

con vivo music

ART HOUSE
VISUAL • PERFORMING ARTS | JERSEY CITY | EST. 2001

PERFECT LIVES JERSEY CITY

an opera by Robert Ashley
arranged and performed by VARISPEED
with Con Vivo Music

SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

A Free Day-Long Music Event

SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS:

**11:00 AM
THE PARK**

All About Downtown
Festival Stage
(Barrow St and Newark Ave)

6:15–7:00pm

Goat Petting and Refreshments
The Historic Jersey City &
Harsimus Cemetery
(435 Newark Ave)

**1:30 PM
THE BANK**

Provident Bank
(239 Washington St)

**7:00 PM
THE BACKYARD**

The Historic Jersey City &
Harsimus Cemetery
(435 Newark Ave)

**3:00 PM
THE SUPERMARKET**

Key Food
(574 Jersey Ave)

8:15–9:00pm

Barrow Mansion tours
Barrow Mansion
(83 Wayne Street)

4:00–4:45pm

Open House, Tours
Art House Productions
(136 Magnolia Avenue)

**9:00 PM
THE LIVING ROOM**

Barrow Mansion
(83 Wayne Street)

**5:00 PM
THE CHURCH**

St. Paul Lutheran Church
(440 Hoboken Ave)

**11:00 PM
THE BAR**

Brightside Tavern
(141 Bright St)

11:30 PM - AFTERPARTY
Brightside Tavern (141 Bright St)



LIST OF EPISODES AND PERFORMERS:

11:00 AM

THE PARK

Raoul de Noget, a traveling singer sits on the bed in a motel room overlooking a park thinking it over.
Brian McCorkle (narrator)
Paul Pinto (drums, voice)
Gelsey Bell (synth, voice)
Dave Ruder (clarinet, voice)
Aliza Simons (euphonium, voice)

1:30 PM

THE BANK

Isolde, Raoul and Buddy sneakily draw attention to the fact that The Elopers have taken all the money in the bank.
Gelsey Bell (narrator)
Jen Baker (trombone, voice)
Brian McCorkle (synth, voice)
Paul Pinto (drums, voice)
Dave Ruder (guitar, voice)
Aliza Simons (euphonium, voice)

3:00 PM

THE SUPERMARKET

Thinking about consumerism and wearing out, Helen and John (The Oldsters) are shopping on their day off.
Dave Ruder (narrator)
Gelsey Bell (Helen)
Brian McCorkle (John)
Paul Pinto (snare)
Aliza Simons (euphonium)
Zach Herchen (baritone sax)
Jen Baker (trombone)
Adrianna Matteo (violin)
Sean Cunningham (violin)

5:00 PM

THE CHURCH

Having traveled to Indiana, The Elopers find an odd Justice of the Peace, but his words contain more than they bargained for.
Paul Pinto (narrator)
Brian McCorkle (piano, voice)
Gelsey Bell (synth, voice)
Dave Ruder (Ed/"D")

Aliza Simons (Gwyn/Dwayne)
Esha Datta (choir, soprano voice)
Meredyth Morrison (chorus)
Chris Ellmann (chorus)
Marcus Jordan (chorus)
Mike Sperone (percussion, voice)

7:00 PM

THE BACKYARD

Watching a picnic from the doorway of her mother's house, Isolde counts the days.
Aliza Simons (narrator)
Brian McCorkle (synth, voice)
Paul Pinto (metallophone, voice)
Gelsey Bell (accordion)
Dave Ruder (guitar, voice)
Woody Leslie (tabla)

9:00 PM

THE LIVING ROOM

At his wife, Ida's prompting, Will, the local sheriff, goes over the events of the day.
Aliza Simons (narrator)
Paul Pinto (narrator)
Dave Ruder (narrator)
Gelsey Bell (narrator)
Brian McCorkle (synth)
Adrianna Matteo (violin)
Sean Cunningham (violin)
Michael Davis (viola)
Meghan Burke (cello)

11:00 PM

THE BAR

Rodney, the bartender, meets his match: the silver-tongued piano player, Buddy.
Gelsey Bell (narrator)
Aliza Simons (Buddy)
Dave Ruder (bass, voice)
Brian McCorkle (keyboard, voice)
Paul Pinto (drums, voice)

PERFECT LIVES JERSEY CITY

an opera by Robert Ashley
published by Visibility Music Publishers
arranged and performed by VARISPEED
with Con Vivo Music

SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

In a small Midwest town, two traveling musicians and two local siblings hatch a plan to take all the money from the Bank across state lines to Indiana for one day and then bring it back, thus performing the perfect crime... or a work of art. Originally released in the 1980s as episodes of a music-based television show, *Perfect Lives* is Robert Ashley's quirky, energetic, and philosophical modern opera, adapted anew by Varispeed and narrated by the band and guest musicians live at seven different Jersey City locations throughout one day.

STARRING:

Raoul de Noget — A traveling singer of indeterminate age
Buddy — "The world's greatest piano player"
Helen and John — Oldsters who have a special arrangement
Ed and Gwyn — Young couple who elope to Indiana
Isolde — Nearing thirty and not yet spoken for, "D's" sister
"D" — Captain of the Football Team and assistant at the Bank
Dwayne — A friend who joins D and the Elopers
Will and Ida — Isolde and D's parents; Will is the local sheriff
Rodney — The bartender. His companion, Baby, studies piano
Jennifer, Kate, Eleanor, Linda and Susie — Bank tellers

CREDITS/THANKS

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Robert Ashley, a distinguished figure in American contemporary music, holds an international reputation for his work in new forms of opera and multi-disciplinary projects. His recorded works are acknowledged classics of language in a musical setting. He pioneered opera-for-television. The operatic works of Robert Ashley are distinctly original in style, and distinctly American in their subject matter and in their use of American language. Fanfare Magazine calls Ashley's *Perfect Lives* "nothing less than the first American opera...," and The Village Voice comments, "When the 21st Century glances back to see where the future of opera came from, Ashley, like Monteverdi before him, is going to look like a radical new beginning." www.robertashley.org

Varispeed is a collective of composer-performers from music and theatre groups Panoply Performance Laboratory, thingNY, and Why Lie? that creates site-specific, sometimes-participatory, oftentimes-durational, forevermore-experimental events. Founded by Aliza Simons, Dave Ruder, Paul Pinto, Brian McCorkle, and Gelsey Bell, Varispeed came together in June 2011 to perform a twelve-hour celebration of Robert Ashley's *Perfect Lives*. Other projects include an all-night performance of John Cage's *Empty Words* and the performance art pieces of composer Art Jarvinen. www.varispeedcollective.com

Con Vivo Music is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to bringing the communal spirit of chamber music to the vibrant and unique setting of Jersey City. Our mission is to provide world-class music for all audiences, regardless of class, location or income. All of our concerts are completely free. www.convivomusic.org

Art House Productions is a not-for-profit organization that inspires, nurtures and promotes the arts in our community through accessible, multi-disciplinary initiatives. Art House engages, inspires, entertains and challenges audiences with high quality visual and performing arts programs; we provide arts education programs that promote life-long learning to a diverse community; and we celebrate the essential power of the arts to illuminate our common humanity. www.arthouseproductions.org

Production Team

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Investing in Community Service
The Barrow Mansion
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