



A Play with Music
By Kate Soper
Music by Ludwig van Beethoven and Kate Soper

Four people meet at an audiology conference, variously seeking to safeguard, infiltrate, fix, and fathom the sense of hearing. As they wrestle with bioethics and aesthetics, they are accompanied at every moment by a string quartet which functions as a multivalent fifth character: a diegetic chamber ensemble, a sound effects generator, a source of incidental music, and a conduit for the late quartets of Ludwig van Beethoven, the most famous sufferer of hearing loss in Western history. Perception, identity, and the inviolability of inner experience are called into question in a provocative exploration of listening, hearing, and what it means to truly communicate.

CAST: four actors

ENSEMBLE: string quartet (two violins, viola, cello)

RUNTIME: approximately 90 minutes (no intermission)

"The composer, singer, and theatre artist Kate Soper is one of the great originals of her generation – a maker of erudite entertainments that inhabit a self-invented realm."
(New Yorker magazine)

KATE SOPER is a Pulitzer Prize-nominated composer, writer and performer. Her critically acclaimed operas with original librettos include *Here Be Sirens* (2014), *IPSA DIXIT* (2017), and *The Romance of the Rose* (2021). As a composer, she has been commissioned by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the American Composers Orchestra, the Mivos Quartet, and others. As a writer of fiction and nonfiction, she has been published by McSweeney's Quarterly Concern, The Massachusetts Review, The Journal of Interdisciplinary Voice Studies, and Theory and Practice. She is a co-director of the NYC-based Wet Ink Ensemble.