

Press Release

Contact: Ethan Gans-Morse

Phone: 541-778-1211

Email: ethan@animamundiproductions.com

Web: www.AnimaMundiProductions.com/press

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Anima Mundi Productions and Resonance Ensemble join forces to set local pandemic stories to music in the world premiere of
“*Six Feet Apart: Stories of Resilience and Transformation*”**

ASHLAND, OR — In the Summer of 2021, Rogue Valley-based nonprofit Anima Mundi Productions will partner with Portland-based professional choir Resonance Ensemble to offer the world premiere of *Six Feet Apart: Stories of Resilience and Transformation*, an innovative virtually-presented choral oratorio that harnesses the power of music, poetry, and art to amplify diverse voices and foster collective healing in Oregon during the COVID-19 pandemic. This project will close out the second season of Anima Mundi’s *Heart of Humanity* concerts, an annual series of three performances. The series is based in Ashland, but all the 2020-21 season will be released as online videos free of charge.

Seeking Stories of the Pandemic:

Composer Ethan Gans-Morse and poet Tiziana DellaRovere, founders of Anima Mundi Productions, are working alongside Resonance Ensemble to collect stories from all over Oregon that reflect diverse experiences of life during the pandemic. These personal histories will be shared in an interactive website and will also inspire *Six Feet Apart*.

The creative team is currently seeking out stories to include on this project. To find out how you can support this project and to submit your story, visit SixFeetApartStories.com.

Important Partnerships:

The creators of this project are proud to partner with Southern Oregon Historical Society and to receive the consultation of other area nonprofits in our effort to collect and make available to the public a diverse cross-section of Oregonians’ experiences during the pandemic.

About the World Premiere:

Six Feet Apart will culminate in a world premiere video performance featuring Resonance Ensemble, vocal soloists, and chamber instrumentation, all captured on video with original video design by Omar Ramos of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

“When the pandemic hit, and as weeks turned into months, we knew we had to do something,” said Gans-Morse, “As artists in our state, it felt like a call to action for Tiziana and me, and we immediately reached out to our friends at Resonance Ensemble to see if they would work with us. Our experience has been that sharing our community’s stories through music can be profoundly healing. It is our hope that harnessing these stories and acknowledging the diverse and life-changing experiences of people from around our state will foster greater unity and appreciation for what our fellow Oregonians are going through.”

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“Art and life intertwine to find solace in the sharing that exposes systemic injustices. Much to my surprise, when I am interviewing for these stories people thank me for listening and they tell me that they feel unburdened just by talking to me about their trauma,” said DellaRovere.

Six Feet Apart will also be accompanied by a live Q&A segment, during which supporters will have the opportunity to interact with the creative team. Following the premiere and Q&A, the video and accompanying compilation of pandemic stories will be shared free of charge.

“Art is a fundamental human right that should be available to everyone - especially now,” said Resonance Artistic Director Katherine FitzGibbon. “It is our hope that those who can will join us to support this pivotal work being created and performed by artists who are responding to these times.

Grant Support:

This project was recently awarded a \$15,880 grant from Oregon Cultural Trust supporting the creation of this multimedia choral oratorio, *Six Feet Apart: Stories of Resilience and Transformation*. Anima Mundi Productions and Resonance Ensemble are grateful for their support and for that of our other sponsors: Oregon Community Foundation, the Oregon Arts Commission, Miller Foundation, Collins Foundation, the Dinah Dodds Fund for the Creation of New Art, the Regional Arts & Culture Council, Ronni LaCroute of Portland, and Claudette and George Paige of Ashland.

Anima Mundi Productions and Resonance Ensemble Present: *Six Feet Apart: Stories of Resilience and Transformation*

WHEN: The finished piece will be released in summer of 2021 (specific date TBD)

Stories will be accepted and archived through January, but must be received by December 15 to be considered for inclusion in the music and poetry

WHERE: Online at <https://www.sixfeetapartstories.com/>

COST: World Premiere event with Q&A, \$10/person. Thereafter, free.

About Anima Mundi Productions:

The mission of Anima Mundi Productions is to create, promote, and produce new musical works that harness the power of the arts to stir the soul, foster community, and address urgent social and environmental problems by creating concerts and public arts events that support the personal and collective healing of at-risk segments of society such as those who have experienced trauma, abuse, discrimination, and other forms of injustice.

The mission of our **Heart of Humanity** concert series is to feature world-class musicians giving voice to marginalized people with compassion and depth, turning the concert hall into a space for renewed hope, communal healing and mutual understanding.

Website: animamundiproductions.com

Facebook: /AnimaMundiProductions

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Hashtags: #SixFeetApartStory

For further inquiries: please contact executive director Ethan Gans-Morse: 541-778-1211.