



**THEATRICAL STAGE POEM AND ALBUM TITLED, *ÉLÉGIE*,
COMPOSED AND PERFORMED BY CELLISTA
FEATURING "WHERE IS MY MIND?" BY FRANK BLACK
COMES OUT ON MARCH 23, 2024
AERIAL CELLO PERFORMANCES
IN THE U.S. THIS WINTER AND SPRING,
AND LONDON IN JUNE**

January 18, 2024 (Los Angeles) — *Élégie*, the theatrical stage poem and the accompanying album by **Cellista**, comes out on March 23, 2024 (Juxtapositions). Four live performances are confirmed in the U.S. and one for London, England in June. First live event takes place on Thursday, January 25th at [NECCA](#) in Brattleboro, VT. A full live staging of *Élégie* will debut Saturday, March 23rd at Dairy Center for the Arts in Boulder, Colorado.

In signature **Cellista** style, *Élégie* defies standard categorization. The one-hour stage poem follows the story of *Élégie*, a blackbird who shape shifts into human form and back, in her journey she finds serenity. "I am a performer who doesn't believe in the stage," says **Cellista**. "I am about bringing people together. The separation a stage creates between the artist and the audience is counterproductive to that goal."

The album is a collection of **Cellista**'s work spanning the last few years and includes original compositions from her albums *Finding San Jose* and *RAGE*, with a couple of new works written for the project, as well as a re-working of the hit song "Where Is My Mind?" by Frank Black. *Élégie* is directed and performed by **Cellista**. Choreography is by **Cellista**, **Kennedy Kabasares**, and **Joel Baker**. The film was edited by **Jennifer Gigantino**, with cinematography by **Bryan Gibel**.

In preparation for the aerial work featured in the live staging of *Élégie*, **Cellista** trained intensively at the **New England Center for Circus Arts** (NECCA). "At **NECCA**, I have my community of circus friends, I train nearly 35 hours a week. I work with **Elsie Smith** to grow my static trapeze foundation," **Cellista** explains. "The circus arts have helped me develop a healthier relationship



with my body. It's the first time in my life, I have cared about what I put into my body, about getting rest, and finally learning to cherish this vessel."

"**Cellista** is a unique artist," says **Elsie Smith**, co-founder of **NECCA** and **Nimble Arts** and **Gemini Trapeze**. "From music to circus to visual art and the crafted word, **Élégie** is a full package experience, a feast for the audience." **Kennedy Kabasares** adds "Freya's physicality in the air deftly mirrors what her character is going through in her mind and heart."

The work is inherently and unapologetically feminist. **Cellista** says "Since I've been self-producing every aspect of my stage poems since 2014 I've been able to hire women and BIPOC. My projects reflect the communities I live in. My subjects are all women and there's always a touch of autobiographical impulse. As a woman in my early 40s, I realized how daring it was to do a project like **Élégie**, which is so demanding of my body and mind. In every aspect my body defies the stereotypes, both ageist and sexist, of others. I can't think of anything more radical than creating something on your own and declaring: My story matters."

Cellista performed at the **Lincoln Center** in 2021, the same year she released and staged **Pariah**, an operatic fairy tale which features a companion book by the philosopher **Frank Seeburger**. It explores themes of othering and exile. She is a sought after collaborator and has worked with Grammy-nominated artist **Tanya Donnelly**, producer **John Vanderslice**, **Troyboi**, **Don McLean**, **Casey Crescenzo (The Dear Hunter)**, **Van Dyke Parks**, **Tony! Toni! Toné!** and **Pam the Funkstress**. Her compositions and performances have been heard on film and television including **PBS**. She recently composed music for the true-crime reality show **The Real Murders of Orange County**.

Cellista is a former chapter governor of the **Recording Academy** (GRAMMYS) and a former San Jose arts commissioner. She received a masters in business from the **Berklee College of Music** in 2020. She is the founding artistic director of **House of Cellista** in Longmont, Colorado: a micro-center for the arts which advocates for and offers subsidized housing to working artists.

Cellista Live Performance Itinerary:

Thursday, January 25th at [NECCA](#) in Brattleboro, VT

Saturday, March 23rd *debut of **Élégie*** at [Dairy Center for the Arts](#) in Boulder, CO

Saturday, April 13th at Anno Domini Gallery in San Jose, CA

Saturday, April 27th at Highways Performance Space in Santa Monica, CA

Friday, June 7th at Jacksons Lane in London, UK

Élégie track list:

1. Antes Era Huertos (Song For Tulio)
2. St. James Park
3. **Élégie** - A Love Letter Found on an Altar
4. A Conversation At Trials
5. Interlude I (Mon Voisin)
6. Where Is My Mind?
7. Interlude II (No Hope)
8. For Ferlinghetti
9. For S.
10. Descent
11. Shame
12. It Used To Be Orchards



13. Louange à l'Eternité de Jésus
14. Fountain Alley
15. Finding San José
16. Lament

Tracks 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 16 of *Élégie* were tracked by **Cellista** for Chez Cellista Studios, San Jose, CA. Track 2 includes field recordings by **Cellista** sampled from the **Paris Métro Châtelet – Les Halles Line And Stalag VIIIA** in Görlitz, Germany. Track 4 was tracked by **Shawn Alpay** for Tiny Telephone Recording, San Francisco, CA. Track 13 was tracked by **Brad K. Dollar** (BMI) for Zoo Labs, Oakland, CA. Track 15 piano was tracked by **Shawn Alpay**, Tiny Telephone rotary dial tracked by **Beau Sorenson** for Tiny Telephone Recording, narration tracked by **Rykarda Parasol** (BMI). All tracks originally mixed by **Maryam Qudus**, track 13 mixed by **Brad K. Dollar**, track 10 mixed by **Cellista**. All tracks mastered by **Beau Sorenson** except 3, 9, 10. Tracks 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13 were remixed by **Nahuel Bronzini** for the stage poem *Élégie*.



Artwork by: Joseph Loughborough.
Cover design by: Ryan Calloway.

Visit Cellista online:

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IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm9054811/>
Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cellista>

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To request interviews or press materials for Cellista please contact Fly PR via email at flypr@flypr.net or buzz@flypr.net or call us at T. (323) 667-1344.