

BLUME 024

**Ben Vida**  
Vocal Trio

Vida first emerged during the mid 1990s within a loose constellation of experimental musicians, centered around a performance series of improvised workshops at the Myopic Bookstore in Chicago, alongside Jim O'Rourke, Kevin Drumm, Chad Taylor, and the other future members of Town and Country – Jim Dorling, Joshua Abrams, and Liz Payne – the band within which he would gain widespread recognition over the following years. Like many other members of that scene, Vida remains a restless product of a fleeting context – Chicago during the 1990s and early 2000s – continuously undermining concrete notions of idiom and signifier within a practice that witnessed him rendering bristling abstractions within Pillow, glacial melodies with Town and Country, and the art-rock mayhem of Bird Show Band, before becoming immersed in a practice of systems-based synthesis, beginning in the late 2000s, that guided much of his first decade of output as a solo performer and composer.

At the core of the pulsing vocal drones that make up the durational abstraction of *Vocal Trio*, is Vida's regard for music as a social space. It is an experiment that seeks liberation through the act of collective music making, by challenging the terms through which the act of composing is perceived and then relinquishing control.

## BEN VIDA Vocal Trio

Label

**BLUME**

Format

**LP**

Catalog Number

**BLUME 024LP**

UPC

769791986527



Store Price

**\$20.79**

Release Date

**08/30/24**

Territory

**NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE**

Genre

**FILE UNDER - V - ELECTRONIC**

## DESCRIPTION

Since its founding back in 2014, Blume has carved a unique place in cultural landscape, issuing free-standing works, spanning the historical and contemporary, that represent singular gestures of creativity within the field of experimental sound. Joining their broad efforts in building networks of context and understanding, the label is now offering a brand new, ambitious work by the American composer **Ben Vida**, entitled *Vocal Trio*, conceived, performed, and recorded in Bremen, Germany, during the Spring of 2022. A truly stunning work of compositional conceptualism, combining the ideas of systems based synthesis with real-time vocal collaboration – issued in a highly limited vinyl edition of 200 copies mastered by **Stephan Mathieu**, featuring specially commissioned liner notes by **Bradford Bailey** and a leporello insert offering the piece visual score – it's a landmark in contemporary experimental practice and arguably the most forward-thinking and exciting piece by one of the most exciting American artists working today. *Vocal Trio* is a work that encounters Vida composing for the human voice with the ideas that allow for synthesis – transferring the underlying concepts and structures of both subtractive and additive synthesis to the acoustic realm – without using a synthesizer. During the Spring of 2022 Vida was in Bremen, Germany, collaborating on a dance piece with the choreographer **Fay Driscoll**, when the production fell into delays. Finding himself with time on his hands, a space at his disposal, and the company of two dancers – **Amy Gernux** and **Lotte Rudhart** – he set out to utilize the larynx as audio paths (multi-harmonic or harmonically pure) while conceptualizing each person's mouth as a filter to sculpt the timbre and resonance of a given tone. Considering how typographical scores might be developed into a non-linguistic social framework, Vida drafted a single page of text – what became the score for *Vocal Trio* – accompanied by a set of harmonic suggestion and loose parameters, seeking a core meaning from each word's phonic make-up by each of the three singers (Vida, Gernux and Rudhart) singing as slowly as possible. At the core of the pulsing vocal drones – intoxicating, harmonically rich long-tones – that make up the duration abstraction of *Vocal Trio*, is Vida's regard for music as a social space. It is an experiment that seeks liberation through the act of collective music making, by challenging the terms through which the act of composing is perceived and then relinquishing control.

## TRACKLISTING

A1. *Vocal Trio* Part 1 (18:48)B1. *Vocal Trio* Part 2 (16:48)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Blume is now offering a brand new, ambitious work by the American composer **Ben Vida**, entitled *Vocal Trio*, conceived, performed, and recorded in Bremen, Germany, during the Spring of 2022.
- *Vocal Trio* is a work that encounters Vida composing for the human voice with the ideas that allow for synthesis – transferring the underlying concepts and structures of both subtractive and additive synthesis to the acoustic realm – without using a synthesizer.
- Featuring singers **Amy Gernux** and **Lotte Rudhart**.

Also available:

(SHELTER 038LP) VIDA, BEN: *Slipping Control* LP [769791952799](SHELTER 075LP) VIDA, BEN: *Damaged Particulates* LP [769791964228]**Press Contact:** [publicity@forcedexposure.com](mailto:publicity@forcedexposure.com)

Exclusively Distributed by

**FORCED EXPOSURE**

60 Lowell St, Arlington, MA 02476  
ph: (781) 321-0320 • fx: (781) 321-0321  
fe@forcedexposure.com