

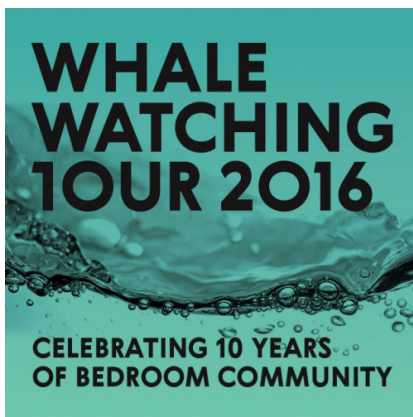
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## BEDROOM COMMUNITY CELEBRATES 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH WHALE WATCHING TOUR 2016

*Iceland's influential record label and collective hits the road for the first time since 2010.*



In celebration of the Icelandic label and composer collective **Bedroom Community's** 10th Anniversary in 2016, its three founders: **Valgeir Sigurðsson**, **Ben Frost**, and **Nico Muhly**, join fellow artists **Sam Amidon**, **Nadia Sirota**, **Borgar Magnason**, **Una Sveinbjarnardóttir**, and **Helgi Jonsson** on a **Whale Watching Tour** of the United States in March and April. This marks the third Whale Watching Tour, and the first since a European adventure in 2010. Bedroom Community was founded in 2006 by composer and producer/engineer **Valgeir Sigurðsson** as a place for like-minded artists to create and release otherwise unreleasable music. The Whale Watching Tour is an unusual and ambitious premise. The artists, who are friends and colleagues, present what is more like a musical conversation with aspects of a show-and-tell than a formal concert.



*“The Whale Watching Tour is an opportunity to manifest what we, as a record label and a collective of disparate musical personalities, do behind the closed doors of the studio. To create something uniquely belonging to the **live experience** from source material that is very familiar to us. These shows are fuelled by **joyful energy** and appreciation for each other but also tension, **blood and sweat** that makes it all the more rewarding at the end of the day.”*

- VALGEIR SIGURÐSSON

- 3/25 Providence, RI > Columbus Theatre > [INFO](#)
- 3/26 New York, NY > Michael Schimmel Center for the Arts > [INFO](#)
- 3/29 Washington, DC > Lisner Auditorium > [INFO](#)
- 3/30 Durham, NC > Carolina Theatre > [INFO](#)
- 3/31 Pittsburgh, PA > The Warhol at Carnegie Lecture Hall > [INFO](#)
- 4/1 Columbus, OH > Wexner Center > [INFO](#)
- 4/2 Knoxville, TN > Big Ears Festival > [INFO](#)

*“The influential Bedroom Community label: a lightning rod at the juncture where the ambition of classical music meets the aesthetics of indie music.”* - PITCHFORK

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*“Valgeir’s brilliance in establishing and curating this label is in taking music that would otherwise be homeless, and giving it not just a home but an environment where it is **smashed** up against other music — sometimes **radically juxtaposed**, but always in a way that **communicates** to listeners.”*

- NICO MUHLY

## **BEDROOM COMMUNITY**

Bedroom Community is an Icelandic record label/collective founded in 2006 by Valgeir Sigurðsson, with Nico Muhly and Ben Frost. The catalog includes Sam Amidon, Daniel Bjarnason, Puzzle Muteson, Paul Corley, Nadia Sirota, James McVinnie, Emily Hall, Jodie Landau, and Wild Up.

The collective spirit of Bedroom Community is its most precious resource. The roster is made up of creatively diverse artists who are drawn to the murky spaces between genres, and who uniformly support one another’s forays into this murk. Whether on tour or within the confines of Greenhouse Studios on the outskirts of Reykjavík, a collaborative foundation is beneath everything Bedroom Community does.



### **VALGEIR SIGURDSSON**

Producer and composer Valgeir Sigurðsson has been making musical noise for as long as he can remember, and professionally for over two decades. His formative years in a small Icelandic village proved fertile soil for his forays into self-taught recording technology, constantly refining his own recording artistry and composition, with three solo albums to his name, *Ekvilibrium* (2007), *Draumalandið* (2010) and *Architecture of Loss* (2013). Valgeir studied classical guitar and in 1991 he earned a ‘Tonmeister’ degree from London’s SAE Institute.

Valgeir is the founder of the Bedroom Community record label and Greenhouse Studios in Reykjavík, where he has established an influential sonic signature with recording techniques that push the boundaries of contemporary and neo-classical music production. His scores, frequently incorporating electronics with acoustic instruments, have been performed by the likes of The Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Alarm Will Sound, Crash Ensemble, Chiara Quartet, City of London Sinfonia and Nordic Affect. Works for theatre and dance include music for directors Falk Richter and James Dacre, and choreographers Stephen Petronio, Pieter C. Scholten and Emio Greco. Valgeir has also written music for film and TV, including the environmental documentary *Draumalandið* (*Dreamland*) by Icelandic author Andri Snær Magnason, (from which the *Dreamland Suite for Orchestra* is his most frequently performed orchestral work). *Wide Slumber for Lepidopterists*, Valgeir’s opera based on text by Canadian poet a rawlings, was staged at the Reykjavík Arts Festival in 2014. Scored for three singers; Alexi Murdoch, Sasha Siem and Ásgerður Jónúsdóttir, *WSfL* won the Music Theatre Now 2016 award.

His career flourished in 1998 when he was hired by Björk as engineer and programmer for Lars Von Trier’s *Dancer in the Dark* soundtrack, a monumental project that combined Valgeir’s passion for electronic, orchestral and film music. The soundtrack’s “I’ve Seen It All,” Björk’s duet with Thom Yorke, was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Song. Valgeir’s musical relationship as one of Björk’s primary studio collaborators from 1998 to 2006 thrived through contributions to her albums *Selmasongs*, *Vespertine*, *Medúlla*, and *Drawing Restraint 9*. A prolific collaborator, he constantly works with others, having produced and mixed every Bedroom Community release as well as participating in production of albums with

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musicians such as Bonnie ‘Prince’ Billy, Feist, Anohni (Antony Hegarty), Tim Hecker, CocoRosie, Sasha Siem and Damon Albarn. Furthermore, his mastering credits include Oneohtrix Point Never, Alarm Will Sound and yMusic, to name a few.

In all of his projects, Valgeir bends and blends familiar sounds to expose the new within the known, lending depth to pop and mainstream music through care and an ear for esoteric, eclectic sonic experimentation. His aural oeuvre and collaborative contributions collide organic with synthetic, acoustic with digital, connection with isolation, and domestic with ethereal – resulting in a body of work ripe with emotion, curiosity, and humanity.



### **NICO MUHLY**

Nico Muhly (b. 1981) is a composer of chamber music, orchestral music, sacred music, opera, ballet, and music for collaborators across a variety of fields. He has composed on commission from St. Paul’s Cathedral and Carnegie Hall, and has written choral music for the Tallis Scholars and the Hilliard Ensemble, songs for Anne Sofie von Otter and Iestyn Davies, an encore for violinist Hilary Hahn, and a viola concerto for Nadia Sirota. The Metropolitan Opera recently commissioned him to compose *Marnie* for its 2019-2020 season, based on Winston Graham’s 1961 novel that was adapted into an Alfred Hitchcock movie.

Muhly has scored ballets for choreographer Benjamin Millepied and films including *The Reader* and *Kill Your Darlings*, in addition to arranging music by Antony & the Johnsons, Björk, Grizzly Bear, and the National. His debut album *Speaks Volumes* (2007) was the first of many collaborations with the artists of Reykjavik’s Bedroom Community label, and with singer/songwriter Thomas Bartlett (Doveman), he is half of the gamelan-inspired song project Peter Pears. He lives in New York City.



### **BEN FROST**

Born in 1980 in Melbourne, Australia, Ben Frost relocated to Reykjavík, Iceland in 2005, and working together with close friends Valgeir Sigurðsson and Nico Muhly, formed the Bedroom Community record label/collective.

His albums, including *Steel Wound* (2003), *Theory of Machines* (2007) and *BY THE THROAT* (2009) and *A U R O R A* (2014) fuse intensely structured sound art with militant post-classical electronic music, shape-shifting physical power with immersive melody, concentrated

minimalism with fierce, rupturing metal. In 2010 he was chosen by Brian Eno as part of the Rolex Mentor and Protégé program for a year of collaboration, one of the outcomes of which was *Sólaris*; a re-scoring of the Tarkovsky classic for Poland’s Sinfonietta Cracovia. Eno and Frost continue to work together.

Frost regularly works with other musicians and artists; in the production of studio albums such as Tim Hecker’s *Ravedeath 1972* and *Virgins*, Swans’ *The Seer*, Colin Stetson’s *New History Warfare* series, and on various Bedroom Community releases. On the stage, Frost has produced scores for choreographers including Wayne McGregor/Random Dance, Akram Khan, and German Director Falk Richter. In film, he composed the score for the Palme d’Or-nominated *Sleeping Beauty* by Julia Leigh, *Djúpið* by Icelandic Director Baltasar Kormákur (with Daníel Bjarnason, for which the pair won the Icelandic film award for best

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score in 2013) and the 2015 television series *Fortitude*.

And in the visual arts, where, with artist Richard Mosse, Frost travelled deep beyond the front lines of wartorn Eastern Congo to produce *The Enclave*; a multi-channel video and sound installation that premiered at the Venice Biennale in 2013. 2013 marked the première of Frost's first opera, based on Iain Banks' infamous 1984 novel *The Wasp Factory*. The project also marked his debut as a director.

These various collaborations and alliances underline Frost's continuing fascination with finding ways of juxtaposing music, rhythm, technology, the body, performance, text, art - beauty and violence - combining and coalescing the roles and procedures of various artistic disciplines in one place.

\* \* \*



### **SAM AMIDON**

Vermont-born singer and fiddle/banjo/guitar player Sam Amidon re-imagines traditional songs from the public domain, as well as the occasional contemporary pop song, and rearranges them into his own unique and mesmerizing compositions. A musician who glides through an unlikely set of genres including traditional folk, jazz and bluegrass, Amidon's "highly personal approach opens a window on the American past and lets us feel it like nothing else around." (NPR).

Amidon's Bedroom Community output includes two critically-acclaimed releases, 2008's *All Is Well* and 2010's *I See The Sign*. Amidon currently records for Nonesuch Records, where he has released *Bright Sunny South* (2013) and *Lily-O* (2014), a collaboration with the pioneering avant-jazz guitarist Bill Frisell. Amidon's long out-of-print debut *But This Chicken Proved Falsehearted* is a collaboration with Thomas Bartlett (aka Doveman) and has just been reissued by Omnivore Recordings.



### **NADIA SIROTA**

"A one-woman contemporary-classical commissioning machine" (*Pitchfork*), violist Nadia Sirota is best known for her singular sound and expressive execution, coaxing works and collaborations from the likes of Nico Muhly, Daniël Bjarnason, Valgeir Sigurðsson, Judd Greenstein, Marcos Balter, and Missy Mazzoli. Her debut album *First Things First* (New Amsterdam Records) was named a record of the year by the *New York Times*, and her follow-up *Baroque* (Bedroom Community and New Amsterdam) has been called "beautiful music of a higher order than anything else you will hear this year" by *SPINMedia* website *PopMatters*.

This season, Nadia premieres both a new concerto written for her by longtime collaborator Nico Muhly and a new podcast, *Meet the Composer* on Q2 Music, exploring the work of living composers through her interviews and musical selections. She was awarded the 2010 ASCAP Deems Taylor Award in Radio and Internet Broadcasting for her previous show on Q2 Music.

Nadia is a member of yMusic, Alarm Will Sound, and ACME (the American Contemporary Music Ensemble), and has lent her sound to recording and concert projects by such artists and songwriters as Grizzly Bear, Jónsi and Arcade Fire. In 2013 she won Southern Methodist University's Meadows Prize, awarded to pioneering artists and scholars with an emerging international profile. She received her undergraduate

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and Master's degrees from the Juilliard School, where she performed as co-founder of the AXIOM ensemble, initiated the Castleman/Amory/Huang studio's New Music Project, and created the Juilliard Plays Juilliard program for student composers and performers. After winning the top prize in Juilliard's 2005 concerto competition, Nadia performed Hindemith's *Der Schwanendreher* with conductor Marin Alsop and the Juilliard Orchestra in Alice Tully Hall. As a chamber musician, Nadia has collaborated with such artists as Joseph Kalichstein, Itzhak Perlman, and the Silk Road Ensemble, as well as with members of Kronos Quartet, the Chiara Quartet, and the Peabody Trio. In the fall of 2007, Nadia joined the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music for its new Masters Program in Contemporary Music Performance.

### **UNA SVEINBJARNARDOTTIR**

Una is concertmaster of Reykjavík Chamber Orchestra and she has premiered a number of new compositions as a soloist and chamber musician. She has played violin concertos of Beethoven, Shostakovich, Philip Glass, Atli Heimir Sveinsson, and Páll Ragnar Pálsson with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, and premiered the concertos of Sveinn Lúðvík Björnsson, Högni Egilsson and Kurt Weill in Iceland. Una has played on several recordings including those of Björk (*Homogenic*, *Vulnicura*), Bonnie Prince Billy and Jóhann Jóhannsson and collaborated with Ensemble Modern and Bedroom Community. She played in RSB Orchestra and Deutsche Oper in Berlin, has worked with Pierre Boulez, Krzysztof Penderecki, Mstislav Rostropovich, Marek Janowski and Heinz Holliger, and played as guest concertmaster in Bonn, Trondheim and Reykjavík. Una's first album *Fyrramál* was released in 2007 and her second, with her own compositions for solo violin, *Umleikis*, was recently released on her own label, Unaess. She is a founding member of Siggí String Quartet. Una plays a violin made by Camillo Camilli in 1732.

### **BORGAR MAGNASON**

Borgar Magnason is an Icelandic double bass player, improviser and composer. His areas of interest include putting music to moving images and collaborating with artists from other disciplines. A constant collaborator, Magnason has worked with a wide array of artists including film maker Guy Maddin, video artists 33 1/3, Húbert Núi, the Italian art duo Masbedo and Gabriela Friðriksdóttir. He has collaborated, performed or recorded with prominent musicians from a wide spectrum of musical styles from Elliott Carter to Sigurrós, from Howie B to Michel Legrand, Daníel Bjarnason to Brian Eno. In recent years he has formed close ties with Valgeir Sigurðsson and Ben Frost of the Bedroom Community through frequent collaborations. He is now working on a solo album with his own composed improvisations.

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### **LINKS**

- [www.bedroomcommunity.net](http://www.bedroomcommunity.net)
- [www.ethermachines.com](http://www.ethermachines.com)
- [www.samamidon.com](http://www.samamidon.com)
- [www.valgeir.net](http://www.valgeir.net)
- [www.nicomuhly.com](http://www.nicomuhly.com)
- [www.nadiasirota.com](http://www.nadiasirota.com)

BEDROOM  
COMMUNITY

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10 CELEBRATING  
10 YEARS  
OF BEDROOM  
COMMUNITY

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