

FUSION FESTIVAL - Closing Night Performance

Date: Monday 4th July, 2022

Time: 21:00-22:00

Ritual Design Script by Chris Lloyd for [1781 Collective](#)

PROLOGUE: *Bach Partita No. 2 in C minor, I. Sinfonietta*

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome, friends. We've made it. We've survived to the final moment here, together.

Over the next 55 minutes or so, I want to tell you a story; one that you might in fact be the main character in.

The story is a reflection, and at the same time, a premonition. It deals with our past, and potentially with our future. Think back.... What were your intentions as you arrived at the hallowed gates here at Fusion? What are your intentions when you leave - who do you want to be when you return home? Is it the same person who left; or someone changed - whether that's slightly, or significantly? Why did you come here - was it to escape yourself; to rediscover or re-engage with something about yourself, or perhaps to engage in a process of evolution? The story that follows is about you, is about us, is about wherever it takes you.

CHAPTER 1: The Dissolution of Ego.

We are not unique: no, instead we are a part of a long, complex, devastating and uplifting story that stretches thousands of years. Our celebration of revelry and hedonism and life this past weekend is just another addition to a tale that has been told for thousands of years; our ancient ancestors celebrated just as we have - shedding their everyday skin to pay tribute to their primal natures and need to be connected.

I invite you during this next piece to close your eyes, to accept your individual role in this beautiful and never ending story; to dissolve any sense of unnecessary importance to the independent ego, and embrace the concept of being part of a much larger body.

Play: F. Schubert - Impromptu in C Minor, D.899 No. 1

CHAPTER 2: Embracing your Duality.

We are bombarded, constantly, day after day, with messages of inspiration that tell us we need to embrace our inner light: to be positive, to be better - the subtext being that if you are not doing exactly this, then you are not being *enough*; that if you were to embrace your dark side too much then you would be a negative energy on the collective whole.

But this mindset is a falsity, and a relatively new concept: our 19th century European ancestors revelled in melancholia, our Asian cousins have for millennia sought for balance in life. What if, instead of trying to shut out an integral part of ourselves - our darkness - we instead embraced both elements, light and dark, as the perfect combination that in concert, allow our full contribution to this epic tale?

Play: J. Haydn - Variations in F Minor, Hob XVII:6

CHAPTER 3: Communion with Nature

We stand in time, perennially at the precipice of catastrophe. Our species seems to be self-destructive by nature - we imbibe dangerous substances, we treat our bodies with disdain, we consume and destroy what comes before us in the name of progress; we create bigger

divides from our origins with every technological advance - our never-ending god complex, the desire to be greater than, to control knowledge and master our own fates, pulls us ever further from where we have spent hundreds of thousands of years.... It is as if in the blind push for the new, we have forgotten the magic of what was already here.

But, given the space and time, we have a chance to reconnect. The next piece is exactly this: an invitation to reconnect to nature - take the time as we listen to the water ripples that follow, to appreciate this moment in nature, surrounded by our fellow primal beings. Touch the grass. Feel the wind. Take in this amazing location and moment. Smell the air that surrounds us, breathe it in and remember that before any technological interruption, we were already the product of perfect evolution.

Play: F. Liszt - Les jeux d'eau a la Villa d'Este

CHAPTER 4: Connecting with Sensuality

Chapters 1-3 explored the world through the lens of our individual selves - dissolving our ego and pretensions; embracing our full selves, and communing with nature. Now, it is time to contemplate how we connect with others around us.

The next piece is a celebration of sensuality in all its most gorgeous forms: so, position yourself next to a loved one if you are with them, or to a dear friend, a stranger to whom you feel attraction, a stranger to whom you feel curiosity, or even nothing at all. When you find this person, take their hand (with their consent of course), and simply connect on a purely physical and sensual - that is, relating to the senses, obscuring any latent sexuality. Take their hand, or hold each other, sit with your backs against each other, whatever you both feel comfortable with, and experience the pleasure of simply feeling, perceiving, and sensing another being.

Play: A. Scriabin - Piano Sonata No. 4

CHAPTER 5: Emotional Release, or, the Sublime Experience

We have reached the final chapter of this particular story, but by no means is this an ending. This journey started with a question: what were your intentions before arriving, and what will be your intentions as you prepare to leave? I posit, that we as a collective whole this weekend have been on a *quest for the sublime* - to experience life beyond the ordinary.

Throughout this story, we've spent time with ourselves, with nature, and with each other. The conclusion of our tale explores the final element that gives meaning and to it all: something deceptively simple, yet integral to our existence. The previous chapter engaged our external senses; the epilogue deals with this final, integral element, which is, simply...

Feeling.

Take these final 7 minutes as an invitation to engage with whatever feeling, whatever emotion the music stimulates in you. Perhaps that is a shared emotion with the person or persons you are with now. Perhaps it is an extremely intimate moment just for yourself.

Take these final 7 minutes as a gift, a moment of the sublime, or sublimation to your feelings. Release them all, and enjoy the feeling of wading in this emotional ocean. When the piece finishes, please do not applaud; instead, appreciate the silence afterwards as the memory of these past days flow through your mind; allow this moment to become the start of the next story that you're about to embark on.

Play: R. Wagner/F. Liszt - Liebestod from Tristan und Isolde.