

March 28, 2024

Press contact: Deirdre Roddin

droddin@charlottesymphony.org

Cell: 516.816.8977

THE CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND BLUMENTHAL ARTS PRESENT

MERGE: Symphonic x Electronic

An Immersive Fusion of Symphonic and Electronic Music with Live Visual Artistry

**Featuring Resident Conductor CHRISTOPHER JAMES LEES and the CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY
PRODUCER AND DJ PUSH/PULL and Visual Artist TENORLESS
With Arrangements by BENJAMIN HJERTMANN**

**LATE NIGHT TAKEOVER: Kouch Kollektive Presents
Jack The Giant and Empti b2b Scratch The Surface b2b Poetic**

May 10 & 11, 2024 | Blackbox Theater

March 28, 2024 | Charlotte, NC – The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra (CSO) is thrilled to announce the first in a series of experimental immersive events, MERGE: Symphonic x Electronic, a multisensory experience at the nexus of symphonic and electronic music at Blackbox Theater on Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 9:00 p.m. Producer and DJ Liam Collins, known by his stage name Push/Pull, visual artist Tenorless, and the Charlotte Symphony — led by Resident Conductor Christopher James Lees — will take audiences on an exploration at the edges of musical possibility alongside live visual artistry.

This groundbreaking program will include works by composers on the cutting edge, like Philip Glass, Steve Reich, and John Luther Adams, merged with ambient downtempo soundscapes crafted by Push/Pull. Throughout the performance, the space will come alive with stunning projected visuals curated by visual artist Tenorless, enhancing the multisensory experience. The evening will also feature original compositions by Push/Pull, as well as arrangements by Benjamin Hjertmann crafted specifically for the Charlotte Symphony to merge with the electronic music, transcending conventional musical boundaries.

“It’s been incredibly exhilarating to collaborate with Push/Pull Sound and fuse our distinct musical styles into this thrilling program,” said Resident Conductor Christopher James Lees. “In today’s multimedia-driven society, we hear as much with our eyes as we do with our ears, and we listen with our entire body at any performance. At MERGE, we’ll put the audience at the center of this visceral experience, fully immersing the room in sound and light.”

“When these two worlds — classical and electronic — come together, they remind us that at their heart, both are simply tools in the hands of artists. Instruments and computers alike sit silently until brought to life by human creativity and passion,” said Push/Pull. “This event

celebrates the merging of classical music's tradition, virtuosity, and composition with the expansive new sound design possibilities that electronic music provides. As we look forward to this unique blend of past and future, tradition and innovation, we're reminded of the limitless potential of music to evolve and inspire.”

"I am excited to introduce audiences to our inaugural immersive event, marking the beginning of an experimental series of innovative initiatives aimed at redefining the orchestral experience and engaging new audiences,” said Charlotte Symphony President and CEO David Fisk. “We are deeply grateful for the Knight Foundation’s invaluable support and shared vision as we continue to push the boundaries of traditional concert experiences."

MERGE: Symphonic x Electronic is presented in partnership with Blumenthal Arts and is part of the Charlotte Symphony’s experimentation of the possibilities of immersive experiences, funded by a generous grant from the Knight Art + Tech Expansion Fund of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Tickets

Tickets for MERGE: Symphonic x Electronic are on sale now at charlottesymphony.org, starting at \$20. Doors open at 8:00 p.m. with the Charlotte Symphony performance beginning at 9:00 p.m. Late Night Takeover presented by Kouch Kollektive: A live and DJ set by Jack The Giant begins at midnight and Empti b2b Scratch The Surface b2b Poetic begins at 1:00 a.m.

About the Charlotte Symphony

One of the premier music organizations in the Southeastern United States and the oldest operating symphony orchestra in the Carolinas, the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra (CSO) connects with more than 130,000 music lovers each year through its lively season of concerts, broadcasts, community events, and robust educational programs. The CSO is committed to its mission of uplifting, entertaining, and educating the diverse communities of Charlotte-Mecklenburg and beyond through exceptional musical experiences. The CSO employs 65 professional full-time orchestra musicians, fosters three youth orchestras, and offers significant educational support aimed at serving the under-resourced areas of our community. Founded in 1932, the Charlotte Symphony plays a leading cultural role in the Charlotte area and serves the community as a civic leader, reflecting and uniting our region through the transformative power of live music.

ALL PROGRAMS AND ARTISTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MERGE: Symphonic x Electronic is supported by a grant from the **Knight Art + Tech Expansion Fund** of the **John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**.

The Charlotte Symphony is supported, in part, by the **Infusion Fund** and its generous donors.



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