



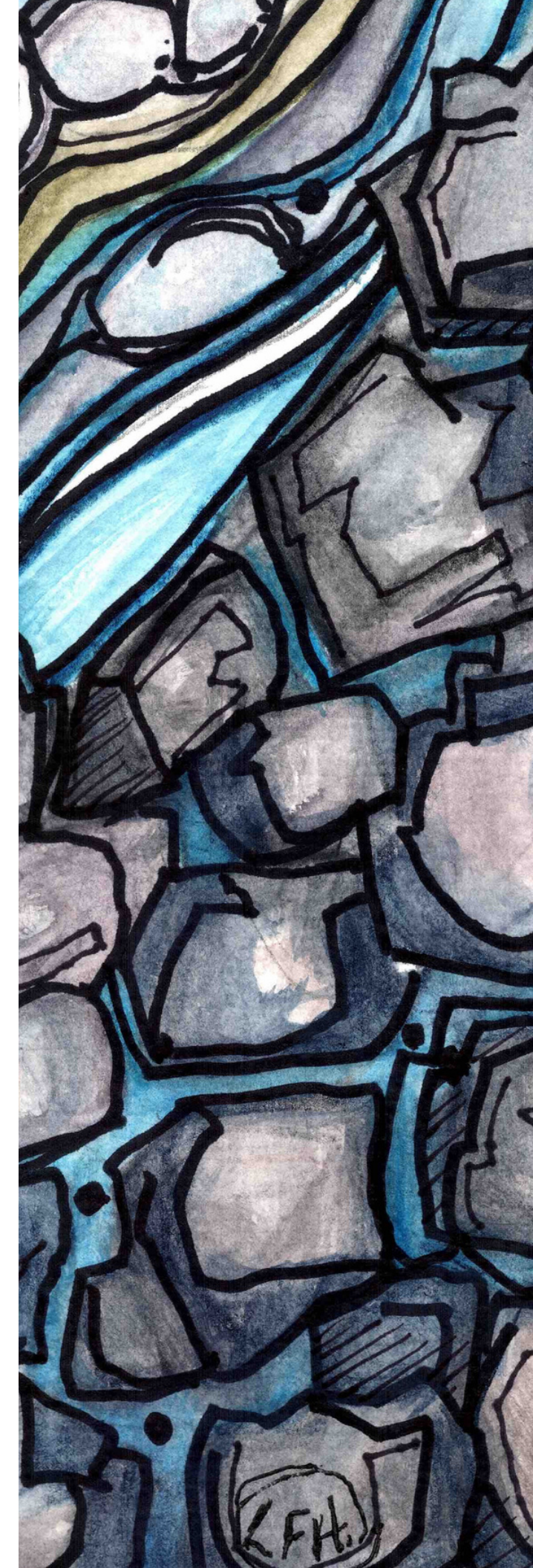
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Wandering with Wonder

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WANDERING WITH WONDER: THE ORCHESTRAL EXPERIENCE

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA WHELAN KOTKAS



Although innovative, any standard performance venue can meet the technical requirements with ease, and the scores arranged by Claude Lapalme for orchestra from original compositions by Chris Andrew, Matt Epp, Sherryl Sewepegeham, and Walter MacDonald White Bear are captivating and accessible for audiences.

Jennette Miller - Executive Director
Red Deer Symphony Orchestra

Welcome to the world of 'Wandering with Wonder: The Orchestral Experience.'

On this musical journey, the audience will meet a magical young woman (a puppet), Wonder, who loses her song and looks to her friends Turtle, Bear, Beaver and Eagle to help her find it. Inspired by the land, water and sky, 'Wandering with Wonder' is an immersive, multi-disciplinary, cross-cultural, musical storytelling experience with film and live orchestra, using the arts to reconnect people with nature.

So, come and see what I have seen...if you dare. Let your senses guide you, and open your hearts and minds to the wonders that await.

'Your gift is to sing back the land, the trees, the rocks, the sky, the stars and the water.' - Samantha Whelan Kotkas



This fully orchestrated work is for live symphony orchestra with film (Winner of Best Musical Film 2023 Alberta Film & Television (Rosie) Awards)



RED DEER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

September 11th, 2023

RE: Wandering With Wonder: The Orchestral Experience

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Red Deer Symphony Orchestra (RDSO) in support of *Wandering With Wonder: The Orchestral Experience*. RDSO performed *Wandering With Wonder* live in Red Deer, Alberta, as our 2022-23 Season Finale on May 27th, 2023. The concert was exceedingly well received by our audience, sponsors, and community stakeholders.

Created and produced by Samantha Whelan Kotkas, *Wandering With Wonder* is an incredibly prescient and relevant work that integrates multidisciplinary and cross-cultural art and music with storytelling to connect with audiences. The feature film with videography by Roadwest Pictures against the backdrop of Alberta's Rocky Mountain landscape was a finalist for 2023's Alberta Film & Television (Rosie) Awards. The live orchestral version we performed in 2023 sold exceptionally well and had a profound and palpable effect on our audience and community. Although innovative, any standard performance venue can meet the technical requirements with ease, and the scores arranged by Claude Lapalme for orchestra from original compositions by Chris Andrew, Matt Epp, Sherryl Sewepegeham, and Walter MacDonald White Bear are captivating and accessible for audiences.

Samantha Whelan Kotkas is a valued asset and member of the RDSO team, not only as a trumpet player within the orchestra ranks but also as a music educator and creator. As RDSO's Executive Director since 2021, I have personally had the pleasure of working directly with Samantha on works and programs she has created - first with *Music From the Land*, a digital educational program that RDSO adapted for a pandemic project, then throughout 2021-22 with RDSO's production of *Wandering With Wonder* as a full-length feature film.

RED DEER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Samantha Whelan Kotkas creates vital, innovative, and engaging works; however, she also fosters and nurtures these works throughout the entire production process, taking an active role in ensuring performance success. Her professionalism, commitment, flexibility, and positive, enthusiastic attitude permeate every aspect of her work and make her an ideal production partner.

Not only would I recommend *Wandering With Wonder* for live performance by other orchestras, I hope RDSO is just the first of many organizations to bring this work to audiences and communities across Canada. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information or details.

Sincerely,



**Jennette Miller
Executive Director
Red Deer Symphony Orchestra**



Testimonials

for Wandering with Wonder



Morgan McKee

'What an amazing work of art you created. Thank you for sharing it with the world.'



Amanda MacKay

'It was so beautiful. So glad I was able to be there. It even got a solid thumbs up from my 13-year-old. Not an easy feat these days.'



Claude Lapalme

'Well, the live version of Wandering with Wonder was a smashing success. Worth doing again. Spellbound audience, immediate and prolonged standing ovation, and happy performers...So much talent on stage - it truly was a magical evening which left many in a quite verklempt state!'



Timothy Shantz

'Wonderful. It should be heard across the country!!!'

Testimonials

for Wandering with Wonder



Janet Kuschak

"A night to remember. There are no words to describe this magical production! Thank you to all for your incredible and inspiring vision and talent."



Eileen McKee

"Totally spellbinding! The live performance enhanced the movie so much and gave the audience a truly behind the scenes vision! Thank you to all involved in this magical undertaking!"



Daniel Mills

"Featuring captivating imagery, film, sound design, puppetry, dance, storytelling, new and traditional ways of creating, and many genres of music—all beautiful in their own way—this is the type of artistic endeavor and collaborative project we should all be striving for to make the world a better place."



Melrose Randell

"An amazing production. Congratulations on the excellent teamwork to pull off this multimedia music performance. The audience was entranced."

INSTRUMENTATION FOR WANDERING WITH WONDER

Flute (& Alto Flute)
Oboe I
Oboe II (& English Horn)
Clarinet (in Bb and A)
Bassoons I & II
Horns I & II in F
Trumpet I in Bb (and Cornet in Bb)
Trumpet II in Bb
Trombone
Percussion
Harp
Jazz Trio: Piano, Bass & Drums
SATB Choir
Violins I & II
Violas
Violoncelli
Double Basses

Percussion is comprised of:

Timpani
Glockenspiel
Marimba
Vibraphone
Crotales
Suspended Cymbal
Triangle
Tam-tam
Ratchet (to be provided)
Guiro
Vibraslap
2 Small Rocks



PROGRAM ORDER

Wandering with Wonder

1. Water and Love
2. The Girl Who Walked the World
3. Turtle
4. Bear Story
5. Bear Intro & Entrance
6. Quiet Birds
7. Bear Love
8. There Are More Stars
9. Beaver Story
10. Laughing Beaver Song
11. Wonder Walk Away
12. Eagle Intro
13. Eagle
14. Enchantment of the Crickets
15. Okâwîmâw Askiy



TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Wandering with Wonder

- Large Screen behind the orchestra
- 1 Sound Monitor for the Singer and Narrators
- 1 Video Monitor for the Singer and Narrators
- Guitar to be run through the sound system
- Indigenous Flute to be run through the sound system
- The video show runs from QLab on a Mac.
- The Mac has a USB-C out, and USB-C to HDMI converter that can connect to an HDMI cable to run to the projector input.
- Most of the video cues also have audio running from the 1/8" headphone jack on a Mac into the soundboard.

The show travels with 5 Artists

Samantha Whelan Kotkas (Calgary)

Sherryl Sewepagaham (Edmonton)

Chris Andrew (Edmonton)

Matt Epp (Toronto)

Walter MacDonald White Bear (Calgary)

WANDERING WITH WONDER: THE ORCHESTRAL EXPERIENCE

ABOUT THE TEAM



Samantha Whelan Kotkas M. Music, B. Music - Writer/Producer

Born in Canada, raised in Africa and educated in Calgary and Houston, Samantha has been praised for creating truly unique and totally engaging experiences for audiences. Samantha's energy, extensive education, musicianship and understanding of multi-

disciplinary performance make her stand out as one of Canada's top performers.

As a musician and storyteller she has a gift for pairing music and story to create memorable and magical experiences. She has performed her works with many of Canada's major orchestras including the Calgary Philharmonic, Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and Canada's top jazz musicians. As a trumpet player, she is also a full-time member of Rosa Barocca, the Red Deer Symphony, and Altius Brass.

Samantha is the education advisor for Calgary Pro Musica and a teaching artist for the National Arts Centre of Canada (NAC) where she finds the cross-cultural work she has done, as part of the Arts Alive Program, very meaningful.



Chris Andrew - Composer/Music Director

There are very few hats that Chris Andrew doesn't wear. As one of Canada's finest pianists, Chris brings ingenuity, highly acclaimed technical abilities and passionate performances to the musical table, making it a table other musicians want to join.

He was also awarded the Galaxie Rising Star Award at Canada's 2008 National Jazz Awards.



Claude Lapalme - Orchestrator/ Conductor

Since his appointment as Music Director of the Red Deer Symphony Orchestra in 1990, Claude Lapalme has made his mark as a superb conductor, an exceptional arranger and an outstanding Music Director. His orchestrations have been called "gorgeous" and "spine-chilling."



Sherryl Sewepagaham - Composer

Sherryl Sewepagaham is of Cree-Dene ancestry from the Little Red River Cree Nation in northern Alberta. She holds a Bachelor of Music Therapy (Capilano University) and a Bachelor of Education (University of Alberta). Having taught elementary music for 14 years in Edmonton, Sherryl is an experienced elementary Music Educator focusing on Indigenous Music Education and drum songs for the classroom. Now as an emerging Music

Therapist, she will begin her work in Early Education and Attachment Disorders in the music therapy field.

Sherryl is also a 20-year member of the 2005 Juno-nominated, Edmonton-based trio Asani and composes drum songs in the Cree language. Asani received a 2010 Canadian Folk Music Award, a 2010 Indian Summer Music Award, a 2005 Canadian Aboriginal Music Award, and many other music awards nominations. Asani toured extensively around the world performing at Carnegie Hall in New York, The Kennedy Centre in Washington D.C., and the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver BC.

Sherryl is also a composer of traditional and contemporary First Nations drum songs. Her 2014 debut solo album, *Splashing the Water Loudly*, received a 2015 Indigenous Music Award nomination and is featured in APTN's *Chaos and Courage* series. Sherryl wrote the music and lyrics for the National Arts Centre's Music Alive Program (MAP) song, "Music Alive", which has been shared with elementary schools across Canada. Sherryl also created and co-created three teacher resources for the MAP program and continues to develop cultural programs for music teachers.



Matt Epp - Song writer/Performer

Award-winning songwriter Matt Epp is the quintessential troubadour. Born in the Canadian Prairies, he has won the admiration and hearts of an audience that spans the globe. He sings with a tenderness that belies an honesty seldom seen, and a weighty pitch that travels right to the core. He is a rare performer with the ability to take you into his world and make you feel like, in an instant, a true friend. His knack for

transforming theaters into living rooms is almost unparalleled and has turned him into one of the country's best live acts and most valuable artistic exports.



Walter MacDonald White Bear - Storyteller for Bear/Composer

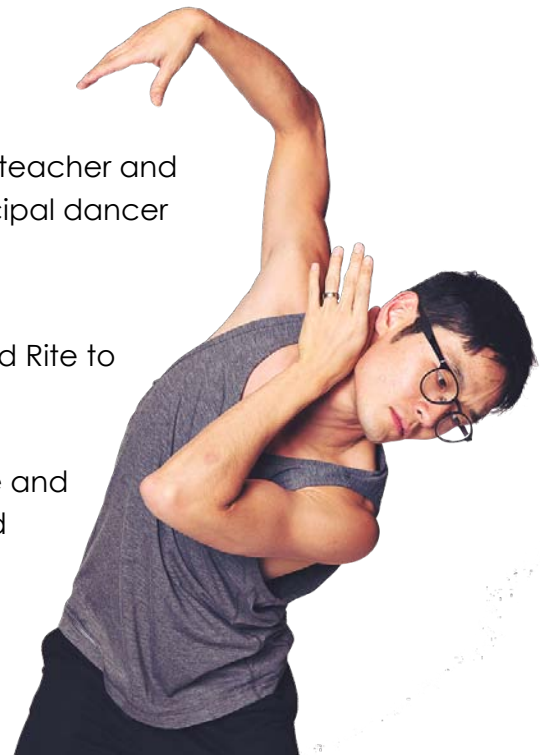
Walter MacDonald White Bear is a Cree singer-songwriter originally from the First Nation of Moose Factory, Ontario. In addition, Walter is an educator, performer and motivational speaker. He has been performing acoustic and flute music for several years. Performance highlights include The Edmonton Folk Music Festival, The Chiefs Summit with Tom Jackson, The Dream Speakers Festival, The Mountain Song Native Theater, World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education and

more. Walter has been featured as a keynote speaker at various conferences with topics including Social Services, Justice, Education, Wellness and the Environment. His music is a reflection of his personal journey as a First Nations person in Canada. He has shared his cultural knowledge with various audiences that range from correctional services to principals, teachers and students. If you would like to know more about Walter MacDonald White Bear please visit his website at www.waltermacdonaldwhitebear.com

Yukichi Hattori - Dancer for Eagle

Yukichi Hattori is a Japanese-Canadian ballet dancer, dance teacher and choreographer based in Calgary, Alberta. He is a former principal dancer with the Alberta Ballet Company.

Yukichi has been an active choreographer for Alberta Ballet creating Tubular Bells, Seven Deadly Sins, Temple, Carmen, and Rite to name a few. He has also created works in Japan and for the Hamburg Ballet. Along with his career as a dancer and choreographer, Yukichi has found time to share his knowledge and skills as a teacher in ballet and contemporary both locally and internationally.





Dean Bareham - Director

Co-Artistic Director, Co-Founder Green Fools Theatre

Dean Bareham: Puppeteer

Co-Artistic Director, Co-Founder Green Fools Theatre

Dean Bareham is artistic director and co-founder of Green Fools Theatre. He began his studies as a sculpture major and performance artist at the Alberta College of Art & Design. He then spent two year at the Dell' Arte School of Physical Theatre in Blue Lake, California. For the last twenty-six years, Dean has been delighting audiences across the globe with his buffoonery and stilt characters; his alter ego, Gustavo the Impossiblist is infamous world-wide.

Dean has performed and taught workshops all across Canada, Europe, South America, Macedonia, New Zealand, Lesotho, Japan, and the USA. He has performed with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and with Cirque du Soleil at the Luminato Festival in Toronto. Dean is proud to be an instructor for the Winnipeg International Children's Festival Circus and Magic Partnership Program, and CIRQINIQ a circus arts Program for Nunavik youth, a partnership program with Cirque du Soleil and Katimavik Regional Govt.

Dean was voted one of Calgary's Top Forty Under Forty and was recently awarded the ATB Financial Healing Through the Arts Award at the Calgary Mayor's Luncheon for the Arts.



Tobias Kalden - Technical Director

Born, raised, and educated in Germany, Tobias is pursuing his path creating inimitable experiences for audiences around the world in professional audio. After touring Europe and the US as a FOH and Monitor engineer, Tobias took up new adventures on the other side of the big Pond – Canada.

He is currently the full-time front of house engineer for Juno Award Winner Colin James.

Wanting to give back to the youth, Tobias took up the opportunity of recording and mixing duties for the Alberta International Band Festival (AIBF) in 2012. In the same year he also became the Monitor and Recording engineer for the Stampede City Sessions at the Webber Academy Performance Centre in Calgary, originally aired on Shaw on Demand and now moved over to PBS.



Paul Johnston - Recording Engineer

Ottawa-born Johnston studied piano into his teens when he switched his focus to electric bass and playing in rock bands. These days he's more likely to be seen playing acoustic bass in jazz combos around Alberta during his off-hours from Grant MacEwan University.

Studio work became a sideline after he moved to take his undergrad degree in jazz at Montreal's McGill University. It gradually became a priority, though, and he finished his master's degree in sound recording.

Paul moved to Edmonton to take his position at MacEwan in mid-2014, just in time to help plan the new studios in the downtown arts building. He has been awarded six Junos.



Lynne Huras - Visual Artist

Lynne was born and raised in the creative environment of the theatre town of Stratford, Ontario. She has, like many artists before her, found her artistic expression in the breathtaking beauty of nature. She is a graduate of the Art & Art History program at the University of Toronto/Sheridan College and, on what was to be a short stop in Banff in 1992, Lynne found endless fuel for her artistic passions in the trees, rocks and water of the Rocky Mountains. She enjoys spending hours walking, sitting and sketching outdoors, absorbing the sensations of a natural experience and then taking those sketches and feelings home to translate them onto canvas. Her hope is to convey to the viewer the peace and awe she finds in, and the respect she has for, our magical home, this planet.



Annie Kuhn - Costume Designer

Anni has had a love for designing since she was eight years old. Working as La Caravan's costume designer and creator since 2006, it is one of her absolute joys to create costumes for the stage. She finds ideas through exploring repetitions and patterns in nature, movement, and body awareness. She has studied with a master in classical corset making, but is otherwise self trained.



**Jordan Andrew - Composer/
Sound Designer**

Jordan is an up and coming sound designer/producer/composer with a recognized talent for understanding the musical context of a project and conveying the sought emotion for it. He is a

professional award-winning DJ/Producer who is culturally aware in both the electronic music industry and trends following it. He has worked at various shows around North America and written music for a retro-esque video game and multiple short-films; some of which have been nominated by Toronto's AltFFAAlternative Film Festival and Los Angeles' CineFest



Joel Goundry - Film Producer

Joel's approach has always been about people. His attention to detail and his commitment to integrity & relationships, ensures clients have an exceptional experience working with Roadwest. With a background in feature film production, theatre, and on-location shooting, he skillfully tells diverse stories in various settings.



**Jennette Miller - Executive Producer of the
Film for Wandering with Wonder and
Executive Director of the Red Deer
Symphony Orchestra**

A dedicated executive director with a focus on efficiency, stakeholder collaboration, business development and customer satisfaction. My out of the box thinking and organizational skills enable me to capitalize on opportunities that have allowed the Red Deer Symphony Orchestra to thrive and persevere through the ever changing business climate of the last few years.