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Rare Triumph of the Arts during COVID-19: Innovations in Venue, Artist, and Audience Safety

Directed by Jonah Bokaer (USA),
 Featuring VitaDuo: Vitaly Vatulya & Maria Nemtsova
 (Founders of Music for Peace, Russia),
 with original score by Polina Nazaykinskaya (Russia-USA),
 premiere "Reverse Perspective"
 with visionary support from Trust for Mutual Understanding

The Hudson Eye Festival, August 30, 2020
 Hudson, NY

"VitaDuo plunges audience in the shock with their virtuosity, ensemble quality and one breath for two; the two artists have offered a moment of pure delight where the emphasis was on the encounter between past and present through compositions that fought for the force and beauty."

– Le Temps

HUDSON, NY, August 5 – Vitaly Vatulya and Maria Nemtsova of award-winning VitaDuo, and **Music For Peace**, safely arrived in New York State via Moscow — managing to get a flight against overwhelming odds in the midst of the global pandemic — on a grant from the Trust for Mutual Understanding, procured by Jonah Bokaer as founder of Jonah Bokaer Choreography, in partnership with Lena Khandros as founder of Momentum Artists, heralding a possible new era of "Venue Safety" in the arts.

Unspeakingly touched, the artists made the miraculous journey to realize a long-planned collaboration with **Jonah Bokaer Arts Foundation**, which will be created (after 14-day quarantine), and produced by **The Hudson Eye**, and presented in **The Hudson Eye - Edition #2 on August 30, 2020** - which is still taking place, with full Venue Safety. **This year the festival runs from August 28th to September 7th, 2020.**

Funded by a prestigious grant from the Trust for Mutual Understanding, this special project is called **Reverse Perspective**, a full-length theatrical dance production that unites live performance of VitaDuo—as well as the choreographed stagings of the musicians—in an original work of devised theatre, with an original score by composer **Polina Nazaykinskaya**. Internationally acclaimed choreographer **Jonah Bokaer** directs and choreographs, including with dancers Hala Shah and Nadia Khayrallah, after years of stewardship with the Trust for Mutual Understanding, Lena Khandros of Momentum Artists, and the renowned musicians themselves.

Thematically, the piece explores the journey of an artist, in all its depth and complexity, and highlights the tensions between freedom and safety, adventure and security, art and state—reflecting on our civil society today. This project is a collaboration between **Jonah Bokaer Choreography** and **Momentum Artists**.

The musicians, director, and composer will be rehearsing and producing **Reverse Perspective** this month in New York City before presenting it at the Festival on **August 30th at 7:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church** on Warren Street in Hudson, NY. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.thehudsoneye.com/2020-schedule>

Reverse Perspective was made possible by a generous grant from the **Trust for Mutual Understanding**, which awards grants to American nonprofit organizations to support direct exchange in the arts and the environment between professionals from the United States and TMU's geographic region: the Baltic States; Central Asia; Central, East, Southeast Europe; Mongolia; and Russia. <http://www.tmuny.org/>

About the Artists and Collaborators

Vitaly Vatulya (saxophone) and **Maria Nemtsova** (piano) have been recognized as one of the most interesting ensembles performing in the chamber music world today. The rare combination of saxophone and piano was formed in 2006, when the Duo won their first Prize at a prestigious festival in Moscow. They have performed as a duo and as soloists all over the world. Maria has won many international piano competitions and has performed in such halls as Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, National Centre of Performing Arts in Beijing, Shanghai Oriental Arts Centre and others. Vitaly is the winner of more than fifteen prestigious International Competitions and has played in the Moscow International House of Music and the Great Conservatoire Hall, the Philharmonic Concert Hall in Vilnius, Bruckner House in Linz and others. Maria and Vitaly are founders of the **Music for Peace Project**, which seeks to benefit young musicians who live in today's conflict zones by using the convening power of music as a vehicle to maximize the benefits of international and cross-cultural contacts between youth. Through music, the Music for Peace aims to bring together individuals from all backgrounds into a relaxed and natural environment.

Jonah Bokaer is an internationally acclaimed Tunisian-American choreographer, LGBTQIA leader, and multi-disciplinary artist. In 2002, he founded both **Jonah Bokaer Choreography** and **Jonah Bokaer Arts Foundation**, dedicated to the advancement of interdisciplinary art and performance, with a strong focus on experimental dance. The foundation seeks to foster the development, research, and presentation of new multi-disciplinary performance works, and establish and provide affordable art spaces for the creative community. <http://www.jonahbokaer.net>

Jonah Bokaer also presents **The Hudson Eye**, a ten-day arts festival in historic downtown Hudson, with a focus on dance, music, performance, film and visual art. Arranged by curator Aaron Levi Garvey, the festival aims to celebrate the arts community in Hudson and help stimulate creativity and connectivity.

Polina Nazaykinskaya is an award-winning composer whose works have been performed by the Russian National Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, the Yale Philharmonia Orchestra, and the Omsk Philharmonic Orchestra, among others. She has collaborated with top conductors, including Osmo Vänskä, Teodor Currentzis, Fabio Mastrangelo, and Hannu Lintu. Last season The Albany Symphony premiered Polina's new symphonic poem "Fenix".

Momentum Artists is an innovative artist management and producing agency, offering international representation and special project development services to a boutique roster of distinguished artists from around the globe. Founded by Lena Khandros and Ania Perzanowska, the agency is focused on innovation in monetizing custom composed music and developing cross-disciplinary projects of the highest artistic quality. Momentum's newest signature project, born out of the COVID-19 crisis, is **Music2Meeting** which connects world-class artists all over the world directly with the virtual corporate workplace. For more information, please visit: <https://www.momentumartists.com/>; <https://music2meeting.com/about>.

Listing:

WHAT: Reverse Perspective

WHERE: First Presbyterian Church / 369 Warren Street / Hudson, NY 12534

WHEN: Sunday, August 30th at 7:30PM

ADMISSION: <https://www.thehudsoneye.com/2020-schedule>

CONTACT: pr@jonahbokaer.net