

Join the visual music journey to the man-made NeoArctic (with photos)

Denmark's Hotel Pro Forma – in collaboration with the Grammy award-winning Latvian Radio Choir – will stage the multimedia music theatre "NeoArctic" this Friday and Saturday (November 15 and 16), presenting a compelling journey to a bizarre new world shaped by man, featuring striking video images, poignant lyrics and heavenly sounds.

"NeoArctic", directed by Kirsten Dehlholm, with lyrics by Sjón (who also writes for Björk), won the 2017 Reumert Prize for Best Performance Art Work in Denmark.

With humans' overwhelming nature and climate change descending into an eco-system emergency, what awaits our planet in the people-driven geological age of the Anthropocene? This highly original multimedia music theatre turns environmental problems such as climate change and soil erosion into mesmerising images. Meanwhile 12 members of the Latvian Radio Choir dressed in surreal costumes will journey to 12 landscapes, singing 12 songs with themes including plastic, respiration, temperature and more that speak to the challenges of our time.

Danish-based Hotel Pro Forma is an international production house and a meeting place for cross-disciplinary artistic work. The group is recognised for their genre-bending, innovative endeavours in opera, performing arts and installation, which transcend the boundaries between visual arts, text, music, theatre, design and architecture. Hotel Pro Forma works with themes of a universal nature in settings that can be conceptual, visual and musical, while applying the latest technology and creative ideas. They discuss and depict the future and the past, and last but not least, the challenges of our time.

Founded in 1940, the Latvian Radio Choir is a unique, award-winning ensemble of professional singers with an extraordinary variety of repertoire ranging from early music to the most sophisticated scores of contemporary compositions. The choir has won the Grammy Award and the Great Music Award of Latvia, the country's most prestigious national music honour. Touring the globe, the Choir has performed at many of the world's most renowned concert halls and musical events, and has collaborated with celebrated guest conductors and orchestras.

The multimedia music theatre "NeoArctic" is one of the programmes of the World Cultures Festival 2019 – The Nordics. It will be staged at 8pm on November 15 and 16 at the Kwai Tsing Theatre Auditorium. The programme will be performed in English with Chinese and English surtitles. Tickets priced at \$180, \$280, \$380 and \$480 are now available at URB TIX (www.urbtix.hk). For credit card telephone bookings, please call 2111 5999.

Organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the World Cultures Festival 2019 – The Nordics is running from October 18 to November 17. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2370 1044 or visit www.worldfestival.gov.hk.

