Miller Present a Virtual Reality Experience for Chamber Ensemble and Immersive Film

Zeitgeist is pleased to present *The Blue in the Distance*, a 360° Virtual Reality film presented with live music composed by Scott L. Miller, setting the poem of the same name by Minnesota Poet Laureate Joyce Sutphen.

Audience members will be provided with Virtual Reality headsets to watch the immersive 360° film while Zeitgeist and soprano Tracey Engleman perform the music live. The film, created by Miller, includes footage from Quarry Park Reserve in Waite Park, MN.

Performances will take place January 11-12 at Studio Z in Lowertown Saint Paul.

“I wanted to create a new VR concert work based on an inspiring natural Minnesota location for my longtime friends and collaborators here to perform. I chose the Quarry Park Reserve in Waite Park, MN, as the location and began filming there in April 2018, in the days following the blizzard that month. I felt it important to add a narrative element to the film and set about looking for poetry that resonated with the project, ideally by a Minnesotan and about Central Minnesota. While filming in the spring, I read a lot of poetry and ultimately came across the work of Minnesota Poet Laureate Joyce Sutphen. Joyce grew up in St. Joseph, not far from Quarry Park (it was just a closed granite quarry then), and her work frequently evokes imagery and aspects of life in Minnesota that resonate with me. *The Blue in the Distance* perfectly captures the natural setting of Quarry Park, and provides a perfect structure for me to organize the film and music around.” - Composer and Virtual Reality Filmmaker Scott L. Miller

Miller has collaborated with Zeitgeist as a composer, performer, and producer of their recordings since 2003. He created his first VR concert work, *Raba*, with Tallinn-based Ensemble U:, VR film-maker Rein Zobel, and the SCSU Visualization and Simulation Lab in 2017. *Raba* was created in response to a visit to the Marimetsa Raba, an enormous bog in Estonia.

In addition to *The Blue in the Distance*, Zeitgeist will perform *Nattsanger* by local composer Abbie Betinis with Norwegian text by Rolf Jacobsen, and George Crumb's evocative work *The Yellow Moon of Andalusia*.

As a preview to the full production of *The Blue in the Distance*, Zeitgeist will host a Lowertown Listening Session on Tuesday, Jan. 7 with composer Scott L. Miller and poet Joyce Sutphen for a discussion on how the poetry, music, film, and a Minnesota park come together to create this new experience.

Lowertown Listening Session with Scott L. Miller & Joyce Sutphen

Tuesday, Jan. 7, 6 p.m.

\$10

The Blue in the Distance

Saturday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan 12, 2 p.m.

\$15

All events at Studio Z: 275 East Fourth Street, Suite 200, St. Paul

Tickets and information at zeitgeistnewmusic.org

About Zeitgeist:

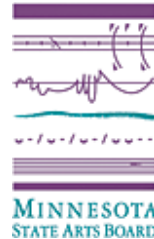
Founded in 1977, Zeitgeist is a new music chamber ensemble consisting of two percussion, piano and woodwinds, and is one of the oldest and most successful new music groups in the country. Based in St. Paul, Minn., the group presents an annual concert series and delivers a wide variety of community-based performance programs for residents of the Twin Cities and the surrounding areas. Zeitgeist's mission is to bring newly created music to life with performances that engage and stimulate. Members are: Heather Barringer, percussion; Patti Cudd, percussion; Pat O'Keefe, woodwinds; Nicola Melville, piano.

Zeitgeist is supported by the The City of St. Paul's Cultural STAR Program, The Amphion Foundation, The Knight Foundation, The Lowertown Future Fund, the Target Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, the Albrecht Family Foundation, the Aaron Copland Fund, The Mandel Family Foundation, and the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature.

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