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New Sounds

Kronos Quartet

Saturday, April 8, 1995-8:00 p.m.

David Harrington violin
John Sherba violin
Hank Dutt viola
Joan Jeanrenaud cello

Program

BRENT MICHAEL DAVIDS

TUNPAO NENANGPE (TURTLE PEOPLE)*

special guest, Brent Michael Davids

TERRY RILEY

GOOD MEDICINE

from SALOME DANCES FOR PEACE*

ELLIOTT CARTER

FRAGMENT*

LOUIS HARDIN (MOONDOG)

SYNCHRONY*

Allegro Andante Allegro

HARRY PARTCH (arr. BEN JOHNSTON)

BARSTOW: EIGHT HITCHHIKERS' INSCRIPTIONS

FROM A HIGHWAY RAILING AT BARSTOW, CALIFORNIA+

special guest, Ben Johnston

Intermission

KEN BENSHOOF

SONG OF TWENTY SHADOWS*

JOHN ADAMS

JOHN'S BOOK OF ALLEGED DANCES*

Hammer & Chisel Rag the Bone Toot Nipple Dogjam Alligator Escalator

Stubble Crotchet
Judah to Ocean

Ständchen: The Little Serenade

Program Subject to Change

*Written for Kronos +Arranged for Kronos

This program is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.

There will be a discussion in the auditorium with the musicians, Ben Johnston, and Brent Michael Davids immediately following the concert.

Cover photograph by Michael Kreiser

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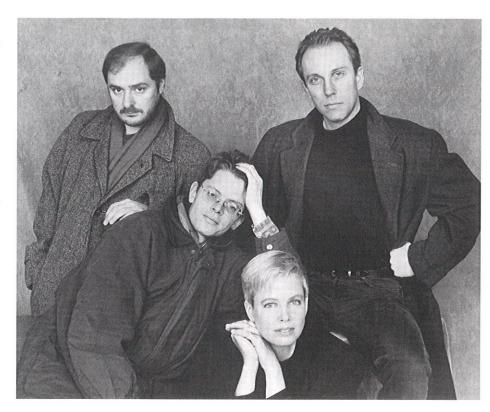
kronos quartet

Since its inception in 1973, the KRONOS QUARTET has emerged as a leading voice for new work. Combining a unique musical vision with a fearless dedication to experimentation, Kronos has assembled a body of work unparalleled in its range and scope of expression, and in the process, has captured the attention of audiences worldwide.

The quartet's extensive repertoire ranges from Shostakovich, Webern, Bartok, and Ives to Astor Piazzolla, John Cage, Raymond Scott, and Howlin' Wolf. In addition to working closely with modern masters such as Terry Riley, John Zorn, and Henryk Gorecki, Kronos commissions new works from today's most innovative composers from around the world, extending its reach as far as Zimbabwe, Poland, Australia, Japan, Argentina, and Azerbaijan. The quartet is currently working with many composers, including Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, Foday Musa Suso, Scott Johnson, Sofia Gubaidulina, Steven Mackey, John Oswald, Don Byron, Tan Dun, Peter Sculthorpe, Lois V Vierk, Philip Glass, and Dmitri Yanov-Yanovsky.

Kronos performs annually in many cities including San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York, and tours extensively with more than 100 concerts each year in concert halls, clubs and at jazz festivals throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan, Mexico, South America, New Zealand, Hong Kong, and Australia. Recent tours have included appearances at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Kennedy Center, Montreux Jazz Festival, Carnegie Hall, Sydney Opera House, Tanglewood, London's Royal Festival Hall, La Scala, Theatre de la Ville in Paris, and Chicago's Orchestra Hall.

The Quartet records exclusively for Nonesuch Records, and the catalogue includes Kronos Quartet Performs Philip Glass (1995); Night Prayers (1994); Bob Ostertag's All The Rage (1993); At The Grave of Richard Wagner (1993); Morton Feldman's Piano and



String Quartet (1993); Henryk Mikolaj Gorecki's String Quartets No. 1 and 2 (1993); Short Stories (1993); Pieces of Africa (1992); Henryk Mikolaj Gorecki's Already It Is Dusk (1991); Astor Piazzolla's Five Tango Sensations (1991); Kevin Volans' Hunting: Gathering (1991); Witold Lutoslawski's String Quartet (1991); Black Angels (1990), which received a Grammy Nomination for Best Chamber Music Performance; Salome Dances for Peace (1989), which received a Grammy nomination for Best Contemporary Composition; Different Trains (1989), which received a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Composition; Winter Was Hard (1988), White Man Sleeps (1987), which received a Grammy nomination for Best Chamber Music Performance; and Kronos Quartet (1986).

Tonight's Program

Tunpao Nenangpe (Turtle People) (1994) Brent Michael Davids (b. 1960)

Brent Michael Davids, a Mohican from Wisconsin who currently lives in Arizona, composes and performs his original music on a variety of acoustic, electronic, and Native instruments, including handmade crystal soprano and crystal bass flutes. Davids, raised in the Chicago area, began to study piano at the age of eight and to compose at the age of 16. He studied composition at Northern Illinois University. In 1990 Davids was one of three composers from the United States selected to attend the prestigious International Music Festival in Japan, and in 1992, under the tutelage of Chinary Ung, Davids completed his masters of music degree at Arizona State University. Other honors include the 1992 Music Composition Fellowship Award from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, as well as awards from Meet the Composer, ASCAP, the Casio Company, H & R of West Germany, and Arizona State University.

Of *Tunpao Nenangpe*, Davids writes: "*Tunpao Nenanpge* features a specially built 'turtle water drum', a newly designed 'owl buzzer', a bass flute made of quartz crystal, and the Kronos Quartet. Performed entirely in the Mohican language, *Tunpao Nenangpe* makes use of the words and images of the Mohican creation story.

"Once, as the story flows, the Earth was water 'below' and the sky was water 'above'. A white owl woman decided to fly down through a whole in the sky. She flew down to the water below, tested the stability of the water with her foot and became impregnated as a result. A turtle under the water looked up at the bird woman and saw she had no place to stand. The turtle floated as a 'bubble' on the surface and offered her its back. Grateful for a place to rest, the woman gave the turtle the power to grow. The turtle was thankful for the gift and grew larger and larger until it became the land we call 'Turtle Island'. Happy on Turtle Island, the white owl gave birth to the trees as she sang: 'Willow Trees, with my wind you are born!

Pine Trees, with my wind you are born! Apple Trees, with my wind you are born! All the Woods, with my wind you are born!' As she flew, the bird woman covered the land with all kinds of trees! Watching the astounding spectacle, the other turtle people living in the water rose up onto the land to become the Mohicans or the 'People of the Ever-Moving Waters'."

Tunpao Nenangpe was commissioned for Kronos by the Meet the Composer/Reader's Digest Commissioning Program in partnership with the NEA and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, in cooperation with Hancher Auditorium/University of Iowa and the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

"Good Medicine" from Salome Dances for Peace (1985-86) Terry Riley (b. 1935)

"The idea for Salome Dances for Peace came out of improvisation theme from The Harp of New Albion. I realized this was potentially a whole new piece. Around that time, David Harrington called me and asked me to write another string quartet.

"I thought that it should be a ballet about Salome using her alluring powers to actually create peace in the world. So Salome in this case becomes like a goddess who — drawn out of antiquity, having done evil kinds of deeds — reincarnates and is trained as a sorceress, as a shaman. And through her dancing, she is able to become both a warrior and an influence on the world leaders' actions.

"What I do is to make many, many minute sketches of ideas and file them away, and at some point as I'm writing, one of those ideas will be the right one for the time. I trust the fact that anything that occurs to me is related to whatever occurred to me before.

"All of the kinds of music that appear in my string quartets are the kinds of music that I personally love, and I don't necessarily keep them in separate cabinets. One of the challenges, in fact, is to bring things you love together to live harmoniously. It also creates

an understanding of how the notes work. These styles all have their particular flavors and expressions but they can be united. Notes all work under certain universal laws, they observe laws just like everything else in the universe does.

"To me it's all a unified field. It's the general search we're going through now in physics, trying to find a unified theory. I think for a musician that is also relevant and works towards evolving new, deeper and richer musical traditions.

"I'm always trying to find ways that I can, besides doing music, contribute to world peace, or maybe neighborhood peace or home peace. I told David that when we first started that I thought we ought to create a piece that can be played at the United Nations on special holidays. It would not be just a concert piece but a piece that could be played as a rite."

Terry Riley, from a conversation with Mark Swed

Salome Dances for Peace is music of passing landscapes. It is a tapestry of seemingly unrelated musics; musics reflecting its composer's passions for jazz, blues, North Indian raga, Middle Eastern scales, Minimalist pattern and traditional Western art music; styles never before found together within the framework of a single string quartet. Unlike any quartet ever written, Salome Dances for Peace, is long, triple the length of Beethoven's longest quartet. And it is a narrative epic, grander in scope than the medium — traditionally favored for its intimacy — has previously known.

Terry Riley, who studied composition at the University of California at Berkeley, first came to prominence in 1964 when he found a way to subvert the world of tightly organized atonal composition then in academic fashion. With the groundbreaking In C — a work built upon steady pulse throughout; short, simple repeated melodic motives; and static harmonies — Riley achieved an elegant and non-nostalgic return to tonality in art music. He demonstrated the hypnotic allure of making complex musical

patterns out of basic means. And in so doing, he produced the seminal work of the now popular Minimal school.

Born in 1935 in the Sierra Nevada mountains of Northern California, where he still lives and composes amidst surroundings of striking natural beauty and spectacular night skies, Riley developed pattern music in response to his love for such natural design. But his facility for complex pattern making also proved the product of his virtuosity as a keyboard improvisor. Riley quit formal composition altogether following *In C* in order to concentrate on improvisation, and in the late '60s and early 70s, he built a reputation for weaving dazzlingly intricate skeins of music during all-night improvisations on organ and synthesizer.

Also in the early 70s, Riley began to devote himself to the study of North Indian vocal techniques under the guidance of the legendary Pandit Pran Nath, and a new element gradually entered his music: long-limbed melody. From his work in Indian music, moreover, he also developed an interest in the subtle distinctions of tuning that would be hard to achieve with a traditional classical ensemble.

Riley decided to notate music again in 1979 when both he and the Kronos Quartet were on the faculty at Mills College in Oakland. By collaborating extensively with Kronos, with whom he soon developed a close relationship, Riley began to discover the degree to which his various musical passions could be integrated, not as pastiche, but as different sides of similar musical impulses that still maintained something of the oral performing traditions of India and jazz. Riley began to consider the string quartet in general, and the Kronos Quartet in particular, as the ideal medium for his evolving musical language. And that meant approaching the string quartet in an entirely new way.

Riley's first quartets were inspired by his keyboard improvisations, but his knowledge of string quartets became more sophisticated through his work with Kronos, and as Kronos became more comfortable with the breadth of Riley's musical world, he was able to combine rigorous compositional ideas with his more performance-oriented approach to music making. But Riley's quartets were also examples of his devotion to music as a spiritual endeavor. A gentle and wise man, Riley has an oracular presence. Storytelling is among his gifts, and like his music, Riley's stories are cross-cultural.

Salome Dances for Peace is one of those stories told in a mythical setting by a string quartet. Riley began it in 1985 as a ballet, developing scenario and music together. As the score evolved during two years of composition, the music outgrew its need for explicit staging. Describing mankind's universal quest for inner knowledge, Riley included aspects from ancient myth, from Biblical legend and from Native American

culture to portray a hero's attainment of special powers in order to fight the forces of evil and discover truth.

In Riley's narrative, the heroine is Salome, the legendary seductress in King Herod's court who called for the head of John the Baptist to be brought to her on a plate in return for removing her seven veils during a lewd dance. Now, 2000 years after Salome's famous dance, peace has been stolen from the earth by dark forces, and Salome is chosen to win it back. In "Anthem of the Great Spirit," the first part of Salome Dances for Peace. Salome is summoned to the Great Spirit, who sees in her the embodiment of the feminine force. Throughout this first section of the score, she is guided by sages in a "Peace Dance:" she receives the gift of innocence in "Fanfare in the Minimal Kingdom;" she develops the discipline to thwart Wild Talker, who represents sexual temptation; and she is initiated as a warrior by the shaman Half Wolf during "More Ceremonial Races."

In order to fulfill her mission, Salome and Half Wolf descend into the gloomy underworld, as Jonah had entered the belly of the whale or Orpheus was ferried into Hades. In "Conquest of the War Demons," which is the quartet's large development section, a battle is fought, peace is recaptured, and the entire underworld, with all its fantastic beings, levitated into the Realm of Light.

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Once more a dancer, Salome entertains around the world. In "The Gift," we find her in Tibet and, as the music becomes more folklike, Mongolia. Once again she is charged with a mission: to attract the attention of the world's two most powerful leaders. Seducing both the Bear Father and the Great White Father, which leads to the latter's emotional breakdown and finally to epiphany in "The Ecstasy," Salome succeeds in winning world peace. The score ends with the "Good Medicine Dance," a return to old wisdom and teachings, with the counsel to become guileless, and to pursue self-knowledge.

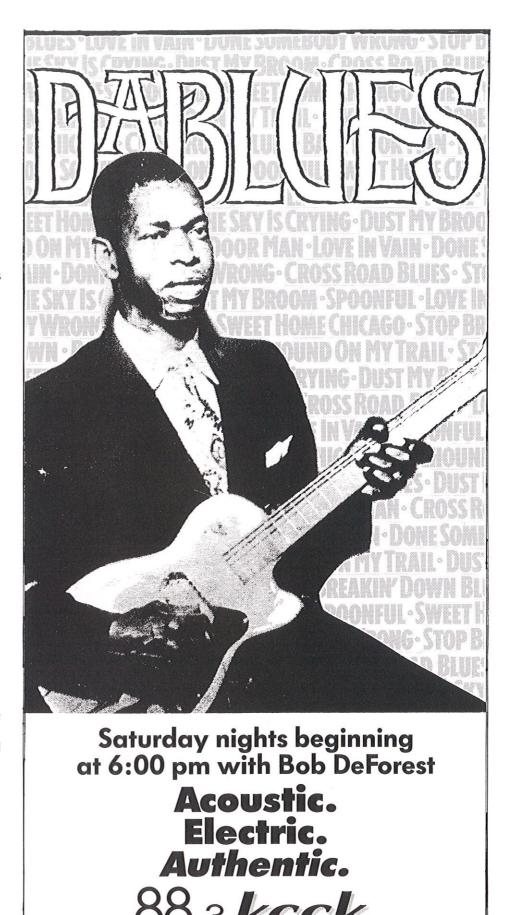
The relationship between the story and the quartet is a complex one. The music does not consistently tell the story as program music. Certain motives are representative as, for instance, the stately trills and held notes for the Great Spirit at the opening but they are developed for musical, not programmatic, reasons. Characters can also be defined by more general musical means. A variety of sinuous melodic shapes represents Salome (first heard right after the opening trills, as Salome makes her initial appearance), and slinky glissandi give Wild Talker a sort of Sportin' Life sleaziness (especially in his appearance in the "Seduction of the Bear Father" section of "The Ecstasy").

There are many striking moments of musical description, such as the eerie, howling harmonics that seem to pierce the ear, aptly conveying the otherworldly Mongolian winds. Static chords at the beginning of Salome's descent to the Underworld conjure up a surreal landscape, but the ensuing combat and victory are portrayed in a more abstract way in order to convey a sense a great doings rather than realistic actions or scenes.

How much one wants to hear *Salome Dances for Peace* as a specific story is ultimately a personal decision for the listener. Like a late Beethoven quartet, *Salome Dances for Peace* is a spiritual journey.

Mark Swed

Salome Dances for Peace was commissioned for Kronos by the Pompidou Centre and Betty Freeman.



vour *lazz* connection

Fragment (1994) Elliott Carter (b. 1908)

Elliott Carter is internationally recognized as one of the leading American composers of the century.

Carter was first encouraged toward a musical career by his good friend and mentor Charles Ives. A native of New York City, Carter has been compared to another New York artist, Henry James, with whom he shares a multifaceted richness of vision and fastidiousness of craft based on intimate familiarity with Western (and in Carter's case, non-Western) artistic traditions. Carter's affinity for literature in many languages has found creative musical outlet in settings of major texts of Dickinson, Whitman, Frost, Bishop, Ashberry, and Lowell, as well as in the musical development of imaginative suggestions and formal models from, among others, Plato's Dialogues, Lucretius' De Rerum Natura and Pope's Dunciad. Carter's work reflects a lasting and deeply felt relationship with Europe, beginning with adolescent travels with his father, and nourished by study of European artistic and intellectual culture and musical training with Nadia Boulanger in Paris.

Carter was first recognized by the Pulitzer Prize Committee in 1960 for his groundbreaking compositions for string quartet, and soon thereafter Stravinsky hailed his Double Concerto for harpsichord, piano and two chamber orchestras (1961) and Piano Concerto (1967) as "masterpieces". Among his many honours, Carter has won the Pulitzer Prize twice, is the first composer to have received the United States National Medal of Arts, is one of only four composers ever awarded Germany's Ernst Von Siemens Music Prize, and is a 1988 recipient of the Government of France's title of "Commandeur dans L'Order des Arts et des Lettres". Repeated showcasings of Carter's works have been presented by the Warsaw Autumn



Festival, the South Bank Festival in London, the Bath Festival, the Holland Festival, Venice Biennale, the Donaueschingen Festival, IRCAM, and many others.

Of Fragment, Carter writes:

"Fragment was composed on August 30, 1994 in Southbury, Connecticut, in memory of a very good friend and colleague, David Huntley. This short work uses harmonics for the strings throughout which, I hope, give a poignant character to my musical message. Fragment was premiered by the Kronos Quartet at a concert dedicated to David's memory on October 13, 1994."

Editor's Note: David Huntley, who died on July 1, 1994, joined the music publishing house of Boosey & Hawkes, Inc. in 1976, becoming promotion manager in 1980 and vice president, Serious Music Division in 1986.

Huntley was long known throughout the concert music world as an astute spotter of deserving talent, and a tireless advocate for the music of our time. His presence at Boosey & Hawkes was instrumental in the company's signings of John Adams, Louis Andriessen, Steven Mackey, Steve Reich, Christopher Rouse, and Michael Torke during the past decade. David Del Tredici dedicated his orchestral work Tattoo (1986) to Mr. Huntley; John Adams dedicated his new Violin Concerto to him as well, adding in his program note to the work, "American composers have had few better friends." Mr. Huntley's keen ear and his encyclopedic knowledge of twentieth-century music earned him an international reputation as an important resource for information on repertoire. Distinguished performers and administrators in the U.S. and many other countries routinely sought his advice; he in turn persuaded many of them to commission new works, making a substantial contribution not only to the Boosey & Hawkes catalog but to the course of current music.

According to R.A. Fell, managing director of Boosey & Hawkes, "David Huntley was a born publisher. Every minute of his waking hours was in some way dedicated to the cause of the music of today. The help he extended to composers and musicians of every kind stretched far beyond the bounds of his B&H responsibilities. His life was truly give to music."

Synchrony (1995)
Louis Hardin (Moondog) (b.1916)

Composer Louis Hardin was born in Marysville, Kansas in 1916. Having lost his eyesight at age 16, Hardin attended the Iowa School for the Blind, where he received his first musical training. He went on to study privately with Burnet Tuthill at the Memphis Conservatory of Music. In 1943, Hardin moved to New York and, having gained the friendship of the renowned conductor, Arthur Rodzinski, was admitted as the singular outsider to attend rehearsals of the New York Philharmonic. Hardin adopted the name "Moondog" in 1947 and spent the next three decades living on the streets of New York where he worked as a street musician (frequently playing instruments of his own invention and dressed in viking regalia). Always a prolific composer, Moondog would type his compositions in Braille and then have them transcribed into conventional notation. His music, which became known for its unusual metric sense, intricate and rigorous canonic procedures and refined, evocative melodies, often uses street sounds as essential lines in the overall composition. Moondog now lives in Germany.

Of Synchrony, Hardin writes:

"Each of the three movements was written in a form I call nova, meaning nine-part double canon. The work can be played by as few as four or up to as many as nine players in six different stock arrangements. Synchrony, like all of my music, is tonal. The piece was written in three days, one movement a day. The first and third movement are in A Minor, the second movement is in A Flat Major, the two keys having the note C in common. The key change from A Minor to A Flat Major back to A Minor affords the work an unusual effect: The music has a slight jazz feel to it and was meant to be accompanied by a brass drum with soft felt mallet, though it can be played without percussion.

"I call my jazz 'Zajaz', jazz in two directions, like a Janus-head showing two faces. One is looking backwards into the past, represented by classical techniques of composing and the other face turned towards the future, which is characterized by a new kind of combining old and new elements of music, like the European Canon combined with the Palin Indian tomtom beat, the allegro being their runningbeat and the Andante their walking beat."

Synchrony was written for Kronos.

Barstow: Eight Hitchhikers' Inscriptions from a Highway Railing at Barstow, California (1941/arr. 1994) Harry Partch (1901-1974) Arranged by Ben Johnston

Self-taught as a theorist, living on the margins of society and ignored by most musical institutions, Harry Partch sought musical inspiration and materials outside the European tradition and came to be recognized as one of the most innovative, iconoclastic and genuinely American composers of our century. Partch's lifelong effort — begun in the 1920's — was to create a monophonic music that returned to what he believed was the primal, ritualistic, corporeal state that music had long ago abandoned: a music arising from human speech and the natural acoustic musical intervals generated by sounding bodies.

Partch grew up hearing music from many cultures. Born in 1901 in Oakland, California, Partch's childhood was spent in California, New Mexico, and Arizona. Along with his early introduction to the local Mexican and Yaqui Indian music in southeastern Arizona, Partch's parents, former Presbyterian missionaries in China, shared with him Chinese folksongs and lullabies. Partch learned to play mail order musical instruments and by age 14, he was composing prolifically for piano.

In 1920 Partch briefly enrolled in the University of Southern California's School of Music. After a couple of years, not feeling that he was learning from his teachers, Partch left USC and moved to San Francisco where he frequented Mandarin theaters. Giving up on both private music teachers and music schools, Partch began to read more about music in public libraries and to compose without academic restrictions. Around 1923 Partch began his rejection of European concert music and its system of twelve-tone equal temperament. Partch's rejection of the

twelve-tone system and adoption of the principles of just intonation led him to use a scale with 43 tones to the octave, which in turn forced him to invent new musical instruments. Partch's decisive break with European musical tradition came in 1930 when he burned 14 years worth of his own music.

Partch's works from the 1930s and 40s used his own instruments in small-scale. intimate bardic settings of Chinese poems, biblical verses, scenes and songs from Shakespeare, and American hobo texts. As he invented original percussion and string instruments, Partch turned in the 1950s and 60s to large-scale theatrical and dramatic compositions that extended his concept of corporeality. Though Partch was met with enthusiasm from audiences and support from university faculty and students during his various associations with academic institutions, music departments generally remained hostile and unsupportive. As such, Partch's composing, writing, instrument building, and music promotion happened in conjunction with or relied upon sales of subscriptions for his recordings, various temporary employments, transience and the assistance of friends and supporters.

Ben Johnston was born in Macon, Georgia in 1926 and attended the College of William and Mary in Richmond, Virginia. After Navy service in World War II, he received his masters degree in music from Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. His self-professed "fascination with sound from a scientific point of view" was manifested in accelerating interest in acoustics. After reading a book by Partch, Johnston struck up a correspondence and eventually moved to California to study with him. Johnston worked with Partch for six months in 1950 and performed for Partch's recordings. Through Partch, Johnston met Darius Milhaud at Mills College in Oakland and received a second masters degree there. Johnston went on to a position in the dance

program at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and for five years he also acted as chairman of the university's Festival of Contemporary Arts. While there, Johnston helped to obtain sponsorship for some of Partch's later productions at the university.

Barstow: Eight Hitchhikers' Inscriptions from a Highway Railing at Barstow,
California was composed in 1941 and became the opening section to Partch's cycle of American pieces, The Wayward (1941-43). Johnston describes the power of this cycle of Partch's music:

"U.S. Highball was the first piece of Partch's I heard and it's still, in a way, the piece I value the most. That piece and Barstow date from the Depression, Partch's 'hobo days': a period in which Partch was 'on the rails'. In that way, these pieces are partly autobiographical and that's why they have so much punch. They come from the quts. "

In his writings, *Bitter Music*, Partch described the source of the text of Barstow and its inspiration for the piece:

"The scribbling is in pencil. It is on one of the white highway railings outside the Mojave Desert junction of Barstow, California. I am walking along the highway and sit down on the railing to rest.

"Idly I notice the scratches where I happen to drop. I have seen many hitchhikers' writings. They are usually just names and addresses, but this — why, it's music. It's both weak and strong, like unedited human expressions always are. It's eloquent in what it fails to express in words. And it's epic. Definitely, it is music..."

This arrangement of *Barstow: Eight Hitchhikers' Inscriptions from a Highway Railing at Barstow, California* was commissioned for the Kronos Quartet by Hancher Auditorium/University of Iowa.

(Source: Thomas McGeary's introduction to Bitter Music by Harry Partch)



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Song of Twenty Shadows (1994) Ken Benshoof (1933)

Ken Benshoof, a composer and pianist, has lived in Seattle since 1960. A Fulbright scholar in 1965, a Guggenheim fellow in 1976 and a resident composer for several seasons for the Old Globe Theatre and the Seattle Repertory Theater, Benshoof currently teaches composition at the University of Washington.

Benshoof's relationship with Kronos extends back to the group's inception. In 1973 Benshoof composed the first piece ever written for Kronos: *Traveling Music*.

Of Song of Twenty Shadows, Benshoof writes: "This piece, which is about loss, grief, acceptance and healing, was composed for Hank Dutt following the passing of his companion Kevin Freeman.

"The solo viola passages contain various shapes of anguish. Cello and violins provide consolation, compassion and support in a struggle for resolution.

"In the end, the viola is again alone with elements from the beginning transformed and distilled.

"My thanks to the artist Alice Wingwall for inspiration and support."

Song of Twenty Shadows was commissioned for the Kronos Quartet by Alice Wingwall in memory of Charles and Elizabeth Atkinson.

John's Book of Alleged Dances (1994) John Adams (b. 1947)

John Adams was born in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1947 and grew up in New England. After graduating from Harvard University in 1971, Adams moved to California where he taught and conducted for 10 years at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He served as composer in residence with the San Francisco Symphony from 1979-85 and in 1988 was named creative chair at the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, where he served as conductor and music advisor until 1990. Adams now divides his time between composing and conducting, having recently led the Cleveland Orchestra, Frankfurt Opera, London Sinfonietta, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, and Ensemble Moderne, among others.

A prolific composer of orchestral music and the most frequently programmed living American composer, Adams' most significant and widely discussed works are his operas *Nixon in China* (1987) and *The Death of Klinghoffer* (1991). Created in collaboration with poet-librettist Alice Goodman and

director Peter Sellars, these works combine stories from recent history with the apparatus of grand opera. The recording of *Nixon in China* received the 1989 Grammy Award for Best Composition and the recording of *The Death of Klinghoffer* was named Best of the Year by The New York Times.

Of *John's Book of Alleged Dances*, Adams writes:

"John's Book of Alleged Dances started out as an idea for synthesizer and string quartet, specifically the Kronos Quartet. However, since it was not practical for a group that tours as often as Kronos to take along a synthesizer player, I began to think of the possibilities of a rhythm track that could be controlled by a live performer during the playing of the piece. With the help of an imaginative engineer, Mark Grey, the concept eventually evolved to a small ensemble of rhythm loops played by a sampler. These loops are almost all made from prepared piano sounds. The 'preparation' of the piano. made famous by John Cage in the 1940s, is accomplished by putting small objects such as screws, bolts, rubber erasers and weather stripping between the strings of a grand piano. The placement of these objects renders the normal sound of the piano into something more akin to a small percussion ensemble or even a 'pygmy gamelan.'

"The loops are small rhythmic fragments tied end to end that recycle until they receive a command to give way to a new loop. Two, three or more of these, each of different length, can create an interesting and constantly evolving pattern of rhythm. Six of the dances are performed with these loops, with the control of their sequence given by a foot controller played by one of the quartet members. Sometimes the loops sound like bones rattling in a trashcan, sometimes like a trolley car heading downhill to the beach, or (as in the *Habanera*) like a robot attempting some form of Latin dance.

"There has been a lot of dancing in my music, some of it sublime, some indeed ridiculous. The *Chairman Dances* is a foxtrot that presupposes a choreographic encounter between Chairman Mao and his girlfriend Jiang Ching (later to be Mrs. Mao). Both of my operas, *Nixon in China* and *The Death of Klinghoffer*, incorporate a great deal of dance, and even my most recent piece, the Violin Concerto, was conceived in part as a ballet score. So it seemed only natural that I should write a book of dances, particularly a book of dances for which the steps have yet to be invented."

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8 South Clinton Street Iowa City, IOWA 52244 319 337-4188 or FAX 319 337-2045 Hammer is a sixties radical who used to play the clarinet. Chisel keeps his politics to himself. I can hear them arguing while pounding, drilling, routing, measuring. This short, violent bit of agitprop (at a brisk tempo appropriate for a march up Telegraph Avenue to People's Park) is dedicated to them.

"Rag the Bone: Flying trochees from the quartet bounce from a bungee cord above the genial four-square clacking of the loop maker. A swinging scat-song for four voices in parallel motion. 'Can you do the hanky-panky? Can you do the hanky-panky?' (or make up your own trochee).

"Toot Nipple: 'Mrs. Nipple...You probably don't remember her husband, Toot. When he was young he was a big fellow, quick and clever, a terror on the dance floor.' (from Postcards by E. Annie Proulx)

"Dogjam. My E-Mail address. Here we have mail from Dogjam to the first violinist: 'Hoe-Down. Incoming hail of 16th notes in twisted hillbilly chromatics. Get help from violist.' Tailor-made for David Harrington, fearless fiddler.

"Alligator Escalator: The long, sluggish beast is ascending from the basement level of Macy's all the way to the top of the Union Square store and then back down. Slow slithering scales, played flautando and sul tasto, leave invisible tracks on the escalator, splitting the octave in strange reptilian ways. Mothers are terrified, children fascinated. The lady handing out perfume samples in the foyer has been ignored.

"Stubble Crotchet: A sawed-off stump of a piece. Dry bones and hardscrapple attacks at the frog. An early morning shave with an old razor and no hot water.

"Judah to Ocean: A piece of vehicular music, this one following the street car tracks down the Great Highway and the beach, where I used to rent a two-room cottage behind the Surf Theater and listen to the N Judah reach the end of the line and turn around.

"Ständchen: A little serenade in three, but also in four. Which is it? The violins and viola set out in an interlocking hiccup of staccato figures while the cello pumps out a counterrhythm. The loops pluck and chirp in tight collaboration with the pulse. An homage to those ecstatic Beethoven and Schubert finales in 12/8 time."

Kronos and John Adams would like to thank Kim Holland of Kurzweil Music Systems and Robert Clyne of Neilsen/Clyne for providing the Kurzweil K2000 sampler.

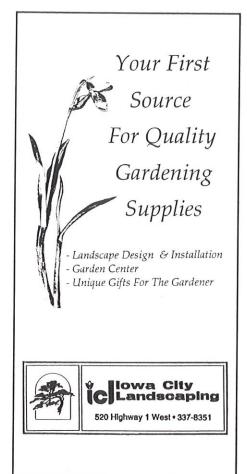
John's Book of Alleged Dances was commissioned for the Kronos Quartet by the California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

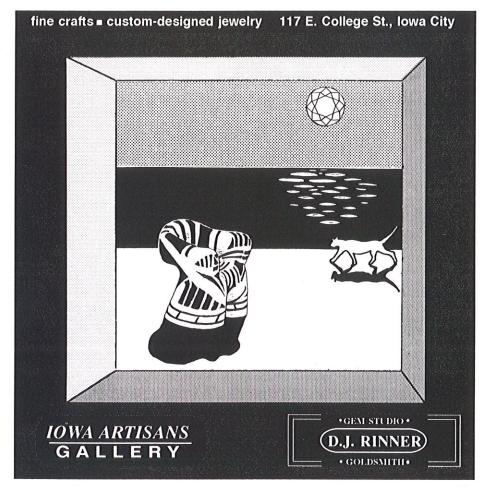
Kronos Quartet

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John Sherba	violin
Hank Dutt	viola
Joan Jeanrenaud	cello
Larry Neff	Lighting Designer
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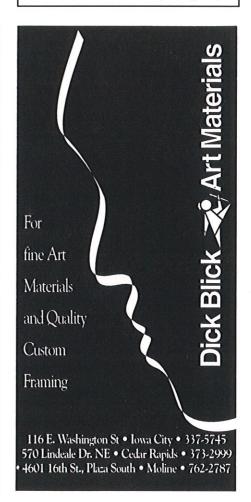
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l can't preserve our entire culture by myself, but I can add my part.

I've been trying to learn enough Mohican to write the texts for my pieces. My performances allow people to actually hear the language. If I have a chance to help keep the tribe alive . . . that's a big responsibility.

Composer and performer Brent Michael Davids is 35 years old. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees of music in composition from Northern Illinois University and Arizona State University, respectively, and he is one of the few classically-trained Native American composers working today. His varied works include soundtracks, as well as music concerts and dance. The Joffrey Ballet-commissioned Moon of the Falling Leaves (1992) was released on compact disc in June 1992.

The Kronos Quartet has commissioned two works from Davids. *The Singing Woods* premiered in 1994. *Turtle People* premiered at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on February 18, 1995. The score includes a turtle water drum, one of several instruments Davids has constructed for use in his music.

Among Davids' awards are a 1994 NEA Opera-Musical Theater grant (for *Voices in Stone*, a musical theater dance event) and a 1990 Pacific Composer Conference Fellowship to the International Music Festival in Japan. He currently resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

Craig Smith: You have degrees in composition from two universities. Were you familiar with Native American music before going to college?

Brent Michael Davids: Not much. As far as my tribe goes, there are not many musical examples left. There's a big push now by the younger generation to go back and do a lot of research—people my age and younger are scouring libraries and talking to people. We're starting to reclaim what's been ours and scattered to the winds.

Learning to read and write music isn't common in Native America culture...

I feel that I'm kind of unique—I read and write music. I'm probably one of the few tribal members that does.

Written language is pretty non-indigenous for the most part. It's the same with written music; it isn't really traditional. I've heard people say, "It's not a part of our tradition; our traditions are oral." In one sense, I feel that's true. But I think that it is almost like hiding. If Native Americans have the opportunity to learn to write and read another's writing, we should take it.

Do you think that non-Native American critics can evaluate Indian art effectively?

I don't think Native American art should be off-limits to non-Indian critics. But I also think that the criticism needs to be explained. What's the criteria being used?

Some critics think they can take it at face value, "the piece should be able to stand on its own without program notes, without having to understand the culture." That's a crock! There's no way to evaluate a piece culturally without knowing about it, and what its intentions were. How could the critic know if the artist was successful at portraying the idea without understanding the culture?

The best way to carry out that sort of discussion is to involve Native Americans themselves. It's not that non-Natives can't participate, but Native Americans should be involved as equals.

You have constructed quite a few instruments, from quartz flutes to orchestra bows and drums. Why?

When I first started writing music, it was strictly acoustic. Then I got interested in electronics and spent the next six or seven years in electronic studios. But it started to occur to me that live performance was where I'd rather be. So I started taking a closer look at some of the indigenous instruments and got the idea of actually altering those instruments.

The first one was in the early '80s. I took the idea of a water drum, which is a cylinder with water in it and a skin stretched over the top. They're generally pretty tiny, at most eight or nine inches in diameter.

I searched for a different way to make the resonator vibrate, because with a water drum you hit the skin and it's amplified through the bowl of water. I came across—in the thrift store!—a refrigerator shelf. I found a 57 cent fondue pot that had a lot of resonance in it. I cut the refrigerator shelf in half, so that all the little cross bars were attached to one single bar, and cut those bars different lengths to create different pitches, then wrapped (it) around the fondue pot. You can hit it, pluck it, strum it, even bow it, and get these kinds of watery amplified sounds.

What's first, instrument or music?

It works both ways. Sometimes I have an idea for an instrument and make it and see what happens. Other times I have a composition and need a particular sound and have to make the instrument to make that sound. I like playing the crystal flutes. The audience can see my breath start to fill the flute, from one end to the other.

What about the turtle water drum for the Kronos commission?

It is based on a different style of water drum, more like Southwestern water drumming. The fondue pot drum is more like Northeast woodlands. This is actually a pan of water. You float a half gourd on the water, then hit

the top of the gourd. The air pocket underneath the gourd is amplified by the water. The reason I'm using that style of water drum is that it matches the idea of the composition, which is *Turtle People—Tunpao Nenangpe* in Mohican. It's for string quartet, Mohican voice—there's a story being told all in the Mohican language—bells, a turtle whistle, bass crystal flute, and an owl buzzer. The whole idea of the piece is to describe the Mohican creation story.

What is that?

It's about a woman who comes down from the sky. In the beginning, there's all water, water below and water above. And the sky opens up and the woman comes down to the water below. She looks for a place to stand, and puts her foot on the water, testing the surface. She sinks a little bit, her foot goes in the water, and she becomes impregnated. But she doesn't have a place to stand and is getting tired.

A turtle under the water sees her and comes up and offers her its back as it floats on the water, so she can stand on the water. As a gift for the kindness, she gives the turtle the power to grow. It decides it's going to use the power, and grows and grows until it becomes the continent, the land. The reference to Turtle Island is from that story.

Then the woman gives birth to the trees, which inhabit the land, and the water people underneath come up onto the land and become Mohicans. That part will be told in Mohican. I will do the narration. We were going to look for an elder to speak Mohican, but I wanted to have the narration actually composed into the score, and it would have to be performed by someone who reads music. I'm building a huge water drum. A friend is bringing me a huge gourd from Africa, about two feet in diameter. My girlfriend Tracy and I were in a shopping mall and she saw these huge gumball machines and I said, that would do. I found the manufacturer and got the clear top of a gumball machine and turned it over with water inside. The gourd will float so the audience will see it, and I'll paint it to look like the back of a turtle.

You and composer Dr. Louis Ballard are forming the Native American Music Association, aren't you?

It's a culmination of a lot of people being dissatisfied with the music scene. For me, it's like having a little bit more power, it's almost like having a union.

I'm amazed at how much bad "Native American" music is being written—and not by Native Americans. They're saying, this is American Indian composition, but it's not. The tunes are not there, the inflections, the humor, the nuances are not there, the different aspects of Native American life. Works like that are a misuse of Native American culture as well as bad music.

I listened to a piece like that recently and I was frustrated and insulted on two levels. As a composer, because the music was badly crafted. But also because here was a non-Indian writing another Chief Seattle piece that should have been written by a Native American. Why commission something like that, when there are vibrant, living poets in our communities who could create powerful contemporary works?

I've talked to many conductors and orchestra managers about ideas for new pieces. But they're just throwing money at these old ideas or very simplistic ideas that are not very innovative. Lately, there have been a lot of bad decisions, like having a Native American flute player perform a piece but having it commissioned from a non-Native composer.

It's still that stereotype that the only real Indian is the one of long ago. People will buy a blanket if it's 200 years old but ignore the people who are doing that work today.

Craig A. Smith is a music critic and journalist based in Santa Fe. He holds a masters of music degree from the University of Missouri/Kansas City. His publications include the Santa Fe New Mexican and Opera Canada, among others.

This conversation between Brent Michael Davids and Craig A. Smith originated in the premiere issue of Indian Artist, Spring 1995. Permission to reprint was granted.

Ben Johnston

Ben Johnston gets two average-length paragraphs in the New Grove Dictionary of American Music, roughly the same number of words for his closest alphabetical neighbors, two obscure nineteenth-century organ builders. That might lead one to suspect that the 69-year-old composer, who taught at the University of Illinois in Champaign from 1951 to 1986, is a minor, if respected, academic composer of limited interest, one of hundreds throughout the country. Such an impression could be furthered by the scant number of recordings that represent him in the Schwann catalogue, by his lack of representation from a major publisher, or by simply noting how seldom his music is programmed.

But Ben Johnston's American Grove entry does have two things that William Allen Johnson or Thomas Johnston couldn't possibly—a very interesting work list and some cross-references to essays on notation and tuning systems. Moreover the article happens to make the startling statement that Johnston, who studied with and is an important authority on Harry Partch, "is regarded as one of the foremost composers of microtonal music."

We don't need the "regarded" qualifier here. Ask anyone working with microtones (it is one of American music's little secrets that a respectable number of composers *are*). Better yet, ask anyone who has come in contact with Johnston's music, which has a tendency to make a vivid impression on audiences.

Several years ago, when the Kronos Quartet championed Johnston's fourth string quartet (an arresting series of variations on Amazing Grace*), the piece was always the hit of its concerts, and Kronos has often cited it as one of their favorite pieces. (It is recorded on Kronos' Nonesuch CD, White Man Sleeps.) I also remember, more recently, a concert of striking modern works for singer and chamber ensembles presented by the new music specialist, soprano Dora Ohrenstein, at the Dance Theater Workshop, a venue for experimental work in New York, at which there was hardly a dry eye in the house after the premiere of Johnston's Calamity Jane and

Her Daughter**. Downtown audiences—especially a black-jeaned downtown audience which attends programs entitled "Urban Diva"—don't cry. Moreover, the text to Calamity Jane, adapted from letters purported to be written by Calamity Jane to her daughter, is considered bogus. But it is Johnston's amazing accomplishment to set even her cake recipe in such a way as to make it touching. (The work is included on Ohrenstein's CRI CD, Urban Diva.)

Johnston's large body of work, which includes nine string quartets, is not easy to categorize. He wrote 12-tone music in the '50s, as well as music that was clearly influenced by his three very different mentors-Harry Partch, Darius Milhaud, and John Cage. And while his music has long since stopped sounding like any one of them, all three have continued in some profound way to inform his work. From Milhaud, there comes an engaging directness of expression and economy of means; from Cage, a careful consideration of a composer's ability to control not only materials but compositional and performance situations and environments; from Partch, the new microtonal scales and a general sense of quirkiness. Johnston has also demonstrated that all three sources share a kind of wonder in the essence of sound.

Ultimately, what Johnston has done, more than any other composer with roots in the great American musical experiments of the '50s and '60s, is to translate those radical approaches to the nature of music into a music that is immediately apprehensible. He is radical without being avant-garde, as Kyle Gann has best put it in an essay that accompanies a winning CD of Johnston's chamber music, Ponder Nothing, recently released on New World Records.

But, having experimented in a wide variety of musical genres, including conceptual performance pieces and masterful microtonal music with rare general appeal, Johnston can also be said to be avant-garde without being radical. Indeed, Johnston is probably our most subversive composer, a composer able to make both radical thinking and avant-garde techniques sound invariably gracious. He is our gentlest persuader.

That graciousness towards his audience may also, paradoxically, explain why Johnston is not a more prominent figure in the concert hall. He does not scream his concerns-which is the way radical causes and the avant-garde usually get heard. Microtonal composers have, in particular, become militant these days, proclaiming that using more subtle tunings than the tempered system we are accustomed to is the only proper way to make music these days. (I lately saw one noted unconventional microtonalist wearing a button with a scull and cross bones on it, and the legend: "Tune It or Die!") Microtonal music has come to be associated with aggression and strangeness.



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Johnston's music is not strange, whether microtonal or not, as least not in that sense. Much of the deepest expression in Calamity Jane to Her Daughter-indeed what makes it so utterly moving-is the richness of emotion that can be derived from the purer tunings. In Johnston's hands such tunings make chords seem more able to represent nuance of feeling. In fact, it may be that lack of strangeness, that ability to focus directly and without fuss on the essence of a musical utterance, that (also paradoxically) makes Johnston one of the strangest of American composers. He is a composer who digs very deep to find the obvious. He is, for instance, a Catholic who can discover the Zen in his own devotion: In Ponder Nothing, a haunting 1989 set of solo clarinet variations on the hymn Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence, Johnston has revealed the Zen no-mindedness in its third line ("Ponder nothing earthly mind"), as Gan points out.

Johnston has, of course, pondered much. Only the hardest kind of pondering makes the ear-stretching and mind-stretching techniques of modern music sound so plain spoken. He has struggled to find techniques of making microtonal music immediate and playable. He has experimented, and sometimes failed. But mostly he has succeeded, as his great variety of chamber music, his vocal music (a model for the clarity of text settings) and his theatrical music all demonstrates. His is among our most authentic American voices, wise and easily loved. We only need to hear him, and to hear him far more often than we do, to recognize it.

This article, written by Mark Swed, originated in the March/April 1995 issue of Chamber Music. Permission to reprint was granted.

- *Performed at Hancher Auditorium by Kronos Quartet on November 14, 1994.
- **Dora Ohrenstein performed excerpts of this work at Hancher Auditorium on April 26. 1990 with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra conducted by John Adams.



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Drummers Dancing, Jumping, Pour



Through the darkness, a low rumble intensifies from the back of the hall. Gradually a series of swaying figures snake down the aisles, huge drums made of hollowed tree trunks balanced on their heads, beating out an insistent rhythm. The sheer power of the drumming fills the auditorium.

and vitality of the performance is an emotional experience that few Western audiences have ever encountered.

As the chief drummer comes forward, he calls to the rest of the musicians who respond with cheers before the rhythm begins again. "Oh children who have sacrificed themselves to

"The Drummers of Burundi, a 14-man group, dispensed primal pounding—part of the group playing an unchanging pattern, part slamming out shifting accents—and joyful, leaping dances."

-New York Times

One by one, the musicians position their drums in a crescent. A large ceremonial drum, the *inkiranya*, provides the focal point to which drummers come leaping forward with gymnastic precision, and strike the drum on its skin with deep booming resonance or beat the side with a harsh clacking. The thunderous sounds needs no amplification. The intensity

the drums? Are you ready? Are you ready? Are you ready?"

The Drummers of Burundi, who appear at Hancher on April 14, have performed in this way for centuries and, since the 1960s, for audiences worldwide. In recent years, the "Burundi beat" has been used by musical entrepreneurs to enhance the rhythms of

Lake Cyohoha-Sud of Burieding with Ebulle Rugari Muyinga Karuzi Mutaho Muramvya

Uvira

Western pop bands, but each time "the real thing" comes along, it knocks the audience sideways. While the origins of the musical tradition are shrouded in ancient legend and mystery, this is a performance which remains a fresh and vital cultural statement. The exuberance and creative spirit of a whole nation is expressed through these drums and the rituals surrounding them.

In Burundi, drums are sacred objects, once reserved solely for ceremonial use. They have long proclaimed important events-coronations, births, and funerals-and have celebrated the cycle of the seasons and the planting and harvesting of crops.

Through their close links with agriculture, the drums have acquired a symbolic association with fertility. The skin is likened to the baby's cradle, the pegs to the mother's breasts, the body of the drum to the stomach, and so on.

Drums are also bound to royalty in Burundi-the sacred drums and the king both represent the powers of fertility and regeneration, guaranteeing the future and prosperity of the kingdom. The word "ingoma" translates both as "drum" and "kingdom." Even today there remains an ancient network of "drum sanctuaries" which once served as the dwelling places of both drums and kings.

The musicians who will perform at Hancher learned their skills at an early age from their fathers and grandfathers. Their ancestors have always been drummers but, just as today, they were first and foremost farmers since Burundi is essentially an agricultural nation. Today the performance of the drummers carries less of the ritual significance of the past, but many of the rhythms they play still relate to aspects of their existence; some to the planting, harvesting and protection of the sorghum crop, some to familiar birds, and others in praise of the cow. considered sacred in Burundi.

Their Hancher performance will be made up of dozens of different rhythms, each representing an important concept to the people of Burundi. Sometimes the drums call them to appreciate important people—the chief drummer, the eldest drummer, or the most prestigious person present. Others rejoice in their traditions while still others encourage peace and mutual respect or unity.

Bururi Nyange Mekemba Kayugoro Nvanza-La onaitude Some rhythms relate specifically to the life

Bujumbar

(2,670 m)

Minago

Gitega

of the drums and the drummers. The long journey to the special place where the drums are made and the triumphant return to the village are remembered. Others celebrate the musicians' involvement with the instruments and the skills, physical strength, and speed they must command as drummers.

For the Drummers of Burundi percussion and dance are inseparable. With jerky movement and sudden and fantastic leaps, they often seem to be bordering on trance. Their performance is a mixture of almost religious gravity and unrestrained comedy. In rapid sequence war-like stamping or throatslitting gestures of sacrifice to the drums suddenly change into caricatures of animals.

But many of the rhythms are specifically designed to show off the drummers' talentssuppleness, acrobatic agility, and precision. Beyond its function at the center of day-to-day ritual, the drum has always been prized for the entertainment and sheer happiness it brings.

At the end of the performance, the drummers duck down behind their instruments so that only the drums are visible-the source of all the magic that has just unfolded.

This evening of joyful din will begin with the Mor Thiam and his Drums of Fire, originally from Senegal. Mor Dogo Thiam was born in Dakar, Senegal. His family, members of the Dogon tribe, are historians who use the drum

to tell their story to the Woloff people of Senegal. He started drumming at age eight and by 12 was performing at births, marriages, and deaths.

A master drummer, teacher, and performer, Mor Thiam was brought to the United States by dancer/choreographer Katherine Dunham in 1968. Settling in St. Louis, he became interested in how the drum was used in jazz and came in contact with the Black Artists Group, a collective which included saxophonist Oliver Lake, trumpeter Lester Bowie, and drummer Philip Wilson. In the years since, he has performed with Alvin Ailey Dance Company, Nancy Wilson, and B.B. King, among many others. He has also formed Drums of Fire, fusing elements of West African music with jazz and funk.

In recent years, Hancher has circled the globe to bring the best and most representative examples of the world's percussion traditions— Samul Nori from Korea, Kodo from Japan, Max Roach from the United States, Stomp from Britain, and Les Ballets Africains from Senegal. Their performances and drumming differ radically, but always there is a sense of visceral excitement that sets hearts pounding and even sternum bones vibrating. The Drummers of Burundi and Mor Thiam promise to do the same.

Tickets are available at the Hancher Box Office.

lulenge

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Nyakahura

Kakooko

Kibondo

TANZANIA

Kisogwa



Meredith Monk

Celebrating the Mysteries of Life Meredith Monk, one of America's most brilliant and unclassifiable theatrical artists, recently turned 50. As she put it, "The pain of aging is not only about accepting the limitations of age. It is also caused by a process of becoming more conscious."

Volcano Songs, which Ms. Monk will perform in the Hancher Loft on May 2 and 3, is the product of this passage. In less than one hour, Volcano Songs celebrates the mysteries of life, aging, death, rebirth, creation, and transformation. It is a solo work, but with just a few gestures and a range of vocal changes, Monk moves from childhood to old age and back to youth. At one moment she is a mother; at the next an aged woman; then a child and a wide-eyed young woman; the next a goddess. There are moments when she could be a cheerful flapper of the 1920s doing the Charleston. Then she dons enormous gloves and raises her arms triumphantly. At another moment she seems to wade through an unseen swamp. Combined with succinct movements, her wordless singing reveals a wealth of complex characters and personalities in continual metamorphosis.

As in all of her work, *Volcano Songs* is poetic in substance and motivation. It is strongly intuitive, metaphoric, and revelatory in its nature, with its meaning emerging in layers from a succession of images rather than from a linear narrative. The moment it begins, one is transported through movement, gesture, music, slides, and video to a complete, consistent, imagined world, as strange, mysterious, and intriguing as the real one. Slowly characters are transformed and magical shifts occur in the environment.

The visual effects of the piece are quite stunning. Ms. Monk worked with Paul Krajniak, director of exhibit development at Milwaukee's Discovery World Museum, a children's interactive science museum. At one point she pulls a cloth off the first of what appear to be three black rectangles on the floor and it glows. Behind a hanging pane of glass, scrubbing at it, she looks cloudy, but flashes of light bring her magically into sharp focus for eyeblinks at a time. But these are not simply special effects. Monk is interested in using such scientific or technological effects and space-age materials to describe or depict the metaphysical realm.

For almost 30 years, Meredith Monk has been at the forefront of an interdisciplinary approach to performance. A singer/ composer/director/choreographer/ filmmaker, she has been a seminal artist in synthesizing all the disciplines to discover new dimensions where movement meets ritual, music, theater, the voice, and film. She has been widely honored-with two Guggenheim Fellowships, a Brandeis Creative Arts Awards, three Obies for theater, two Villager Awards for composition, a "Bessie" for Sustained Creative Achievement, the National Music Theater Award in opera, 16 ASCAP Awards for Musical Composition, two German Critics Prizes for best recording, a Rockefeller Fellowship for Distinguished Choreography, and First Prize for Performance Programming from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. She has composed mega, opera-size creations and others more akin to chamber music. But no matter what the scale, her works have an austerity, transparency, exactitude of effect, multiple evocations, and a haunting emotional resonance.

As with the cycle of life, Ms. Monk calls Volcano Songs a "work-in-progress." But according to Jack Anderson of the New York Times, "it is difficult to image how it could be bettered."

Tickets are available at the Hancher Box Office.

Every room <u>can</u> be the best room in the house!

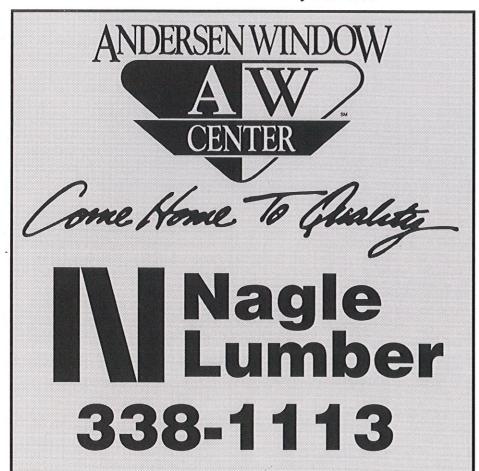


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Hancher Guild: A Decade of Serving the Arts

Hancher Guild is a dynamic organization of people who donate their most valuable resources to Hancher: their time, enthusiasm, insight, and commitment. The volunteers of Hancher Guild provide many vital services to Hancher: they staff the Showcase gift shop, offer hospitality to visiting artists, help with the organization of activities for young audiences, assist in the season subscription campaign, advise the auditorium management on programming and services, and act as goodwill ambassadors for Hancher and the performing arts.

While many Guild members are also Hancher Circle and Hancher Enrichment Fund contributors, no financial investment is required to become a Hancher Guild member. Nor is any specific time commitment necessary. Most members have full schedules and many interests. All the Guild asks is that its members do their best to honor the time they do commit. The Guild is often able to tailor responsibilities to its members' specific skills and interests. And you need not live in the Iowa City area to be a Guild member. The Guild has a number of members in other lowa communities. In addition to participating in the range of Guild activities, you can make a special contribution by helping the outreach and audience development in your own community.

Beyond the satisfaction of serving the arts, Hancher Guild members get a unique inside look at the performing arts. Among the many new people they meet may be the artists who appear on the Hancher stage. While you serve the arts, you find your own appreciation of the performances—and the business of putting them on the stage—enriched.

For further information on the Hancher Guild, contact Linda Bywater at 337 4663 or Gayle Klouda at 338 8824.



Calendar Calendar

For ticketed events, tickets are available from the Hancher Box Office or University Box Office, IMU. Check with the box office for current information on ticket availability.

MUSEUM OF ART EXHIBITIONS

March 18-April 30 Michael Mazur: "The Inferno"

March 18-May 14 Inscapes: Odd Nerdrum

March 18-May 14

Another Song: Susan Barron and John Cage

MUSIC, THEATER, AND DANCE

Wednesday, April 12 Stradivari Quartet 8 p.m., Clapp Recital Hall

UI Symphony Band 7:30 p.m., Hancher Auditorium

Thursday, April 13 *Loco Motives*8 p.m., Mabie Theatre, Theatre Building

Friday, April 14 Drummers of Burundi 8 p.m., Hancher Auditorium

Loco Motives 8 p.m., Mabie Theatre, Theatre Building

Saturday, April 15 Composers Workshop 8 p.m., Clapp Recital Hall

Loco Motives 8 p.m., Mabie Theatre, Theatre Building

Sunday, April 16 Loco Motives 3 p.m., Mabie Theatre, Theatre Building

Monday, April 17 Jazz Lab Band 8 p.m., Clapp Recital Hall **Thursday, April 20**Black Action Theatre
8 p.m., Theatre A, Theatre Building

Friday, April 21 Black Action Theatre 8 p.m., Theatre A, Theatre Building

Saturday, April 22 Black Action Theatre 8 p.m., Theatre A, Theatre Building

Sunday, April 23Black Action Theatre
3 p.m., Theatre A, Theatre Building

Wednesday, April 26 Women's Chorale 8 p.m., Harper Hall, Music Building

Friday, April 28 UI Opera Theatre Yolanta by Tchaikovsky Aleko by Rachmaninoff 8 p.m., Hancher Auditorium

Saturday, April 29Old Gold Singers
8 p.m., Harper Hall, Music Building

Sunday, April 30 UI Opera Theatre Yolanta by Tchaikovsky Aleko by Rachmaninoff 2 p.m., Hancher Auditorium

Tuesday, April 2 Meredith Monk Volcano Songs 8 p.m., Hancher Loft, Hancher Auditorium

Wednesday, April 3 Meredith Monk Volcano Songs 8 p.m., Hancher Loft, Hancher Auditorium

Hancher Auditorium Information

Box Office: Open from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Sunday. On nights of performances, the Box Office remains open until 8:30 p.m. If a performance falls on a Saturday or Sunday, Box Office hours are 1:00 to 8:30 p.m. Telephone: 319/335-1160, or toll-free in lowa 1-800-HANCHER.

Seating Policy: To avoid disrupting the performance, latecomers will be directed to the observation rooms and will be seated during an appropriate break in the performance, at the discretion of the management. If you must leave during a performance and later wish to re-enter the auditorium, an usher will escort you to an observation booth until an intermission or the conclusion of the performance.

Greenroom: The greenroom, located on the river side of the lobby, is the site of discussions preceding many events and is also a convenient place to meet artists following a performance. Ask an usher, or check the lobby sign for availability of performers.

Coughing and Electronic Watches:

The auditorium's acoustics amplify the sounds of coughing and other noises. Please turn off your electronic watch alarm. The use of a handkerchief helps to muffle a cough or sneeze, and cough drops are available from the ushers. If coughing persists, you may wish to return to the lobby, where an usher can direct you to one of the soundproof observation rooms.

Smoking: Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the auditorium, lobby, or Cafe. If you wish to smoke during intermissions, you may leave the building, but please take your ticket stub to re-enter the building.

Cameras and Tape Recorders: In compliance with copyright laws and contractual arrangements with artists, photographs and recordings may not be made during a performance. Please check your cameras and tape recorders with the house manager or an usher.

Restrooms and Drinking Fountains: Located on either side of the lobby and mezzanine.

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