



Speak Again moves along the shifting edges of hearing, listening, and speaking, and how sound gathers in the body before it becomes language. Across the pieces, calls and gestures explore the ways we reach toward one another: how voices overlap, guide, interrupt, or steady us; how meaning forms, dissolves, or drifts; how listening can be an opening and a deepening. The works live in the thresholds where inner noise meets communal resonance and where ritual becomes a way of sensing. Throughout, the experience of those who are hard of hearing and the devices through which they hear offers a vital lens, reminding us that listening is never singular. It is tactile, relational, and shaped by the ways each body gathers and shapes sound.

Sharon Chohi Kim

Performers Bios

Saunder Choi is an award-winning Filipino-Chinese composer and choral artist based in Los Angeles whose work centers identity, place, and shared human experience. Recipient of the 2024 ACDA Raymond W. Brock Prize for Professional Composers, his music has been performed internationally by leading choirs such as the Philippine Madrigal Singers, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Pacific Chorale, and many others. As an arranger, he has written for Lea Salonga, GMCLA, San Francisco Symphony, and many others. He sings with Pacific Chorale, L.A. Choral Lab, and HEX Vocal Ensemble, as well as in major film scores. He is the Director of Music at the UU Church of Santa Monica and a teaching artist with the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

James Hayden, bass, prefers his operatic arias declaimed atop a penny-farthing bicycle (LA Phil's *Europaras*) and his renaissance polyphony memorized and fully choreographed (Los Angeles Master Chorale's *Lagrime di San Pietro*). He has provided pop vocals for Rosalía's *Motomami* and *Motomami+* albums, subharmonic vocals for Ryan Coogler's *Sinners*, patriotic vocals for the *The American Adventure* at Epcot, and backing vocals for Lady Gaga's 2025 Coachella set. When not being "languorously sexy" or "a weird, looming presence" on the operatic stage, you can find him playing convoluted board games with friends and writing award winning pop a cappella charts for ensembles across the U.S. www.jamesroberthayden.com

Sharon Chohi Kim is a Los Angeles-based performing artist and composer working at the intersection of experimental opera, performance art, improvisation, and sound installation. She has composed and created performances for the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), LA Phil's Insight series, and REDCAT, and has performed in projects such as *Meredith Monk's Atlas* with the LA Philharmonic, *Sweet Land* with The Industry, and *Polia and Blastema* at Opera Philadelphia's Festival O22. Her collaborations span institutions including the Getty Center, Hammer Museum, Walt Disney Concert Hall, and Human Resources LA, activating spaces from gardens to water as living instruments. Her work as a performer and composer has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, KCET, KCRW, and the Los Angeles Times.

Elana Mann is an artist and activist who makes artwork about the power of the collective voice, freedom of speech, and disability. Mann was born Hard of Hearing and for twenty years she has researched the act of listening through sculpture, sound, works on paper, and public performances. She frequently collaborates with musicians, performers and activists to engage her sonic sculptures. From 2021-2025 Mann co-led a campaign that successfully returned over 650 stolen artworks to 86 artists. Mann's decade-long project about censorship (*Call to Arms*, 2015-present) was recently subjected to censorship at the Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art. elanamann.com

Molly Pease (mollypeasemusic.com) is a versatile, experimental and collaborative vocal artist and composer. She is a member and assistant director of HEX, regularly sings with LA Master Chorale, Tonality, and LA Choral Lab, and has performed with Björk, Tune-Yards, Sigur Rós, Dirty Projectors, and Kronos Quartet, among others. Her most recent musical release is called "Inner Astronomy" (innerastronomy.com), and she recently received the Opera America Discovery Grant for Women Composers for her opera-in-progress *HYSTERIA*.

Fahad Siadat A "fanciful and downright utopian artist and thinker" (*LA Times*), Fahad Siadat explores sound as spiritual practice, creating interdisciplinary pieces as a vehicle for unveiling the mystery of our interconnected world. His work is described as "evoking wonder, desire, and terror" (*Off Broadway*) with narratives that "border on being a spiritual journey" (*LA Dance Chronicle*) and has been presented by the Ford Theatre, Broadstage, and LA County Museum of Art.

Chloé Vaught is a native of Los Angeles, California with a bachelor of music degree from UCLA. As a soloist, she loves to sing everything from early music, lieder, contemporary classical, jazz, and more. You can find her singing all around the city including with the LA Opera Chorus, LA Master Chorale, HEX Vocal Ensemble, on film scores, or her holiday band, Mrs. Claus and the Swingin' Reindeer!

Too Fast To Sing

This exhibition examines the dizzying speed of music and the ongoing transformations shaping its industry. Bringing together a constellation of artists deeply engaged with these shifts, the exhibition highlights practices that document, archive, riff on, and build upon music's contemporary metamorphosis. Together, the artists explore how music permeates emotional life and daily environments; how technological advances and aesthetics shape its sound; how we gather around it; and how visual artists use music and sound as raw material. *Too Fast To Sing* mirrors the current state of music, offering a space to reflect on these critical changes while imagining how the song might continue—or end altogether.

Participating Artists:

Amina Cruz, Alfonso Gonzalez Jr.,
Caitlin Cherry, Christelle Oyiri, Elana Mann,
Fiona Connor, Guadalupe Rosales, Harmony Holiday,
Jacqueline Kiyomi Gork, Jazmin "Jazzy" Romero,
Julian Stein, Luke Fischbeck, Mario Ayala,
Neva Wireko, Nico B. Young, Nicole Cooke,
Pedro Alejandro Verdin, rafa esparza,
Romi Ron Morrison, Sarah Rara, Tania Daniel,
and Ulysses Jenkins.

This program is part of *Too Fast To Sing*, curated by Hugo Cervantes, LAMAG Curator, and co-organized with Carla Fantozzi, Barnsdall Art Park Director.

Sculptures by Elana Mann.

Costumes in collaboration with Leng Sands.

HEX composers: Saunder Choi, James Hayden, Sharon Chohi Kim, Molly Pease, Fahad Siadat, Chloe Vaught.

Graphic Design by Curatorial Assistant, Samantha Alexis Manuel.

Additional thanks to LAMAG Staff: Michael Phillips, David Novoa, Graham Akins, Dara Adedara, Erik Flores, and Rene Miranda.



**Los Angeles
Municipal Art Gallery**

lamag.org



Speak Again

December 13, 2025

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Municipal Art Gallery**

Speak Again

The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery is proud to present *Speak Again*, a collaborative performance in conjunction with the exhibition, *Too Fast To Sing*. *Speak Again* is a collaborative assembly of performances exploring the shifting politics of hearing, listening, and speaking, by Elana Mann and HEX, the award winning contemporary vocal sextet. *Speak Again* reimagines LAMAG's gallery as a stage where the artists of HEX weld Mann's sculptural instruments into a meditation on the subtle distinctions between sound, language, and meaning. The performance resonates with the spirit of Mann's practice oriented around freedom of speech, the amplification of divergent voices, and the productive force of difference. *Speak Again* arrives at a moment of international upheaval, asking audiences to consider how listening and speaking function as critical tools for navigating an incoherent and volatile present.

This public program is made possible by support from the Plum Foundation. Additional support and thanks to the Jenni Crane Foundation, an initiative dedicated to preserving the legacy of the esteemed artist and curator.

Program

December 13, 2025, 2 PM & 4PM

Ear Trumpet Prelude

Composed by Fahad Siadat and HEX

This piece inverts the use of historic hearing aids / ear trumpets, turning them into a kind of instrument. Each performer has created a specific 'call' based on both the acoustic properties of their individual instrument and the resonant frequencies of the room within which they are performing, interweaving them with the previous calls to create a sonic tapestry of individuals uniting as one community.

Speak Truth

Composed by James Hayden

The negative voices in my head often speak first and loudest. The Soprano and Bass use their patient, long tones to redirect this chorus towards truth.

Redaction Study 1

Composed by Sharon Chohi Kim

Redaction Studies reshapes text from the current U.S. administration's banned-word list through sung and signed interludes, where redaction and

Program cont.

gesture reveal how meaning slips and shifts under pressure. As language fractures and expands, the piece listens for what is newly connected, what falls away, and what is revealed in the in-between.

Attempting

(For HEX and Elana Mann)

Composed by Chloé Vaught

Redaction Study 2

Composed by Sharon Chohi Kim

Listen, Speak, Listen

Composed by Molly Pease

Text by Elana Mann

"What can listening do?
What can speaking do?
Nothing can come of nothing, speak again, listen again, speak again.
Our voices are keys to unlock our chains."

Redaction Study 3

Composed by Sharon Chohi Kim

Harvest Prayer

Composed by Saunder Choi