



Nour Mobarak

Dafne Phono



Nour Mobarak's *Dafne Phono* is an adaptation of the first opera, *Dafne*, composed and written by Jacopo Peri and Ottavio Rinuccini in 1598. Drawing on the myth of Daphne and Apollo from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*—a story of unrequited love, patriarchal possession, conquest, and transformation—Mobarak's multimedia and multispecies reimagining splinters the opera's Italian libretto. Alongside English and Greek versions, it is translated into some of the world's most phonetically complex languages—Abkhaz, San Juan Quiahije Eastern Chatino, Silbo Gomero, and !Xoon. In this process, the narrative—and an artifact of Western culture—is dismantled, metabolized, and rendered into unruly utterances that shape the sensorium as much as they do the capacity for sense-making. These voices are given material form by a cast of mycelium sonic sculptures whose rhizomatic compositions and broadcasted recordings resemble the formation and mutation of language over time, reconstituting speech into a new, polyphonic body politic, composed of voices whose striking, poetic utterances transfix and transcend meaning.

The A-Side of the record presents a stereo version of Mobarak's 15-channel sound installation, *Dafne Phono*. The B-Side uses a recording of a portion of the translation process the libretto underwent in Namibia, live-processed by the artist.

Dafne Phono is released in tandem with a book of the same name featuring a preface by Mobarak, three libretti, and an essay by Anahid Nersessian, published by Wendy's Subway [<https://www.wendysubway.com/>]. A limited number of copies are available for bundled purchase with the book.

The LP and book are published on the occasion of Nour Mobarak's exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art, New York (October 26, 2024–January 12, 2025), with support from Sylvia Kouvali.

Artist: Nour Mobarak

Title: Dafne Phono

Publisher: Recital

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Format: LP + Poster

Release Date: October 18th, 2024

Purchase: <https://recitalprogram.bandcamp.com/album/dafne-phono>

Distro / Press: seantristanmccann@gmail.com

- Limited edition LP of 200pc in full color jacket
- Fold out double-sided 18" x 24" poster
- 9" x 4" card with graphic and credits

Artist Bio:

Nour Pamela Mobarak (Lebanese-American, b. 1985, Cairo, Egypt) lives and works between Los Angeles; Bainbridge Island; and Athens, Greece. Her works have been shown at Sylvia Kouvali (formerly Rodeo), London/Piraeus; Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin; MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, MA; Amant, Brooklyn; JOAN, Los Angeles; Kim? Contemporary Art Centre, Riga; Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York; Hakuna Matata, Los Angeles; and Cubitt Gallery, London. Exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and Castello di Tivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin, are forthcoming. She has performed at Western Front, Vancouver; 2220, the Hammer Museum, and LAXART, Los Angeles; Cafe OTO, London; Renaissance Society, Chicago; the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; and elsewhere. Her music has been released by Recital (Los Angeles), Cafe OTO's TakuRoku (London), and Ultra Eczema (Antwerp), and she has had sessions on BBC Radio 3, NTS Radio, and Dublab Radio. Mobarak's writing has been published in Triple Canopy, F.R. David, The Claudius App, and the Salzburg Review, and her first catalog, *Sphere Studies and Subterranean Bounce* was published by Recital (2021). She has held residencies at Denniston Hill, New York and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, and was the recipient of the 2023 FOCA fellowship award. Mobarak was a 2024 faculty at Bard College MFA program.

