

Ray Lee: invisible-forces



About the work

Chorus is a monumental installation of kinetic sound sculptures designed for outdoor spaces, both urban and rural.

Spread throughout and towering above the audience a series of giant metal tripods support rotating arms. At the end of each arm loudspeakers emit precisely tuned musical pitches creating a pulsating, harmonic drone, singing out a hypnotic siren call to all those present. Red lights at the end of the arms create the effect of a whirling swarm of fireflies, or of planets in motion, like mesmerising orbits of colour. These intersecting lights trace rings above the heads of the audience, while the combined chorus of the spinning speakers creates a cohesive harmonious whole, 'a sticky flux', that is both uplifting and transfixing.

Chorus has toured to twenty locations nationally and internationally including WOMAD and the South Bank, London (2014), White Night, Melbourne; Sibiu International Theatre Festival; Warsaw Autumn Contemporary Music Festival (2015) and Freedom Festival, Hull and New Scientist Live, London (2016)

Testimonials

"Chorus is a captivating experience. Giant spinning sculptures flash lights and emit sci-fi tones. Ray Lee has created a stunning looking sound world through which the listener wanders, hearing music in the drones." Alan James, Producer OCM

"Chorus was very beautiful. It was incredible just how orchestral the piece was and how at times it was like listening to string section." Hannah Standen – Artichoke

"Ray Lee's Chorus is stunning. A mesmerising, hypnotic, other-worldly experience. Intricate, yet beautifully simple". Kate Hazel – Director, Winchester Hat Fair

Tour requirements

Sites

Suitable sites include a large, open, area such as a city square, plaza, park, car park, industrial or ex-industrial space, or a heritage site. Other alternatives eg. woodland, large indoor spaces etc. are possible. Relatively low levels of ambient sound and lighting and control over site lighting are preferred. Tripods need to remain in place from get-in to get-out except where specifically agreed. We need a dry space on or close to performance site for performers, storage, repairs, battery charging etc. This should be a lockable interior space so we can charge batteries and store equipment. A secure site and/or site security/stewarding must be provided from get-in to get-out except by specific agreement when team are on site.

Specification

We can install 5-14 tripods dependent on size and layout of venue. See technical specification (available on request). Each tripod is battery powered and there are no trailing cables. The performance is lit by its own self-contained lighting system. Mains Power: one 16amp supply is sufficient. (Three phase power is not required.)

Company

Chorus normally tours with a team of 4/5: Ray Lee and three technician/operators and in some cases a producer/production manager. Accommodation (single rooms) and PD's are required for the touring team.

Installation: get in/get out

One full day for installation and testing prior to first performance day except by prior arrangement. First show should take place no earlier than 2pm on the second day. During the installation day it should be possible for us to undertake sound and lighting tests with the same conditions as on performance days. Get out after the final show takes approximately two hours.

Technical support

Chorus requires five technical crew for the first four hours of the get in and two crew for the following four hours. A technical manager should be on call at all times Chorus is active. The get out requires six crew for two hours.

Performances

We can present up a range of different performance options during the day and / or after dusk. Audience capacity dependent on venue - up to approximately 1500 people per show. The performances last 30 minutes and can be repeated a number of times during a day / evening slot. A front of house manager and an appropriate number of stewards are needed manage the audience.

Sound levels

Chorus is a sound installation so some disturbance to nearby properties is possible. Although noise levels are lower than the majority of amplified outdoor concerts full consultation with residents and business affected should be undertaken by the promoter.

Insurance and risk assessment

The company will provide proof of public liability insurance and a comprehensive risk assessment for the work.

Freight and transport

Chorus tours in the equivalent of 14 crates weighing approximately 2000kg in total. This can be freighted by land, air or sea (dependent on location and touring schedule). International and any local travel for up to four people is necessary in addition to freight costs.

Artists' presentations and workshops

Ray Lee is an established lecturer in visual arts and music and can alongside performances offer talks, tutorials and workshop activity to accompany presentations of *Chorus*.

Marketing

We can provide high quality colour images, video trailers of the performance, suggested copy and other background material along with copies of press reviews. All marketing should bear the billing "Chorus by Ray Lee" and the credits "Commissioned by Corn Exchange Newbury, Oxford Contemporary Music and Oxford Brookes University. Produced by Simon Chatterton".

Contact

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Credits

Chorus was commissioned by Corn Exchange Newbury, Oxford Contemporary Music and Oxford Brookes University.