

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Composer/Performer BORA YOON Releases Multimedia Album *Sunken Cathedral* on CD, Graphic Album App and Double LP Vinyl



Release Dates: 4.29.14 (CD) 5.13.14 (Graphic Album App) 5.27.14 (Double LP Vinyl)

Composer/Performer: Bora Yoon

Co-Producer: R. Luke DuBois

Guest Artists: New York Polyphony (tenor, countertenor, baritone, bass), Sympho (violas, cellos, basses, prepared piano, harp), Sekou Sundiata (spoken word, poetry), Yuni Yoon (mom voicemails), Chris Eddleton (cymbals, percussion), Peter Scherer (Kritalas, snares on Tibetan bowls, sheep bells, Swiss cowbells),

TRT: 73:15

Tracks: *O viridissima virga, Father Time, Finite Infinity, In Paradisum, 잔소리 판소리 (Jansori Pansori), O Pastor Animarum, Speratus, Little Box of Horrors, Weights & Balances, Semaphore Conductus, New American Theater, Doppler Dreams*

New York City, NY ---- *Sunken Cathedral*, the new multimedia album from 2014 TED Fellow/Korean-American composer and performer **Bora Yoon** (co-produced by longtime collaborator/composer/live visualist **R. Luke DuBois**), introduces a contemporary sonic journey through the chambers of subconscious. By blending digital devices, found objects, and instruments from a variety of cultures and centuries with her own voice, Yoon creates a series of surreal soundscapes that range from choral, electronic, ambient, industrial, spoken-word, symphonic, and early music, to express the cyclical and transcendental nature of music.

As suggested by the album title, Yoon's exploration as an architectural composer encompasses both the internal architecture of one's body and mind, as well as the external buildings for which her music is created, and their intersection.

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Yoon believes that “architecture is housed within us, and outside of us - and music is a tool to circulate, transform, and illuminate those spaces.” *Sunken Cathedral* is a culmination of seven years of Yoon’s commissioned works including: *Speratus* (Hope), recorded at NYC’s Park Avenue Armory for a site-specific symphonic commission in collaboration with Sympho; *Doppler Dreams*, a kinetic choral work created for the abandoned 55,000 square foot pool basin of Brooklyn’s historic McCarren Pool performed by seven bicycle-riding sopranos, bike bells and electronics resulting in a large scale Doppler effect; and the 2006 recording of *New American Theater* from *the 51st (dream) state* with the late poet Sekou Sundiata (1948-2007).

Classically trained and steeped in a first love of choral music, Yoon blurs the lines between performance and ritual by exploring music as a form of narrative and spatialization, in both secular and sacred realms. These elements of architecture, memory, spirituality and music is evident throughout the album starting with the recording’s opening track - *O viridissima virga* (O hail greenest branch) featuring the antiphon chant by Hildegard von Bingen, field recordings of songbirds in Tokyo as well as a hailstorm in Santa Fe, and Yoon singing, turning Bible pages, and performing on the Manton memorial organ at NYC’s Church of Ascension. Other works include *O Pastor Animarum*, and electroacoustic *Semaphore Conductus* inspired by the medieval song form *conductus* (likening music to the conduction of energy, electricity and signals) performed by vocal quartet New York Polyphony.

The desire to make something new and step outside the limitations of conventional music is a guiding force in Yoon’s work. “I fold unusual sounds into more traditional forms of music to expand its language,” explains Yoon. “Sound and noise have just as much evocative meaning, as they can trigger memory, association, time, place – texture, a sense of environment – all valid forms in which a sonic surrealism can be built.” In *Sunken Cathedral*, she brings together ancient music including Korean folklore and medieval chants and makes it contemporary by using instruments (violin, gramophone, synthesizer, Buddha box, subwoofing spoons created in collaboration with the League of Electronic Musicians & Urban Robots), found objects (anvil, pen, loose chimes, Bible pages, aluminum cans, Tibetan dorje, walkie talkies, conch, sand debris, 10-gallon jugs), sound design (heartbeats, transmission static, audio feedback, ark creak, marine radio, semaphore) and field recordings (Bushwick dogs, coins tossed in Tokyo’s Meiji Temple, voicemails, etc.).

Sunken Cathedral is available for purchase on April 29th at Innova.mu, iTunes, Amazon, and major online retailers. iPad graphic album available for purchase on May 13th at iTunes followed by the double LP vinyl release on May 27th at Innova.mu.

About Bora Yoon (윤보라)

Korean-American composer and sound artist Bora Yoon creates immersive audiovisual soundscapes using digital devices, voice and found objects and instruments from a variety of cultures and historical centuries.

Featured on the front page of *The Wall Street Journal* and in *WIRE Magazine* for her musical innovations, Yoon conjures a kind of sonic surrealism, making visible the invisible and illuminating the intangible.

A 2014 TED fellow, Yoon's pioneering performance works have been presented by Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Nam June Paik Museum (Korea), Festival of World Cultures (Poland), Park Avenue Armory, MADE Festival (Sweden) Walker Art Center, and the Singapore Arts Festival.

Recent commissions include choral surround-sound composition *Semaphore Conductus*, kinetic choral work *Doppler Dreams* for sopranos on bicycles in a historic WPA abandoned pool, live score for aerial dance atop a Frank Gehry building, and *ARCO*, the first symphonic commission created specifically for the vast Park Avenue Armory drill hall space with composers Paul K. Fowler, Paul Haas, and SYMPHO.

Her music, described by Yoon as "a synthesis of sound, gesture, prose, and moving image that implicates the unsaid," has been awarded by the New York Foundation for the Arts, Asian American Arts Alliance, Billboard, BMI, and the Arion Foundation; published by Boosey & Hawkes, SubRosa, Innova, Swirl Records, and the *Journal of Popular Noise*; and commissioned by the SYMPHO, Young People's Chorus of NYC and the Sayaka Ladies Chorale of Tokyo.

Yoon's diverse talents have yielded a wide range of collaborators including artists R. Luke DuBois Ann Hamilton, and Toni Dove; poet Sekou Sundiata; choreographers Yin Mei and Noémie Lafrance; musicians DJ Spooky, Ben Frost, and Kaki King. Her work is featured scoring and performing the live music for Haruki Murakami's "Wind Up Bird Chronicle"— an interdisciplinary theatre adaptation directed by Stephen Earnhart, presented by the Barshynikov Arts Center and the Asia Society, which premiered at the Edinburgh International Festival in 2011, and the Singapore Arts Festival in May 2012.

A graduate of Ithaca College's Conservatory of Music and creative writing program, she is classically trained in the school of studied thought and improvisational sciences, and is steeped in a first love of choral music.

Sunken Cathedral CD Release Concert

When: WED 4.23 @ 8:00pm

Where: Asia Society, 725 Park Avenue (at East 70th Street), NYC, Train 6 to 68th Street

Tickets: \$20 / \$17 Students & Seniors. To purchase, contact Asia Society at 212.517.2742
or visit AsiaSociety.org.

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For more information, please visit:

<http://www.borayoon.com/sunkencathedral>

For Artist interviews, photos, downloads, CD copies, etc., please contact:

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For Video clips, please visit:

<http://vimeo.com/18627153>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJtoy-Mb6YA>

<http://vimeo.com/73647196>

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