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**Laurie Anderson, David Byrne, Marina Rosenfeld & Ben Rubin**  
Bring Humor and Mystery to the Gloriously Refurbished Winter Garden with  
*Sonic Garden*

A Free Sound Installation Presented by The World Financial Center Arts & Events Program  
and Creative Time, **October 17 — November 30, 2002**

DOWNTOWN, N.Y. — Laurie Anderson, David Byrne, Marina Rosenfeld, and Ben Rubin, without question some of New York's most visionary artists, have created new works for a group exhibition of eclectic, site-specific sonic installations entitled *Sonic Garden*, free to the public and located within the World Financial Center Winter Garden, 220 Vesey Street, October 17 through November 30.

Presented by the World Financial Center Arts & Events Program and Creative Time in celebration of the renewal of Lower Manhattan since 9/11, *Sonic Garden* redefines interior public art.

This rare sonic exhibition is designed to incite a diversity of sensory experiences of physical space that will delight audiences and offer an intimate and curious alternative to ambient noise.

The four artists/composers, each creating an individual work of sonic art, will heighten the Winter Garden's voluminous, 120 foot-tall, barrel-vaulted glass architecture with sounds ranging from recordings of stones skipping across water and jokes of famed Catskill comedians to string ensembles interspersed with voice and the sounds from the floor of the nearby New York Mercantile Exchange.



*Sonic Garden* will have no “sonic center.” Sounds will emanate from the palm trees, stairways, air vents, and the heights above, from the Winter Garden’s new state of the art sound system.

“Audiences will have a rare opportunity to experience new works by some of the most important and brilliant artists of our time in one of the great public spaces of New York City,” said Debra Simon, Artistic Director of the World Financial Center Arts & Events Program, which, along with Creative Time, has long been committed to public arts programming downtown.

“The artists, all New Yorkers, were asked to re-imagine the great downtown landmark, the Winter Garden, through sound. Their works offer an alternative to the ubiquitous visual reminders of September 11th, sensitize us to other experiences in our surroundings, and celebrate the renewed vitality of Lower Manhattan,” said Anne Pasternak, Executive Director of Creative Time.

### **Installation descriptions:**

**Laurie Anderson** will continue her legacy of site-responsive works and dialogues with a slow string arrangement that will circulate throughout the Winter Garden through the speakers in the vent system and stairs.

**David Byrne** will bring an intimate experience to passers-by with a series of one-liner jokes by famed Catskill comedians, including Henny Youngman, Mort Sahl and Alan King. The witticisms, interspersed with laughter and applause, will sound episodically from speakers amongst the palm trees. Drawn by the faint volume to the trees, listeners will partake in a hilarious, classic and globally influential New York City tradition.

**Marina Rosenfeld**’s installation treats the Winter Garden’s reverberant acoustics and vast airy space as an environment, releasing confetti-like clusters of sonic “objects” from speakers throughout the atrium, like handfuls of pebbles scattering across, and temporarily agitating a pond’s smooth surface. As short bursts of mingled electronic and acoustic sounds intersect and decay in expanding concentric circles, fleeting chords are formed and temporary sound juxtapositions suggest alternate landscapes within the Winter Garden’s confines.

**Ben Rubin**’s sound installation has two primary sonic elements:

the first is a recording of the shouts and calls of open outcry

trading at the nearby commodities exchanges (NYMEX, COMEX, and NYBOT). The second component is an audio display of

fluctuating commodities prices, drawn from the Internet. The artist contrasts the heated verbal

*Sonic Garden* artists/composers (clockwise from left) Ben Rubin, Marina Rosenfeld, David Byrne Laurie Anderson. Photo: Timothy Greenfield-Sanders for Creative Time © 2002.

exchanges and the chaos of the trading floor with the cooler ebb and flow of international market data. His piece celebrates the vital culture of a longstanding downtown community facing digitization in the computer age.



Founded in 1986, the World Financial Center Arts & Events Program has presented more than 1200 free events showcasing 500 performers, 250 visual artists and 200 cultural institutions. The Program is sponsored by American Express, Merrill Lynch, Brookfield Financial Properties, Battery Park City Authority, and the New York Mercantile Exchange.

With *Sonic Garden*, Creative Time, New York's adventurous public arts presenter, continues its 30-year mission of invigorating the City's most unusual and spectacular public spaces with fresh artistic visions.

There is no admission for *Sonic Garden*. For information call (212) 945-0505 or visit [www.worldfinancialcenter.com](http://www.worldfinancialcenter.com) or [www.creativetime.org](http://www.creativetime.org) for the *Sonic Garden* soundscape play schedule.