

collectif9 :: Heroes

Commissioned by *La Folle journée de Nantes (France)* as part of the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth.

Approx. length: 45 minutes



collectif9 presents *Heroes*, a reflection on our attachment to significant composers of the past – in this instance, Beethoven – and their ability to continue to live through the passage of time, affecting our ears, our musical tastes and programming, and our impressions of what art music is, even today. The glorification of these composers, now considered *heroes*, generates several questions. Do we consider the past to be “perfection”? How does this preoccupation with impactful music from 300, 200, 100 years ago affect creation today?

With composers and video artists **Pierre-Luc Lecours** and **Myriam Boucher**, collectif9 distorts time in a piece inspired by Beethoven. For this project, Lecours and Boucher dive into the composer's repertoire to extract movements and harmonic and melodic constructions; these musical ideas are modified, stretched over time, and reworked with a contemporary attention to timbre and sound. Adopting a process approaching sampling, they integrate compositional techniques of contemporary electronic music with those of annotated music, thus bringing together different aesthetic cultures and musical eras in dialogue.

The musical work is complemented by video projections comprised of excerpts from nature, manipulated to create a fantastical backdrop. In this way, nature becomes a protagonist in constant communication with the moving musicians and with the music. Interpreted in real time, the visual composition is inspired by the pictorial art of the Romantic period and proposes an aesthetic that is at times expressionist, symbolic, and abstract. The video projection becomes as much an echo of the music as a suggestion (and motor) of its interpretation.

:: **About Myriam Boucher**

Myriam Boucher is a video and sound artist based in Montreal (Canada). Her sensitive and polymorphic work concerns the intimate dialogue between music, sound and image, through visual music, audiovisual performance, Vjing and immersive projects. Fascinated by the natural environment, she creates audiovisual compositions from the landscape and the relationship that humans maintain with it.

> myriamboucher.com

:: About Pierre-Luc Lecours

Pierre-Luc Lecours is a composer and multidisciplinary artist based in Montreal (Canada). His practice covers many different mediums and aesthetics, ranging from music to video and performance. His work is characterized by a search for expressiveness in projects exploring themes related to nature, social phenomena and politics. He draws influences as much from the currents of instrumental and electroacoustic contemporary music as from electronic and experimental music.

> pierrelucleours.com



Watch teaser video here: <https://bit.ly/2rbZQxm>

:: About collectif9

Montreal's classical string band **collectif9** has been attracting varied audiences since their 2011 debut. Known for energized, innovative arrangements of classical repertoire, the group performs "with an infectious energy and vigour that grabs an audience's attention" (The WholeNote). **collectif9** has performed across North America, Europe, and Asia. The ensemble believes that a change of context can influence communication and experience.

> Visit www.collectif9.ca for the group's complete biography.



:: Technical information

On tour: 9 musicians (4 violins, 2 violas, 2 cellos, 1 double bass) + 1 video artist, and 1 sound technician.

Performance space/Equipment: minimum of 20 feet (6 meters) wide x 13 feet (4 meters) deep. Presenter provides 9 music stands, 2 piano benches, and 3 4'x'8 risers (height: 18" and 12").

Video: Presenter provides 1 cyclorama, and 2 video projectors 10k (projection on the cyclo and on the stage floor). Please note that a version of the show with only 1 video projector is possible when necessary.

Sound: When the show is amplified, Presenter provides a sound system (PA), and 5 monitors.

Lighting: No specific needs - lighting is controlled by the video projection. However, when only one video projector is available, a theatre-style lighting system could be used as an alternative.