

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

## Mot & Chandon debuts "Your Voices" celebration for holidays

December 6, 2022



*"Your Voices" by British artist Es Devlin is at the axis around which Mot & Chandon's holiday event revolves. Image Credit: Mot & Chandon*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

It is difficult to imagine two traditions more synonymous with the New York holiday season than Champagne and massive displays of light.

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This year, with its holiday celebration, Mot & Chandon will help New York preserve what is the oldest and most universal tradition of all language with a large-scale light installation, performances from multilingual choirs and a donation to New York's Endangered Language Alliance (ELA).

Founded in 1743, **Mot & Chandon** is part of the LVMH conglomerate.

Words' worth

The centerpiece of the event is "Your Voices," a large-scale interactive sculpture by British artist and stage designer **Es Devlin**. It consists of 700 glowing cords stretched across a series of archs. Each cord represents a language spoken by residents of New York, from Algerian to Zulu.

Visitors are invited to stand in the center of the structure while the archs rotate around them in a trajectory that moves from north to south, from east to west.

Also swirling around participants will be a soundscape of recorded voices reading an excerpt from E.M. Forster's 1910 novel, "Howard's End," which itself deals with creating connections across chasms of class and culture.

"Only connect the prose and the passion, and both will be exalted, and human love will be seen at its highest. Live in fragments no longer," say each voice in a different language.

Ms. Devlin's previous works have similarly enveloped participants in light, language, literature and the universal experiences that unite humans. Her 2019 work 'Memory Palace' shows the inside of a 360-degree sculpture, representative of the ways in which peoples' perspectives have evolved over 73 millennia.

'Forest of Us' (2021) was a mirrored maze that drew comparison between the anatomical structures within humans that allow for breathing and the trees that provide oxygen.

Ms. Devlin has received several major honors for her works including several Emmy awards for designing both singer Adele's filmed performance at Griffith Park in Los Angeles, and hip hop artist Dr. Dre's 2022 Superbowl Halftime Show.

The cross-cultural connections continue with performances from several multilingual choirs from around New York.

The Harlem Japanese Gospel Choir and the Ukrainian Village Voices will be among the performers as will Our Chorus NYC, which describes itself as a non-sectarian community chorus dedicated to acceptance and inclusivity. The Cardinal Hayes Singers, the Jalopy Chorus and the Schiller Institute NYC Chorus are also scheduled to perform.

Speaking in tongues

Through its initiative "Toast for a Cause," Mot & Chandon will make a donation to the [Endangered Language Alliance](#) (ELA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving global languages spoken in New York.

Consisting of linguists, language activists and language lovers, ELA works to support linguistic diversity in New York and beyond by documenting indigenous, minority and endangered languages.

Another large-scale language-based work is "The Worlds We Speak" by artist Mariam Ghani, a permanent installation at Delta's new LaGuardia terminal that is based on ELA's language map.

Choral performances will take place at Lincoln Center Plaza on Fridays, Saturdays and Sunday evenings from Dec. 6-Dec. 18, and are free and open to the public. A limited number of attendees will receive gift-boxes.

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