



Watershed Program

String Quartet No. 5, "White Water"

Joan Tower
(b. 1938)

String Quintet No. 1, "My River Runs to Thee" [World Premiere]
Commissioned in honor of Friends of the Mad River

Evan Premo
(b. 1985)
Text: Emily Dickinson

- I. Welcome Me: *rainfall and recharge*
- II. From Spotted Nooks: *groundwater, springs, and rivulets*
- III. River Runs: *rivers, sinuosity, and flood waters*
- IV. Blue Sea: *lakes, oceans, and a prayer*

Waterfall

Bryan Blanchette
(b. 1963)

Tobatne

Blanchette
Lyrics: Julie Jennings

Canoe Song

Blanchette
Lyrics: Stephen Tingley

Feast Song

Traditional Mi'kmaq

Water is Rising

Blanchette

Bryan Blanchette, guitar and voice
Aeolus Quartet: Nicholas Tavani, violin; Rachel Shapiro, violin; Caitlin Lynch, viola; Schuler Slack, cello
Evan Premo, double bass
Mary Bonhag, soprano

Lyrics translated from Abenaki

Waterfall:

Hello Indian child inside of me
Hello Indian child stand beside me

Canoe Song:

As we paddle up stream to the St. Francis River
Inside the birch bark canoe
This is the Indian way of travel
We travel by canoes to our hunting and fishing

Our skies arrive like the heartbeat of our nation
For we are always hidden in the forest
May they paddle forever
Canoe Song
May they paddle forever
For we are always hidden in the forest.

Water is Rising:

Water is rising we can see the tides
Water is rising we can here the lies

Artist Bios

Bryan Blanchette is a 21st century Abenaki artist. He brings 10,000 year old traditions into music and performance into a 21st century setting. A contemporary song may be sung in an Algonquian language, or a traditional pow wow song might be fused with a Euro American musicology. His music is the continuation of millenniums of music tradition of the land that flourished before America was America. Beautiful music and Abenaki heritage combine to create one of New England's most original artists. Bryan plays multiple instruments, writes his own music and lyrics, and sings with a powerful, captivating Abenaki warrior voice. Bryan is a New England native and member of the Nulhegan Band of the Abenaki tribe. He studied music at Berklee College of Music, began pow wow drumming in 1996, and writing Abenaki language songs in 1998. His group, The Blackhawk Singers, have performed internationally to critical acclaim and have released two CDs. Bryan currently lives in N'dakinna, the Abenaki homeland, Graniteville, Vermont.

The **Aeolus Quartet** is committed to presenting both time-seasoned masterworks and new cutting-edge works to widely diverse audiences with equal freshness, dedication, and fervor. The Aeolus Quartet has been awarded prizes at nearly every major competition in the United States and performed across the globe with showings "worthy of a major-league quartet" (Scott Cantrell, Dallas Morning News). They were the 2013-2015 Graduate Resident String Quartet at the Juilliard School, and they currently make their home in New York City. The Aeolus Quartet has released two critically acclaimed albums of classical and contemporary works through the Longhorn/Naxos label which are available on iTunes, Amazon, and major retailers worldwide. Part of an ongoing series entitled Many-Sided Music, these albums promote the diversity and breadth of works by American composers. The Aeolus Quartet's numerous honors include Grand Prize at both the Plowman Chamber Music Competition and the Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition, as well as First Prize at the Coleman International Chamber Ensemble Competition. They were also prizewinners at the Fischhoff International Chamber Music Competition and the International Chamber Music Ensemble Competition in New England. The Quartet has performed across North America, Europe, and Asia in venues such as Alice Tully Hall, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Reinberger Recital Hall at Severance Hall, The Library of Congress, Renwick Gallery, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and the Shanghai Oriental Arts Center.

The "extraordinary" (*Classical Voice N. America*) soprano **Mary Bonhag** captivates audiences around the country with her "marvelous versatility" and "supple, expressive" voice (*San Antonio News*). As a new music specialist, Mary was featured on Resonant Bodies Festival and has sung with 21st Century Consort and San Francisco Contemporary Players. She has premiered or commissioned works by Lembit Beecher, Susan Botti, Evan Premo, Shawn Jaeger, Eliza Brown, Evan Chambers, and C. Curtis Smith. In demand from Carnegie Hall to rustic barns, Mary connects with audiences, drawing them deeply into the music. She frequently performs with Aizuri Quartet, Aeolus Quartet, Decoda, Spektral Quartet and has been featured across the country at chamber music festivals including Cactus Pear (TX), Five Boroughs Festival, Stanford Live, and Yellow Barn. She is co-Artistic Director of Scrag Mountain Music with her husband, composer/double bassist Evan Premo. Mary has presented thought provoking art song recitals at Dartmouth, Smith, Goucher Colleges, and the University of Vermont. She attended SongFest and Tanglewood, where she received the Grace B. Jackson Prize. Mary has been featured on the NPR show Performance Today and appears on Albany Records.

Double Bassist / Composer **Evan Premo** creates heart-centered music that inspires audiences and musicians alike. His music has been commissioned by the Pittsburgh Symphony Chamber Orchestra, River Town Duo, Owen Dalby, the International Society of Bassists, Diana Gannett, Paul Dwyer, The Pine Mountain Music Festival, Capitol City Concerts, and the Montpelier Chamber Orchestra. Evan is a member of Decoda with which he has performed in residencies around the world including four he led in Abu Dhabi, UAE. As a member of Ensemble Connect, Evan has performed in concerts at Carnegie Hall and participated in residencies in Spain and Germany. As a chamber musician, he has performed at summer music festivals throughout the country and has been featured on National Public Radio's Performance Today. Evan recently took part in the New Music on the Point summer festival in Leicester, Vermont and is actively involved with the Community Engagement Lab, working with local Vermont students to create new music. Evan resides in Vermont where he is active teaching and performing and is Founder co-Artistic Director of Scrag Mountain Music with his wife, soprano Mary Bonhag. He is also Founder and Artistic Director of Beethoven and Banjos, a residency that brings together folk and classical musicians for cross-genre concerts in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

We are grateful for our supporters!

Scrag Mountain Music's Spring/Summer 2021 Season is generously supported by the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Montpelier Community Fund, the Cummins-Levenstein Charitable Foundation, Vermont Mutual Insurance Company, The Amphion Foundation, Lawson's Finest Liquids Sunshine Fund, the Sinex Education Foundation, and the Vermont Community Foundation.

The Warren *Watershed* concert is presented in partnership with Friends of the Mad River with support from the Warren Arts Committee. The Montpelier *Watershed* concert is supported by the Donofrio Family. Caitlyn Lynch's residency is supported by Bette and Dean Premo, and Rachel Shapiro's residency is supported by an anonymous donor. Special thanks to Hunger Mountain Coop.

The Stages in the Sun initiative is a partnership between the Vermont Recreation & Parks Association, the Vermont Arts Council, and the Vermont Department of Tourism & Marketing, to promote two of the best things Vermont has to offer: incredible artists and the great outdoors. We thank the Vermont Community Foundation for their donation to help sponsor this and other Stages in the Sun events through a Covid-19 Response Grant. Please check out the Stages in the Sun calendar online at vermontvacation.com find more great outdoors arts events.



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