

ATLAS Arts presents

# RAAGGA DAWN

AN T-EILEAN SGITHEANACH, 57.5° T – CAROLINE BERGVALL

# RAGADAWN (AN T-EILEAN SGITHEANACH, 57.5°T)

CAROLINE BERGVALL

The performance begins during the final moments of night, continuing through dawn, and is completed with the rising of the sun. Ragadawn is a powerful and moving voicework performance created by Caroline Bergvall, combining music, text and voices in ritualised outdoor locations to reconnect audiences to time, place and each other. Language and languages, song and speech, sites and sounds, breath patterns, frequencies and passing noises are all integral to the work. Drawing on ancient and contemporary sunrise traditions, the piece is loosely inspired by structures and rules of seasonal chants, such as Indian ragas, sunrise mantras or early medieval European morning songs, as well as the surrounding elements and sounds. The central song, Canso, finds its roots in the 'alba' (dawn) tradition of troubadour love poetry, which started in early Arabic poetry and voyaged and changed through the continental and northern regions. Gavin Bryars' long-standing interest in early vocal music and ancient European languages has helped ensure the presence of a cross-historical vocal strand in all the sung sequences. Ragadawn as a whole explores both the celebratory and wondrous rise of day as well as the hidden anxieties it can provoke and the collective attention this demands.

## DAWN CHORUS OF LANGUAGES

Caroline Bergvall has been working with languages from communities across Europe since 2016 – specifically languages that are endangered or at risk, and those that are emerging from more recent local settlements. This will continue into 2019. A key element of the research work has been an investigation of the Gaelic language in Skye as a minority language that is growing. In 2017 ATLAS Arts invited Bergvall to host a 'Language Station' at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig with invited guests who have a connection to the language; recordings from this session feed directly into Ragadawn.

## LANGUAGE STATIONS 2016–2018

Punjab – Southend	Provençal – Aix en Provence
Romanche – Geneva	Occitan – Toulouse
Arabic – Paris	Sicilian – London
Berber – Paris	Old English – Kings College London
Farsi – Copenhagen	Welsh – Liverpool
Andalusian-Arabic – Research	Scottish Gaelic – Skye
Medieval Hebrew – Research	Icelandic – Manchester
Galician – Santiago de Compostela	Groendlandic – Copenhagen
Ladino – London	

## COMMUNAL BREAKFAST

To celebrate sharing the work and meeting the day together with friends and strangers a collective breakfast will be hosted immediately following the performance.

## MENU

Porridge with summer fruit compôte, Mallaig kipper kedgerie & shony seaweed mix, dark rye sourdough nori bread, dulse bread, spirulina loaf, lemon heather honey & dulse madeleines, Sea Buckthorn Juice, Cuillin Coffee special dawn blend & Er Ya Tea.

**CAROLINE BERGVALL** – Concept and texts, live spoken voice  
As an artist, writer and performer, Bergvall's projects include poetic works, audio pieces, drawings, installations, and live performances, often created through collaboration. Her work frequently develops through exploring material traces from a range of sources: linguistic detail and typographic marks, forgotten or contemporary languages, literary documents, art and pop culture, sites and their histories, as well as physical and vocal performance modes.

**GAVIN BRYARS** – Vocal composition and sung sequences  
A jazz bassist and pioneer of free improvisation, Bryars' creative work includes five operas, a large body of chamber music, several concertos and vocal music.

**PEYEE CHEN** – Soprano, live sung voice  
A soprano with a particular interest in contemporary and Baroque music, Chen works regularly with young composers and has given guest lectures and workshops on writing for voice.

**VERITY SUSMAN** – Dawn languages treatment, live performer  
Composer and performer, Susman writes music for film, dance, concert performance and artist collaboration.

**SAM GRANT** – Live sound engineer and site-specific sound set-up  
Sound artist, musician and record producer, Grant has been involved with exhibitions throughout Northern Europe alongside performing as a musician (guitar).

This project would not have been possible without the help of many people. In particular we would like to thank the following: Caroline Bergvall, Gavin Bryars, Peyee Chen, Sam Grant, and Verity Susman.

Language Station, Isle of Skye:  
Rhona Coogan, Decker Forrest,  
Rody Gorman, and Morag Henriksen.

Food suppliers: Er Ya Tea, Cuillin Coffee,  
Mara Seaweed, Viewfield Garden  
Collective, and Mania Pietrzak.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig staff: Kathryn NicAoidh,  
Kath NicLeoid and the kitchen team.

Graphic design: An Endless Supply

Production on Skye: ATLAS Arts

For more information  
about this project visit:  
[atlasarts.org.uk](http://atlasarts.org.uk)  
[carolinebergvall.com](http://carolinebergvall.com)

#ragadawnskye



ATLAS

# CANSO

for solo soprano and drone

Text CAROLINE BERGVALL  
Music GAVIN BRYARS

Ay, sing a canso  
for Usha

Tant ai mon cor  
plen de joia

I'll sing it  
from the heart

Two lovers lay  
in open umbra

Lay all night  
all night they lay

A mille stars  
guide a mille sighs

One on one  
yet many entwined

Soul to soul  
many embraced

Press their bodies  
to the hearth

Ride their fire  
through the veil

Clear the clouds  
off their shapes

Come to long  
stellar play

Pelvic tongues  
licks of joy

Fleeting forms  
take on adore

Alight a brightest  
guided life

Ghost to ghost  
amar unmoors

My love enflure  
my soul!

Les coeurs vont gais  
et bien baisés

Mas lo temps vai e  
ven e vire

All night the day  
drew near

Totz nuit alba  
draws clear

Her chariot  
rolls in

Her mille love  
comes to call

N'aie pas peur  
N'aie pas seule  
N'aie pas lost  
N'aie pas sad

Love is the truest  
meravelha Love is the  
truest meravelha

Never saw such a sunrise  
Never saw the sun rise so fair

Ni le Solelh onc  
se leva si clar

Ne cosi bello il sol  
gia mai levarsi

Levad' amigo que dormides  
as manhãas frias

Badru tamm  
shamsu duḥà  
Ghusnu naqā  
misku shamm

Kol kokhvei boker  
Ikha yashiru

O! bho sholus ur  
an la an diugh

Levad', amiga

Ab la dolchor  
de summarnotti

Ab la doçor  
del temps novel

Bona es vida  
Amar per amor

Worldes blis  
is made of this

Totz la joi del mon es nostre

Bona es vida  
Amar per amor

Totz la joi del mon es nostre



TAISBEANADH IS BRACAIST LE CÁCH / PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNAL BREAKFAST

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Am Mullach

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Roof terrace

25 Lùnastal 2018 / 25 August 2018

5.14 – 8.00m / 5.14 – 8.00am

SAOR AN-ASGAIDH / FREE

TIOCAIDEAN / TICKETS [atlasarts.org.uk](http://atlasarts.org.uk)