



24 February 2017  
Hong Kong  
For immediate release

## Spring Workshop announces Ari Benjamin Meyers to bring music to arts organizations across Hong Kong

**Ari Benjamin Meyers:**  
*An exposition, not an exhibition*  
March 11 – April 1, 2017

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Spring Workshop is delighted to present *An exposition, not an exhibition* by American composer and artist Ari Benjamin Meyers. The exhibition held between March 11 – April 1 will take place in seven arts organizations across the city of Hong Kong.

In the first location, Spring Workshop, the Hong Kong New Music Ensemble (HKNME) and their entire repertoire consisting of well over one hundred works will be specially arranged by Meyers for display in an experimental setting. The work thus offers an encyclopedic overview of and reckoning with what is commonly thought of as “contemporary music”. At the other six arts organizations – M+, Asia Art Archive, Para Site, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Things that can happen and soundpocket – Meyers has commissioned new musical compositions/interventions that will be performed by staff members at their desks. Taken together, these events epitomize Meyers’ experimentation with dissolving the delineation between contemporary art and music.

The title “An exposition, not an exhibition” is a play on the two meanings of the word “exposition”: in French it means “exhibition”, whereas in musical terminology, it refers to the first section of a sonata, where themes are put forward for the first time before being developed further in the next section. This wordplay expresses Meyers’ interest in considering the problems that exist with how music is presented or put on display within the setting of a contemporary art space.

His new work shown at Spring, *Litany and Rapture*, features ensemble members of HKNME engaging in a demanding durational performance of their entire repertoire, which consists of international and local canonical works of contemporary music. By moving away from the predominant concert-mode of musical

Spring Workshop  
3/F Remex Centre  
42 Wong Chuk Hang Rd  
Aberdeen, Hong Kong

info@springworkshop.org  
www.springworkshop.org  
t + 852 21104370  
f + 852 21104372

Spring 工作室  
香港香港仔黃竹坑道42號  
利美中心3樓

presentation and envisioning a non-goal-oriented musical space featuring a new kind of musical performer, the piece is a testing ground where Meyers overturns rules and protocols usually applied to presentation and appreciation of these works for both musician and audience alike.

Continuing to blur the inherent division between performers, audience and institutions, his other new work, *Hong Kong Solos*, will take place at six non-profit art organizations. At Meyers' invitation, six local Hong Kong composers have created new commissions in close collaboration with staff members at six arts organizations across the city. In order to experience these intimate pieces devised for one performer and 1-4 audience members, potential listeners are invited to book visits to these institutions. The work centers around the coming together of two usually disparate parties: a composer and an art professional, a (sometimes amateur) performer and a visitor, and the (otherwise disconnected) art and music communities in Hong Kong.

Ari Benjamin Meyers shared: “*An exposition, not an exhibition* is a program specifically created for Spring as an open research process. The show has a lot to do with the way one can collaboratively work here, how people and organisations from the local community can transcend boundaries to create cross-disciplinary meta-works. This is not necessarily typical in other places; it has a lot to do with the relationships and position of Spring Workshop within the local cultural landscape of Hong Kong. Using this as a springboard, *An exposition, not an exhibition* can experiment with how we break the old rules of music, music-making and its institutions and propose new ones.”

Spring Founder Mimi Brown says: “I have waited years for the right chance to mess with the rules of music. So I look forward with anticipation to the new vantage points on the topic that Ari's program will put forward. We wanted especially to ground this conversation locally, and appreciate the opportunity to play with music in the company of six Hong Kong composers and our fellow local arts organizations. As 2017 will be our final year of the Spring Workshop initiative, it is poetic and meaningful to dedicate ourselves to test the ground for the founding of a new experimental art institution – the *Kunsthalle for Music* – and to do so once again both with our beloved local arts family and with our trusted partners at the Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art.”

By both working with an existing ensemble (HKNME) and its repertoire as material, as well as by commissioning new

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works, *An exposition, not an exhibition* is an invitation to collectively question the modes of production, definition and experience around music. Gathering an ensemble of performers and composers from across disciplines, Meyers imagines an open space for music that exists outside of recordings and staged environments, and finds welcoming landing pads within the tightknit network of the city's art institutions.

*An exposition, not an exhibition* was developed during Ari Benjamin Meyers' two residencies at Spring Workshop in the summer and fall of 2016, and stems from his ongoing research into the essence of live musical performance and the questions surrounding its protocols for audiences, performers and institutions. This presentation showcases the first iteration of research for the Kunsthalle for Music, and will be followed at Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art (Rotterdam) by a congress in May 2017 and the inaugural exhibition of the Kunsthalle for Music in January 2018.

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Works by Ari Benjamin Meyers will include:

### *Hong Kong Solos*

Composers, staff performers and venues include  
GayBird Leung x Michelle Wong at Asia Art Archive  
Steve Hui x Samantha Kwok at Hong Kong Arts Centre  
Shane Aspegren x Tom Morgan at M+  
Vanessa Law x Olivia Chow at Para Site  
Charles Kwong x Alice Wong at soundpocket  
Lam Lai x Chantal Wong at Things that can happen

### *Litany and Rapture*

Hong Kong New Music Ensemble players include  
William Lane (viola), Euna Kim (violin), Selena Choi (violin),  
Angus Lee (flute and conductor), Leung Chi Shing  
(clarinet), Loo Sze Wang (sheng), Chiu Tan Ching  
(guzheng), Zhu Mu (cello), Leung Tak Wing (bassoon),  
Linda Yim (piano), Simon Hui (bass, sound engineer and  
guitar), Karina Yau (percussion), Mike Yip (electric guitar),  
among others.

### *Anthem*

*Anthem*, a new composition by Ari Benjamin Meyers, brings together all the strands of the show, and will be performed during the opening and at other selected times when all ensemble members participating in *An exposition, not an exhibition* will come together to form a choir for the work. Additionally, this work will be enacted daily by the Spring Workshop staff. The text is taken from the

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opening line of the original Kunsthalle for Music's manifesto: "Music is not..."

## PROGRAM DATES

**Friday, March 10, 2017**

12.30pm – 2.00pm

*Press Luncheon*

**Saturday, March 11, 2017**

2pm to 4pm

*An exposition, not an exhibition*

*Opening*

**Wednesday, March 22, 2017**

2.00pm – 7.00pm

*Art Basel Hong Kong special opening hours*

**Thursday, March 23, 2017**

10am – 3pm

*SICD Art Day x Art Basel Hong Kong program*

11am – 12pm

*Music and the Museum*

A discussion between composers and artists Ari Benjamin Myers and Samson Young and Spring Workshop curator Christina Li, chaired by frieze magazine deputy editor Amy Sherlock.

*Hong Kong Solos* will be performed in artspace across the city by appointment only. Please email us at [rsvp@springworkshop.org](mailto:rsvp@springworkshop.org) for timings and registration.

For other events, please RSVP at [rsvp@springworkshop.org](mailto:rsvp@springworkshop.org) listing the event title in the subject line.

**\*All program dates and time are subject to change. Check our website [www.springworkshop.org](http://www.springworkshop.org) for updates. Please note the adjusted visiting hours for this presentation.**

## NEW VISITING HOURS

*An exposition, not an exhibition*

March 11–April 1, 2017

Thursday to Sunday 2pm – 7pm

Spring Workshop

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## Media Enquiries

Jessica Kong

T +852 2110 4370

M +852 9703 8689

E [jessica.kong@springworkshop.org](mailto:jessica.kong@springworkshop.org)

Mimi Brown (Founder and Director of Spring Workshop), Christina Li (Curator-at-Large of Spring Workshop), and Ari Benjamin Meyers are available for interviews by request. Please contact us for more information.

## ABOUT SPRING WORKSHOP

Spring Workshop is a cultural initiative that brings people together to experiment with the way we relate to art. Committed to an international cross-disciplinary program of artist and curatorial residencies, exhibitions, music, film and talks, Spring serves as a platform and laboratory for exchange between the vibrant artists, organizations and audiences that define Hong Kong's rich cultural landscape and the emerging and established artists, organizations and audiences around the world that seek to engage in far-reaching dialogue. Since opening its space in Wong Chuk Hang in 2011, Spring has welcomed over 15,000 audience members to its 131 programs and events featuring 199 artists, residents and collaborators. In 2016, Spring Workshop received the Prudential Eye Award for Best Asian Contemporary Art Organization.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

### ARI BENJAMIN MEYERS

Ari Benjamin Meyers (b. 1972, USA) lives and works in Berlin. In his work, Meyers, who trained as a composer and conductor at The Juilliard School, Yale University, and Peabody Institute, explores structures and processes that redefine the performative, social, and ephemeral nature of music. He has composed numerous works for the stage among them three operas; his chamber opera *Nico. Sphinx aus Eis* was commissioned by the Semperoper Dresden. Solo exhibitions and projects include *Black Thoughts*, Esther Schipper, Berlin (2013); *Chamber Music (Vestibule)*, Berlinische Galerie (2013-2014); *Just in Time, Just in Sequence*, This is Not Detroit Festival, Schauspielhaus Bochum (2014); *Beating Time*, Martin-Gropius-Bau Berlin (2015); *Memories of the Future*, Museum of Modern Art Warsaw (2016); *The Name of This Band is The Art*, RaebervonStenglin, Zurich (2016); *Who's Afraid of Sol La Ti?*, Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2016); *Elevator Music*, Trafo Center for Contemporary Art, Stettin (2016), and *An exposition*,

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*not an exhibition*, Spring Workshop, Hong Kong (2017). He is the founder of the Kunsthalle for Music, an undertaking realised in cooperation with Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art (Rotterdam) and Spring Workshop (Hong Kong) as well as numerous artists. Besides this long-term project upcoming exhibitions in 2017 include *Solo for Ayumi*, Esther Schipper, Berlin; *Symphony 80* (with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra), Lenbachhaus, Munich; and participation in the group show *A Crack in Everything*, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal.

### ABOUT KUNSTHALLE FOR MUSIC

Artistic Director: Ari Benjamin Meyers

Founding Directors: Ari Benjamin Meyers, Defne Ayas, Mimi Brown

Team: Natasha Hoare, Christina Li, Anja Lindner, Samuel Saelemakers

Design: APFEL (A Practice for Everyday Life)

The *Kunsthalle for Music* is commissioned by Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art (Rotterdam) together with Spring Workshop (Hong Kong) and will make additional appearances at locations to be announced. *An exposition, not an exhibition* by Ari Benjamin Meyers will unfold the Kunsthalle's foundational themes at Spring Workshop (March 2017), followed by a congress at Witte de With (May 2017) and punctuated by an inaugural take-over, featuring a series of new commissions also at Witte de With (January 2018).

General inquiries: [contact@kunsthalleformusic.org](mailto:contact@kunsthalleformusic.org)  
[www.kunsthalleformusic.org](http://www.kunsthalleformusic.org)

### ABOUT HONG KONG NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Founded in 2008, the Hong Kong New Music Ensemble (HKNME) is hailed as “one of Hong Kong’s most progressive groups of musicians” (CNN). Widely praised for its innovative programming, the Ensemble’s productions include concerts, educational outreach events, and interdisciplinary collaborations and research projects with artists from different fields. The HKNME regularly performs in international arts festivals in Hong Kong and overseas. [www.hongkongnewmusic.org](http://www.hongkongnewmusic.org)

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