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Shakespeare's garden

*an immersive sound stroll through
his sonnets, soliloquies, and scenes*

Shakespeare's Garden

An Immersive Sound Stroll Through His Sonnets, Soliloquies, and Scenes

From Amanda Nelson, Creator and Co-Director; Natasha Staley, Co-Director; Charles Nichols, Composer; Meaghan Dee, Motion Graphics and Graphic Designer; and Tanner Upthegrove, Technical Director and Multimedia Technologist:

Explore Shakespeare's Garden. Visit each of the five installations to hear sonnets, soliloquies, and scenes. Wander the Garden soundscapes and listen to the music of nature. Gaze at the images around you.

Projections incorporate the Shakespeare texts and integrate images and videos relating to the shifting of the seasons—blooming flowers, cool rains, and a windy moonlit evening (visit installations 2, 3, and 4). The typeface used in the projections is Garamond, which was designed by Claude Garamond in 1540 and would have been in widespread use during Shakespeare's lifetime.

Composer Charles Nichols created each of the four ambient Garden Soundscapes by processing field recordings of nature, including a babbling brook, wind creaking trees, a field of cicadas, a woodpecker pecking, and a robin singing—to create musical harmonies, rhythms, and textures. Nichols also processed a studio recording of a scene between *A Midsummer Night's Dream* characters Puck and Fairy, smearing the text to produce a dreamlike conversation that periodically sweeps throughout the Garden Soundscapes using spatial audio.

During the actor rehearsal process, we discovered that by weaving two individual sonnets together they told a new story: listen to a “Sonnet Scene” at installations 2, 3, and 5.

Installation texts are on a continuous loop. You may arrive at a station in the midst of a soliloquy, sonnet, or scene. Linger and stay at the Shakespeare Station to hear the complete texts.

Shakespeare Installation 1:

As You Like It

Act II, Sc I

Duke Senior – Ryan Chapman

Shakespeare Installation 2:

Sonnet 130 & Sonnet 18

Sonnet Scene performed by –

William Jefferson and Leah Alpaugh

Shakespeare Installation 3:

Sonnet 98 & Sonnet 99

Sonnet Scene performed by –

Dani Beggan and Makayla Tobler Allen

Shakespeare Installation 4:

The Merchant of Venice

Act V, Sc i

Lorenzo – Andrew Bartee

Jessica – Sara Gehl

Shakespeare Installation 5:

Sonnet 12 & Sonnet 73

Sonnet Scene performed by –

Mary Pat Gilliam and Catherine McMullan

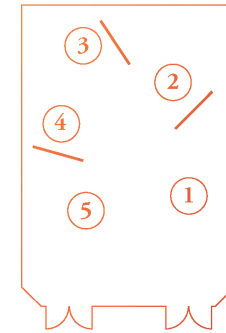
Spatial Audio:

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Act II, Sc i

Robin Goodfellow (Puck) – Cheyenne Clevenger

Fairy – Erin Atienza



We invite you to post, tweet, text, and snap as you wander through the garden!

#shakesgarden

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The Office of the Arts is a division of the department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities of the City of Alexandria. All sponsorship is provided to the Office of the Arts. Learn how to become a sponsor at www.alexandriava.gov/arts. Shakespeare's Garden was first produced in *The Cube* at Virginia Tech in 2018. In addition to those credited above, the original installation included the following collaborators: Joe Court, recording engineer; John Ambrosone, lighting designer; Jamie Lindsay, project manager; Joseph Fry, technical director; and Kate Murphy, production advisor. The original installation was supported by the following entities at Virginia Tech: Center for Humanities, School of Performing Arts, School of Visual Arts, and the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology (ICAT), and through a grant from the Voice and Speech Trainers Associations (VASTA).