# Into the Abyss

Instrument Builders, Co-Composers, and Performers (in alphabetical order):
Caleb Bittenbender, Ivica Ico Bukvic, Kieran Casey, Jackson Famolari, Kai Lin, Jacob Alan Smith, and Caden Vandervort

Developed and Directed by the L2Ork Founder and Director Ivica Ico Bukvic

Program Notes:
"Into the Abyss" is the first collaborative work composed and performed using a new platform for synchronous synthesis-based instrument design, improvisation, composition, rehearsal, and performance. Every aspect of the work is devised collaboratively, including instrument design, structure, and performance.

The work portrays a metaphorical journey of facing one's fears and taking that very first leap of faith off a cliff into a deep water well below. With a thundering splash, a terrifying freefall suddenly transforms into a soothing weightlessness, a life-changing experience that makes us question our own limits. Inspired by the COVID-19 crisis, this metaphor in many ways reflects the motivation behind the piece and the supporting infrastructure.

About L2Ork:
Named as one of the top six national transdisciplinary exemplars (a2ru, 2015), and one of the top eight research projects at Virginia Tech (DCist, 2014), a contemporary multimedia ensemble Linux Laptop Orchestra or L2Ork (pronounced as 'lohrk'), explores unique form of collaboration found in the western classical orchestra through the use of innovative human-computer interaction technologies for the purpose of exploring an integrative approach to design, engineering, arts, and science.

Founded by Dr. Ivica Ico Bukvic in May 2009, L2Ork is part of the interdisciplinary initiative by the Virginia Tech Digital Interactive Sound & Intermedia Studio (DISIS) and the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology (ICAT). As the world's first Linux-based laptop orchestra incorporating extensive study of gesture and Taiji (Tai Chi) choreography and other extended performance techniques L2Ork offers optimal infrastructure for creative research at minimal cost. By providing a seamless integration of arts and sciences it is in part designed to bridge the gap between STEM and the Arts, with particular focus on K-12 education.

Since its inception, L2Ork has helped start seven laptop orchestras in North and South Americas, many of which rely heavily on its affordable design. L2Ork's infrastructural backbone Pd-L2Ork visual programming environment with its unique K-12 learning module has been utilized in dozens of K-12 Maker workshops, including the 2014

Raspberry Pi Orchestra summer gifted program and is currently used around the world by thousands of artists, designers, researchers, and educators. In 2020, the ensemble introduced L2Ork Tweeter, its new free and open-source online platform for collaborative instrument design, ideation, improvisation, composition, rehearsal, and performance.

http://l2ork.music.vt.edu