



**Park Avenue Armory Presents North American Premiere of
Inside Light,
Electronic Music from Stockhausen's *Licht* Opera Cycle
Staged as Originally Envisioned in an
All-Encompassing Setting**

Park Avenue Armory's Wade Thompson Drill Hall, June 5-14, 2024

New York, NY—March 26, 2024—This June, Park Avenue Armory brings to its Wade Thompson Drill Hall *Inside Light*, a multidisciplinary performance of five electronic compositions from Karlheinz Stockhausen's magnum opus, the *Licht* opera cycle, best known for pioneering the use of electronics but rarely performed due to its length and complex configurations. **Kathinka Pasveer**—one of Stockhausen's original collaborators, a Director of the Stockhausen Foundation for Music, and a sound projectionist—returns to the Armory after her critically acclaimed performances of Stockhausen's *OKTOPHONIE* in 2013. She performs the scores at the Armory in an immersive configuration in which audience members are encouraged to move freely throughout the eight-track surround sound audio environment, as it was originally intended to be presented by Stockhausen. **From June 5 through June 14**, the cavernous Wade Thompson Drill Hall serves as the site-specific setting presented over two parts on separate evenings that includes Part I with musical compositions featuring *Montags-Gruss*, *Unsichtbare Chöre* from *Donnerstag*, *Mittwochs-Gruss*; Part II with musical compositions featuring *Freitags-Gruss* and *Freitags-Abschied*; and as a rare marathon staging of both parts over nearly seven hours.

The Armory's **Anita K. Hersh Artistic Director Pierre Audi** conceived *Inside Light* specifically for the Drill Hall and assembled a creative team to fulfill Stockhausen's original vision, including the all-encompassing environment designed by frequent-Armory collaborator **Urs Schönebaum** that will feature transformative lighting and lasers as well as high-definition video projection by **Robi Voigt**. *Inside Light* will fully realize these works in a relaxed setting which includes general admission seating throughout the Drill Hall floor.

"This is personally one of the most fulfilling projects I've led, as a Stockhausen admirer and long-time artistic director working across two continents. I have always had the Armory's vast Drill Hall in mind to be the place to stage an unconstrained and extraordinarily immersive production of the iconic *Licht* opera cycle," said **Pierre Audi**. "We saw what Kathinka Pasveer could do in the bold production of *OKTOPHONIE* at the Armory. Now in bringing her together with this exceptional creative team, *Inside Light* will provide a truly expansive auditory and sensory experience."

"Under Pierre's inspired direction, *Inside Light*'s all-star creative team provides the rare opportunity for audiences to witness these electronic epics in an unparalleled staging in the Drill Hall," added **Rebecca Robertson, the Adam R. Flatto Founding President and Executive Producer of Park Avenue Armory**. "*Inside Light* adds to the Armory's ongoing presentations of works by Karlheinz Stockhausen as they were originally intended to be performed, thrilling New York audiences with his bold, experimental and cross-disciplinary works."

Inside Light continues a lineage of performances of spatial work at the Armory, including Pierre Boulez's masterwork *Répons*, performed twice each evening by Ensemble intercontemporain and IRCAM under the

baton of Matthias Pintscher with the audience changing seats in between to get a new sonic perspective; *Circle Map*, two evenings of immersive spatial works by internationally acclaimed composer Kaija Saariaho performed by the New York Philharmonic; Stockhausen's *OKTAPHONIE*, where audiences wore white and experienced the work in a lunar environment created by Rikrit Tiravanija; and the New York Philharmonic performing Stockhausen's sonic masterpiece *Gruppen* with three orchestras surrounding the audience.

Considered one of the most experimental and progressive composers of the 20th century and the "father of electronic music," Karlheinz Stockhausen stretched the limits of musical composition. His influence can still be felt today, inspiring artists from Björk to Aphex Twin, to Animal Collective. Composed by Stockhausen between 1977 and 2003, *Licht* is a cycle of seven operas named for each day of the week and reflecting on the mythologies and symbolism linked to each day in a 29-hour epic. In 2019 the Dutch National Opera held a three-day performance staged by Audi and musically led by Pasveer that included portions of the *Licht* cycle from all seven days. *Inside Licht* is a continuation of the spirit of that mammoth cycle by allowing audiences to experience the works across separate evenings, or as a durational marathon performance.

North American Premiere

INSIDE LIGHT

Electronic Masterpieces from the Opera Opus LICHT

Karlheinz Stockhausen

June 5 – 14, 2024

Composer **Karlheinz Stockhausen**

Sound Projection **Kathinka Pasveer**

Spatial Installation and Lighting Design **Urs Schönebaum**

Video Design **Robi Voigt**

Sound Engineer **Reinhard Klose**

Original Concept **Pierre Audi**

Seating will be on cushions and backjack chairs directly on the floor. Participants can move freely throughout the space.

PERFORMANCES

Part 1: All-Stockhausen Program

Montags-Gruss (34 minutes)

Unsichtbare Chöre from *Donnerstag* (50 minutes)

Mittwochs-Gruss (54 minutes)

Wednesday, June 5 at 7:00pm

Wednesday, June 12 at 7:00pm

Part 2: All-Stockhausen Program

Freitags-Gruss (68 minutes)

Freitags-Abschied (78 minutes)

Thursday, June 6 at 7:00pm

Thursday, June 13 at 7:00pm

Full Marathon

Saturday, June 8 at 4:00pm

Friday, June 14 at 6:30pm

TICKETS

\$50 tickets (plus fees) for individual parts and \$75 tickets (plus fees) for the full marathon can be purchased at armoryonpark.org / (212) 933-5812.

ARTIST TALK: INSIDE LIGHT

Sunday, June 9 at 3pm

Tickets: \$25 (plus fees)

SPONSORSHIP

Citi and Bloomberg Philanthropies are the Armory's 2024 Season Sponsors.

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ABOUT PARK AVENUE ARMORY

Part palace, part industrial shed, Park Avenue Armory supports unconventional works in the performing and visual arts that cannot be fully realized in a traditional proscenium theater, concert hall, or white wall gallery. With its soaring 55,000-square-foot Wade Thompson Drill Hall—reminiscent of 19th-century European train stations—and an array of exuberant period rooms, the Armory provides a platform for artists to push the boundaries of their practice, collaborate across disciplines, and create new work in dialogue with the historic building. Across its grand and intimate spaces, the Armory enables a diverse range of artists to create, students to explore, and audiences to experience epic, adventurous, relevant work that cannot be done elsewhere in New York.

The Armory both commissions and presents performances and installations in the grand Drill Hall and offers more intimate programming through its acclaimed *Recital Series*, which showcases musical talent from across the globe within the salon setting of the Board of Officers Room; its *Artists Studio* series curated by Jason Moran in the restored Veterans Room; *Making Space at the Armory*, a public programming series that brings together a discipline-spanning group of artists and cultural thought-leaders around the important issues of our time; and the *Malkin Lecture Series* that features presentations by scholars and writers on topics related to Park Avenue Armory and its history. In addition, the Armory also has a year-round Artists-in-Residence program, providing space and support for artists to create new work and expand their practices.

The Armory's creativity-based arts education programs provide access to the arts to thousands of students from underserved New York City public schools, engaging them with the institution's artistic programming and outside-the-box creative processes. Through its education initiatives, the Armory provides access to all Drill Hall performances, workshops taught by Master Teaching Artists, and in-depth residencies that support the schools' curriculum. Youth Corps, the Armory's year-round paid internship program, begins in high school and continues into the critical post-high school years, providing interns with mentored employment, job training, and skill development, as well as a network of peers and mentors to support their individual college and career goals.

The Armory is undergoing a multi-phase renovation and restoration of its historic building led by architects Herzog & de Meuron, with Platt Byard Dovell White as Executive Architects.

www.armoryonpark.org

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