



Photo Credit: Erin Baiano

[DOWNLOAD ASSETS](#)

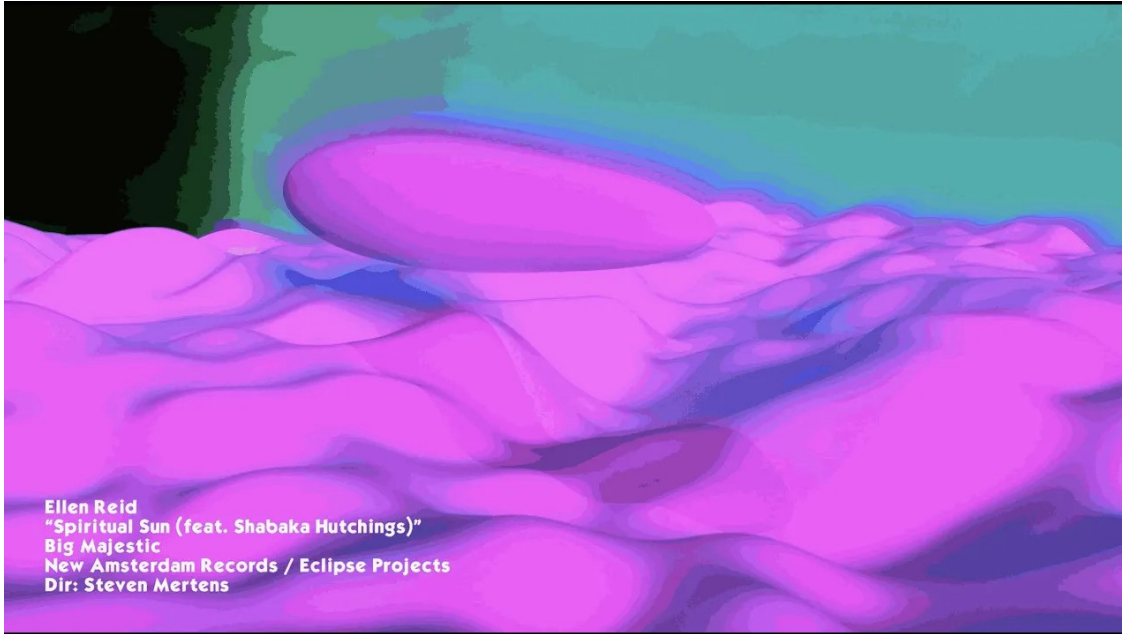
Today, Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Ellen Reid** — best known for her “*ineffably moving*” (**LA Times**) works that span opera, sound design, film scoring, avant-pop, and more — shares “**Spiritual Sun**,” the latest preview from **Big Majestic** (out August 30 via **New Amsterdam / Eclipse Projects**), her new album that assembles work from [Ellen Reid SOUNDWALK](#), the acclaimed public art project that reimagines urban parks as interactive soundscapes that move through ambient, jazz, post-rock, and minimalism.

Listen to “**Spiritual Sun**” [HERE](#) and preorder **Big Majestic** [HERE](#).

Accompanying Reid on “**Spiritual Sun**” is the musician and composer **Shabaka Hutchings**, “*arguably the brightest star of London’s surging jazz scene*” (**Pitchfork**) known not only for his own records but for collaborations with **Lianne La Havas**, **Floating Points**, **Carlos Niño**, **Esperanza Spalding**, **Saul Williams** and so many more

Says Reid of “**Spiritual Sun**”: “*Creating Spiritual Sun was a joyous in-studio collaboration with Shabaka Hutchings. He so artfully inhabited the sonic structure I created, building multi-voiced*

shakuhachi counterpoint, line by line, in a series of dazzling first takes. I was inspired to find ways to hold his performance in a neon embrace, expanding the synth lines to surround his flutes."



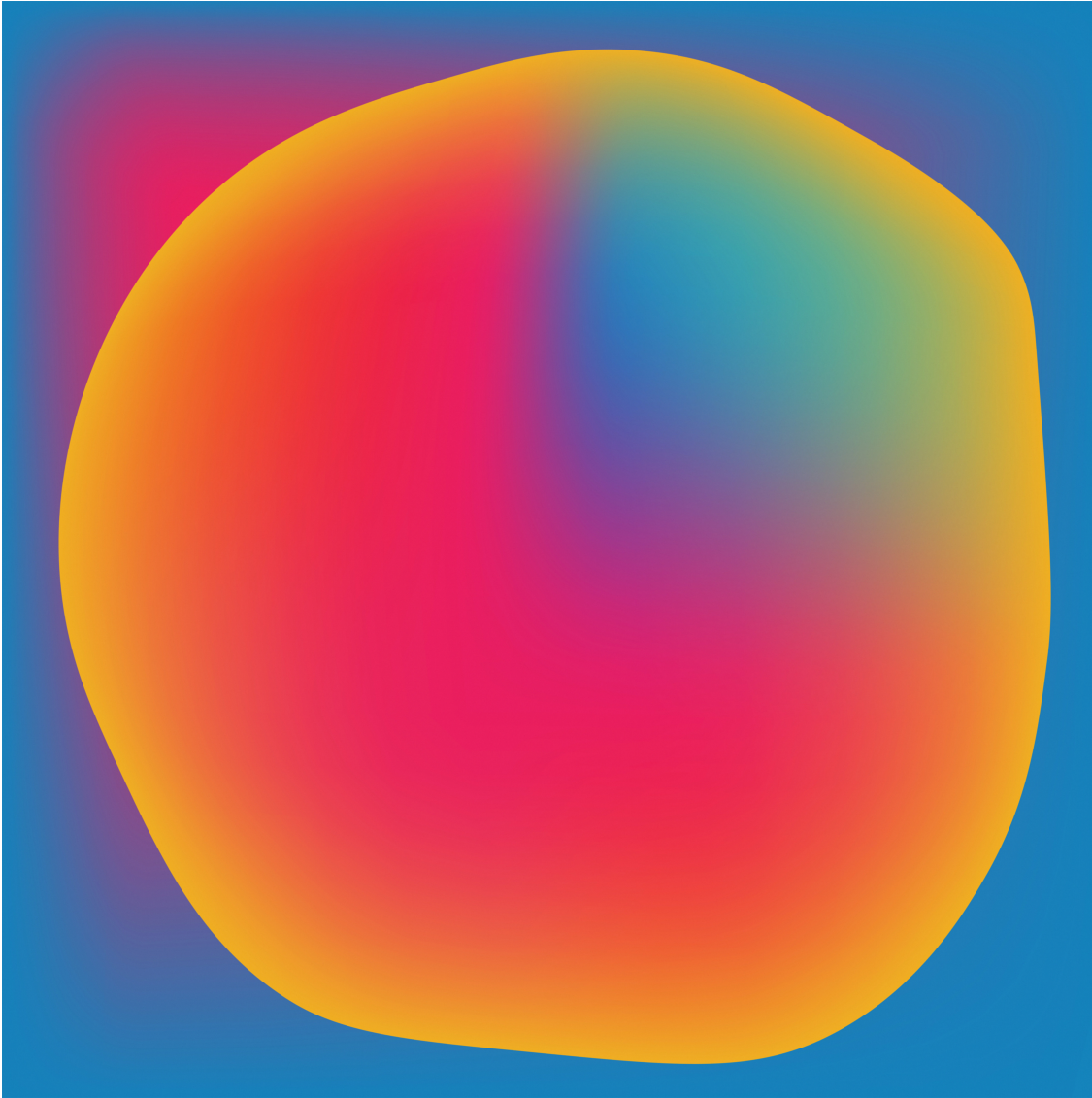
[Ellen Reid — Spiritual Sun \(feat. Shabaka Hutchings\) \(Visualizer\)](#)

Directed by Steven Mertens

Influenced by the likes of **Brian Eno**, **Nala Sinephro**, **Kamasi Washington**, and **Air**, **Big Majestic** — which features additional contributions from **Kronos Quartet**, **James McVinnie**, **Lisel**, and **Nadia Sirota** — is vivid and evocative. Even divorced from the *SOUNDWALK* installations, these works capture the essence of the urban oases that inspired them — iconic spaces including New York's Central Park, Los Angeles's Griffith Park, London's Regent's Park & Primrose Hill, and Tokyo's Ueno Park — with a magical realist flair.

["Spiritual Sun" featuring Shabaka Hutchings is out now, buy/stream it here.](#)

[Big Majestic LP is out August 30, preorder it here](#)



Big Majestic assembles music from [Ellen Reid SOUNDWALK](#), a GPS-enabled work of public art that reimagines urban parks as interactive soundscapes. *SOUNDWALK* premiered in New York's Central Park, and expanded to urban parkland around the world, including Los Angeles's Griffith Park, London's Regent's Park & Primrose Hill, and Tokyo's Ueno Park. It won acclaim not only for its inventive premise and enveloping execution — [The Washington Post](#) praised it as “*an intoxicating musical adventure*” — but for its newfound utility during the socially-distanced height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, with **Big Majestic**, Reid proves that these works stand on their own divorced from their site-specific presentations, and arranges them to provide an immersive and cohesive arc. Influenced by the likes of **Brian Eno**, **Nala Sinephro**, **Kamasi Washington**, **Air**, and **Floating Points**, Reid is bold and graceful, bringing placid atmospheres into ominous complication with the subtlety of the sun moving across the sky. Vivid and evocative, these works capture the essence of the urban oases that inspired them with a magical realist flair.

To bring these disparate sonic locales to life, Reid calls upon a cast of luminaries from across the musical spectrum to deliver indelible performances. **Kronos Quartet** soar above desert vistas on “*West Coast Sky Forever*,” **Shabaka Hutchings** launches into kaleidoscopic shakuhachi and tenor saxophone meditations on “*Spiritual Sun*” and “*Primrose Hill*,” **James McVinnie** embarks on an electrifying synth organ epic on “*Blue Sky | Mirrored Glass*,” and the otherworldly voice of **Lisel** beckons the listener into the unknown on both renditions of “*Pavilion In The Trees*.”

At times mystical and psychedelic or solemn and reverent, ***Big Majestic*** is a generous and transportative album. Throughout, Reid revels in the freedom of space and the power of gesture — crafting a marvelous and versatile work that does justice to these beloved and wondrous natural sanctuaries.

Track Listing

1. Big Majestic
2. Spiritual Sun (feat. Shabaka Hutchings)
3. Interlude
4. Pavilion in the Trees (feat. Lisel)
5. Strawberry Hill Ascent (feat. Kronos Quartet)
6. Sunrise in Central Park
7. Alone On Mulholland
8. West Coast Sky Forever (feat. Kronos Quartet)
9. Primrose Hill (feat. Shabaka Hutchings)
10. Strawberry Hill Descent (feat. Nadia Sirota and Gabriel Cabezas)
11. Sunset in Ueno Park
12. Blue Sky | Mirrored Glass (feat. James McVinnie)
13. Pavilion in the Trees Pt. 2 (feat. Lisel)
14. Mt. Lee + Step Lightly Now (feat. Riley Mulherkar)

Album Credits

Kronos Quartet
Shabaka Hutchings, shakuhachi & saxophone
Alex Sopp, flute
Joshua Rubin, clarinet
Rachel Drehmann, horn
Riley Mulherkar, trumpet
Sidney Hopson, percussion
Kyle Poole, drums
Lisel, voice
Ashley Jackson, harp
James McVinnie, synth organ
Mathis Picard, piano
Ellen Reid, synthesizer
Mona Tian, violin
Nadia Sirota, viola
Gabriel Cabezas, cello
Russell Hall, bass

Produced by Ellen Reid, James Lemkin & Nadia Sirota

Recorded remotely by the musicians.

Shabaka Hutchings recorded by Lewis Pesacov at Sunset Sound, Los Angeles

Mixed and Mastered by Valgeir Sigurðsson at Greenhouse Studios, Reykjavík

Artwork by Simon Dargan at Playtime Studio, Los Angeles

Executive Producer - Eclipse Projects

Stay connected with **Ellen Reid**:

[Website](#) | [Instagram](#)

About Ellen Reid

Ellen Reid is an American composer and sound artist whose breadth of work spans opera, sound design, film scoring, avant-pop, ensemble, and choral writing. She was awarded the **Pulitzer Prize in Music** for her opera, [p r i s m](#) in 2019. Reid's orchestral work has been performed by the **New York Philharmonic**, **Boston Symphony Orchestra**, and **Los Angeles Philharmonic**, among many others.

Reid has composed crackling, lyrical film scores in collaboration with A24, Amazon Studios, and the **Duplass Brothers Productions**. Reid recently released the album [Isomonstrosity](#), an avant-pop collaboration with artists **Johan Lenox** and **Yuga Cohler** that paired the modern production aesthetics of hip-hop with vocal chamber music.

In 2016, Reid co-founded [Luna Composition Lab](#) with composer **Missy Mazzoli**, an organization that provides mentorship, education, and resources for young female, nonbinary, and gender-nonconforming composers. It is the only initiative of its kind in the United States.

Born in Oak Ridge, Tennessee in 1983, Ellen Reid received her BFA from Columbia University and her MA from California Institute of the Arts. Reid serves as the Contemporary Music Chair of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and she is currently the first composer to be in residence with both Amsterdam's Concertgebouw Concert Hall and Concertgebouw Orchestra simultaneously. She continues to live and work in New York City and Los Angeles.

About New Amsterdam

New Amsterdam is a Brooklyn-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit artist's service organization dedicated to supporting new music by composers and performers whose work transcends traditional and outdated genre distinctions. The label's artists have won numerous awards and accolades, including two Grammy Awards, seventeen Grammy nominations, and a Pulitzer Prize. New Amsterdam has also curated and presented more than 500 live concerts of groundbreaking new music. In recent years, the label embarked on a partnership with Nonesuch Records, seeing the release of approximately three albums per year to support contemporary American composers in realizing ambitious creative projects.