

Saturday, December 2, 2023

8:00 PM

Upper Strong Auditorium

Wind
Symphony

**Bill Tiberio,
Conductor**

Mason St. Pierre,
ESM, TA



UR Wind Symphony
Bill Tiberio, Conductor
Mason St. Pierre, ESM, TA

Chorale and Shaker Dance John Zdechlik

Prelude, Siciliano, and Rondo Malcolm Arnold
arr. John Paynter

Mason St. Pierre, Eastman School of Music
Conductor

Deep River Benjamin Horne

Praise the Rain Dr. Stephen Shewan

The Eastern Standard Trio:
Heidi Lucas, French Horn; Jacob Ertl, piano; Zach Collins, tuba
Stephen Shewan, narrator
Poem by Joy Harjo

Timba Giovanni Santos

Sleigh Ride Leroy Anderson

Praise the Rain

BY JOY HARJO

Praise the rain; the seagull dive
The curl of plant, the raven talk—
Praise the hurt, the house slack
The stand of trees, the dignity—
Praise the dark, the moon cradle
The sky fall, the bear sleep—
Praise the mist, the warrior name
The earth eclipse, the fired leap—
Praise the backwards, upward sky
The baby cry, the spirit food—
Praise canoe, the fish rush
The hole for frog, the upside-down—
Praise the day, the cloud cup
The mind flat, forget it all—

Praise crazy. Praise sad.
Praise the path on which we're led.
Praise the roads on earth and water.
Praise the eater and the eaten.
Praise beginnings; praise the end.
Praise the song and praise the singer.

Praise the rain; it brings more rain.
Praise the rain; it brings more rain.

Joy Harjo, "Praise the Rain" from *Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings*.
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The Wylie Agency and Joy Harjo.

Program Notes: Joy Harijo served three terms as the United states Poet Laureate from 2019 – 2022, and is the first Native American poet laureate in the history of that position. Besides being an internationally acclaimed poet, she is also an accomplished jazz flutist and saxophonist. After hearing her read at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY, I knew that jazz sounds/rhythms had to be prominent in a musical setting of her poem, “Praise the Rain.”

The Eastern Standard Trio is actually anything but standard. Comprised of Heidi Lucas, horn; Zach Collins, tuba; and Jacob Ertl, piano; they have commissioned numerous works, expanding and raising the profile of the Horn/Tuba/Piano trio and its repertoire. They commissioned me to write for Narrator, Horn/Tuba/Piano, Concert Band and audience participation. Once I heard Joy Harijo “Praise the Rain”, I knew what I wanted to write. The piece is a musical commentary on this great American poem. My hope is that many bands perform the piece and immerse themselves in the poetry of Joy Harijo.

About the composer: Stephen Shewan is an award-winning composer whose music has been performed by soloists and ensembles and heard on radio stations worldwide. Shewan was the co-founder of the award-winning Williamsville Poetry and Music Celebration. Currently professor of Advanced Aural Skills at Roberts Wesleyan University, he was the director of bands at Williamsville East High School in East Amherst, NY from 1993-2021. He taught music at Odessa-Montour High School from 1983-1993. Shewan enjoys collaborating with professional musicians as well as young children as a composer, conductor and pianist. Through the universal language of music, he believes we can share joy, love and peace. Shewan lives with his beautiful wife, Ruthie, and his cat Téa.

Acknowledgements: A big thank you to Joy Harjo for granting us permission to make “Praise the Rain” the centerpiece of this commission project. Also, we could not have done this without the consent and assistance of Veronica Brusilovski and the Wylie Agency, and the good people of W.W. Norton Inc. It's been an honor and privilege to work with such a brilliant and expressive poem.

UR Wind Symphony Personnel Fall, 2023

Bill Tiberio, Conductor
Mason St. Pierre, ESM, TA

FLUTE

I. Stephanie Ju (and pic)
Caitlyn Marcello (and pic)
Naomi Raymond
Kristine DePippo
Zoe Chen
Jessie Talasco
Melissa Gibney
Isabella Wang
II. Bonnie Hartman
Dani Pearson
Sydney Carter
Lily Plague
Carmela Lozano
Zihang Yu
Maya Chen Jones
Nidhi Binoy
Renaë Spangler

OBOE

Blair Germain
Kristin Hahn
Mary MacAdam

CLARINET

I. Eric Wenner
Leah White
II. Gizelle Villanueva
Celina Liu
Emma Noble
Beri Chung
III. Allison Tilburg
Anika Callanan
Cloud Xiao
Alyssa Yin
Ethan Ke
Cassidy Romano
Josh Daniels

BASS CLARINET

Joey Stempien
Nathan Skerrett

BASSOON

Isaac Ondo
Maggie MacAdam

ALTO SAXOPHONE

I. Sadie Oldfield
Katherine Lentz
Jabe Hicks
Makayla Press
Christin Napierkowski
II. Thomas Lanks
Andrew Freeman
Leslii Silveus
Erin Stockdale
Natalie Wolfeiler

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Elana Memke
Matthew Bradley

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Carter Attardo
Paige Van Haute

TRUMPET

Millie Hawkins
Michael George
Mason St. Pierre (ESM)
Evan Weber
Lauren Miller
Aaron Do
Madeline Piscioti

FRENCH HORN

Emily Gipson
April Wang
Alessandra Fiorino
Charlotte Spaulding
Katherine Jefferis

TROMBONE

I. Peter Thompson
Darron King
II. Pamela Teelin.
James Schmidt
Zach Greenwell
III. Angel Paz (bass)

EUPHONIUM

Ember Johnson
Bruce Hawkins
Lynn Selke

TUBA

Maddy Zimmerman
Mike Dorval

PERCUSSION

Sanaa Finley
Sofie Werhane
George Ashji
Jonah Stapels
Alexa Pishtey
Alexandra Pritts

STRING BASS

Hannah Nyhan