

RED DEER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Presents

Wandering With Wonder



Concert
Guidebook

Artwork courtesy of Lynne Huras

Wandering With Wonder

Program Order

Land Acknowledgment

Mayor Ken Johnston

Welcome Song

Sherryl Sewepagaham

Wandering With Wonder

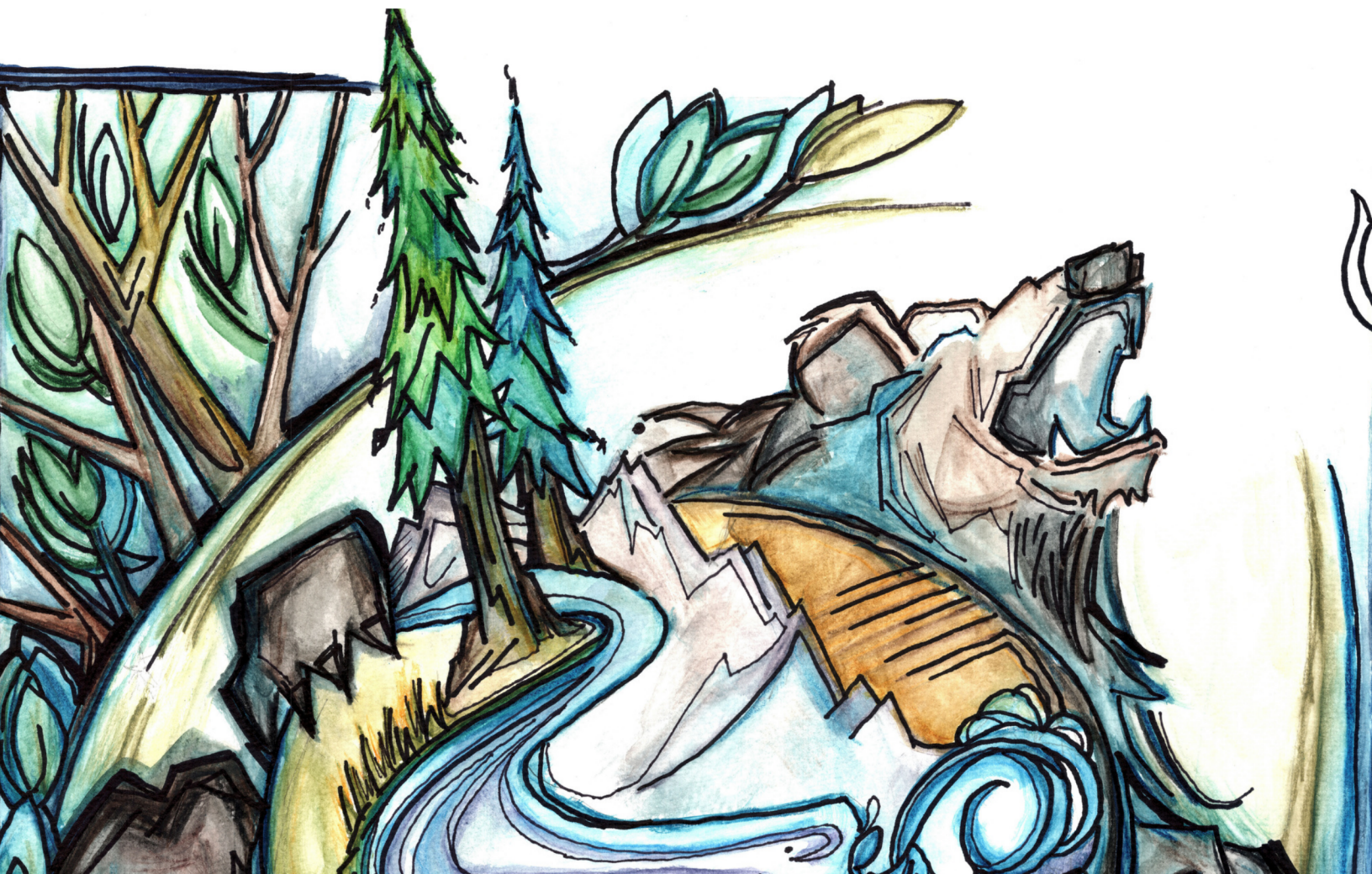
RDSO & Guest Artists



About Wandering With Wonder

Samantha Whelan Kotkas

Inspired by the land, water, and sky, 'Wandering with Wonder' is an immersive outdoor musical storytelling experience using the arts to reconnect people with nature. This film takes the audience through an adventure of mystery, loss, and discovery while featuring newly composed music by five Canadian composers: Chris Andrew, Jordan Andrew, Matt Epp, Sherryl Sewepagaham, and Walter MacDonald White Bear, orchestrated by Maestro Claude Lapalme and Chris Andrew. On this journey, the audience will meet a magical young woman (a puppet), Wonder, who will guide them through a day that never was. Through her eyes, we experience the transformational power of nature, music, and friendship as she searches for her lost song with the help of her animal friends - Turtle, Bear, Beaver, and Eagle.



Meet the Artists

Samantha Whelan Kotkas - Writer & Producer, Turtle



Samantha Whelan Kotkas is a professional trumpet player, teaching artist, storyteller, and award-winning children's book producer with over 20 years of experience working in Albertan, Canadian, and international arts communities. She is the second trumpet player in the Red Deer Symphony and performs regularly with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Rosa Barocca, and Altius Brass. She has authored several works which she narrates with symphony orchestras and Canada's top jazz and classical musicians. She was also very honoured to serve as the "Distinguished Graduate" at the University of Calgary's convocation ceremony in June 2018.

In conjunction with her active career as a performer, Samantha is the education advisor for Calgary Pro Musica and a teaching artist for the National Arts Centre of Canada (NAC), where she finds her cross-cultural work with Walter MacDonald White Bear as part of the Music Alive Program, very meaningful. She has written outreach and music teaching guides for the NAC, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Samantha is the writer and producer of "Wandering with Wonder."

Dean Bareham - Director



Dean is the 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 before attending the Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre in Blue Lake, California. For the last thirty years, Dean has been delighting audiences across the globe with his buffoonery, clowning, and stilt characters; his alter ego, Gustavo the Impossible, is infamous worldwide. Dean has performed and taught physical theatre workshops across Canada, Europe, South America, Macedonia, New Zealand, Japan, and the USA.

He has taught social circus to tens of thousands of youth all across Canada and in Lesotho in South Africa. He has performed as a clown with Cirque du Soleil at the Luminato Festival in Toronto and as a puppeteer with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Theatre Orchestra in Ottawa. Recently, Dean has been acting in TV and creating puppet television shows for kids; he is a puppeteer on the new Fraggles Rock - Back to the Rock on Apple TV and on Joe Pickett on Paramount Plus.

Meet the Artists

Sherryl Sewepagaham - Composer, Beaver



Sherryl Sewepagaham is of Woodland Cree and Dene ancestry from the Little Red River Cree Nation in Northern Alberta. She is a choral composer of land-based Cree works and has composed for choirs of all ages and abilities, including invited commissions by professional choirs. Her music is heard on award-winning albums and in documentary films. Sherryl is a co-founder of the 2006 Juno-nominated Indigenous women's trio, Asani who performed on international stages, such as Carnegie Hall in New York and Midem in France.

Sherryl is, first and foremost, an artist and performer composing music for large-scale productions with professional artists and community-based song circles with youth. She has also created Indigenous music education resources for the National Arts Centre's Music Alive Program and MusiCounts Education Charity. Sherryl will pursue a PhD in ethnomusicology in 2023 to explore the role of Cree music practices in language revitalization and restoration in northern Cree communities.

Walter MacDonald White Bear - Composer, Bear



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 guitar 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.

Walter's 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. Walter is currently working with Samantha Whelan Kotkas as an artist in residence at Edgemont Elementary School with kindergarten to grade 5 students.

Meet the Artists

Yukichi Hattori - Choreographer, Eagle



Yukichi Hattori received his training at the school of Hamburg Ballet John Neumeier. Upon graduating, Yukichi joined the Hamburg Ballet company, where he danced for seven years. Yukichi was promoted to soloist in 2004 and danced many roles within the company. He also began to choreograph while in Hamburg and was awarded the Public Prize at the Prix Dom Perignon choreographic competition.

In July 2006, Yukichi moved to Calgary, joining the Alberta Ballet company as a principal dancer. With Alberta Ballet, Yukichi created many pieces for the company, including Carmen, the Seven Deadly Sins, and Tubular Bells; as well as starring in numerous company productions. Yukichi retired from Alberta Ballet in 2016 and opened the H/W School of Ballet with his partners, Galien Johnston Hattori and Tara Williamson. He continues to choreograph, collaborating with Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Theatre Calgary and Calgary Opera, to name a few. Yukichi is very pleased to have been a part of this wonderful production.

Chris Andrew - Composer, Jazz Trio (Piano)



Pianist and composer Chris Andrew is one of Canada's top talents in jazz. Chris' unique approach and distinct voice on the piano have personally garnered him a CBC Galaxie Rising Star Award, and his ensemble, the Hutchinson Andrew Trio, were winners of the prestigious TD Grand Jazz Award at the 34th edition of the Montréal International Jazz Festival. With a career spanning 28 years thus far, Chris has recorded eight albums as a leader and has been nominated five times for Jazz Recording of the Year by the Western Canadian Music Awards.

In addition, he has performed on over 70 recordings as a sideman, has toured across Canada eleven times, and has performed in Korea, Cuba, London, Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, the United States, and Greece. Chris' compositions have been featured in productions by Decidedly Jazz Danceworks, Alberta Dance Theatre, as well as for radio themes and on TV and short films. Currently, Chris is the Section Head of Piano at MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta, as well as the musical director for Edmonton's "Halley's Supper Club" at the Starlight Casino, where he runs the "Million Dollar Dreamers and The Architekts."

Meet the Artists

Rubim de Toledo - Jazz Trio (Bass)



Award-winning bassist and composer Rubim de Toledo combines the influences of his Brazilian heritage and his dedication to the jazz tradition to create an approach to music that is refreshing and uplifting. Boasting a diverse rhythmic palette focused on global grooves and inspired by Latin, Caribbean, African, jazz, and contemporary music, a lure towards improvisation and a forward-looking traditionalism, Rubim nurtures a commanding sound and style as a bassist, soloist, and composer.

Rubim is also a founding member of Albertan Latin groups Montuno West, Bomba, and Maracujah. He has been a frequent musical director for Calgary's Decidedly Jazz Danceworks since 2006 and is the head of the bass department at MacEwan University in Edmonton. In 2021, Rubim won the Western Canadian Music Award (WCMA) for Instrumental Artist of the Year as well as a nomination for Global Artist of the Year. In 2018 he won the WCMA Jazz Artist of the Year award.

Rubim's favourite part of Wandering With Wonder is being able to collaborate with so many outstanding artists across different disciplines.

Jamie Cooper - Jazz Trio (Drums)



Jamie Cooper is a versatile and in-demand drummer in Edmonton.

Jamie has performed with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the Edmonton Jazz Orchestra, the Yardbird Suite Jazz Orchestra, and the Yardbird Suite All-stars.

An in-demand session drummer, having played on dozens of albums, Jamie has also shared the stage with Juno-award winners P.J. Perry, the late Tommy Banks, late vibraphonist Peter Appleyard, vocalist Sheila Jordan, Dan Aykroyd, and multi-Grammy-winning artist Maria Schneider, just to name a few.

Meet the Artists

Rebbekah Ogden - Puppeteer (Wonder)



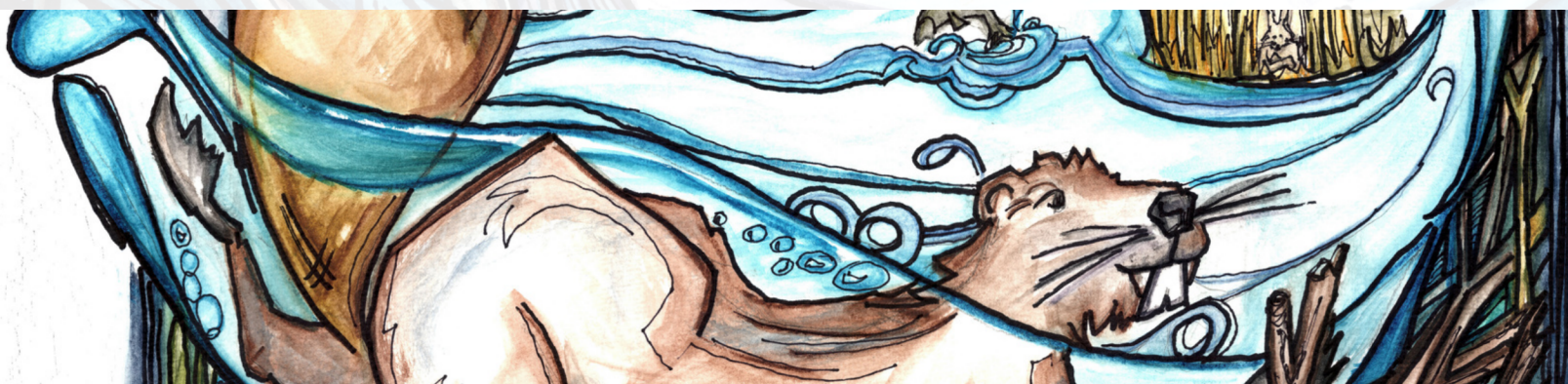
Rebbekah is a multiracial artist based in Calgary, Alberta, who trained at Rosebud School of the Arts, where she received an FRSA in Theatre Arts following her four years of study in performance art. She is a professional actor, aspiring playwright, and a self-taught visual artist. Select acting credits you may recognize her from include: Wandering with Wonder (Storyfair Productions), Shakespeare by the Bow Comedy of Errors (Theatre Calgary), Salt-Water Moon (Creating Genesis), The Comedy of Errors, An L.M. Montgomery Christmas, Wade (RSA), A Christmas Story, The Kite, Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol (Rosebud Theatre).

Matt Epp - Composer, Troubadour



Photo: Jen Squires

International touring artist and award-winning songwriter Matt Epp is the quintessential troubadour of the Canadian prairies, who has won the admiration of an audience that spans the globe. A stark and confessional songwriter endowed with an infinite capacity to engage an audience, Epp's performances encourage a sense of connection and community, where every listener leaves as a friend. He is one of the gifted forerunners defining the future landscape of Canadian music - no doubt contributing to his Grand Prize win at the International Songwriting Competition in 2017. A seasoned collaborator and activist, Matt's music has been on regular rotation on CBC, Sirius XM, and community radio for over a decade.



Meet the Artists

Luminous Voices



Luminous Voices, Calgary's professional chamber choir, was founded in 2012 by conductor and Artistic Director Timothy Shantz. Comprised of some of the best ensemble singers in the Calgary area, collaborating with singers and musicians from across North America, Luminous Voices unites local, national, and international artists and organizations to illuminate choral music of the past and present, spanning cultures and traditions.

Luminous Voices engages audiences in Calgary and beyond through exceptional sonic experiences encompassing live and virtual performances, recordings, workshops, new commissions by contemporary composers, and community education and development.

Jordan Andrew - Sound Designer



Jordan Andrew is a Vancouver-based music composer and sound designer with a unique background that offers an uncommon skillset in the world of film composition.

Jordan started his career as a professional touring DJ/Turntablist and competed at national levels, with headlining shows in NYC, LA, Vancouver, and a variety of Canadian music festivals. He's had the pleasure of sharing stages with internationally prominent DJs such as Skratch Bastid, Maseo of De La Soul, Krafty Kuts, and The Funk Hunters. Furthermore, Jordan has nearly 15 years of music production experience with Logic 9 and 10 software.

Signed with renowned electronic label Westwood Recordings, his original music has been nominated for various awards. Today, Jordan uses his acute intuition for music that resonates on an emotional level to effectively support each project. It's through this dedication that Jordan earned two Leo Award Nominations in 2022 for Best Score and Best Sound for a Short Drama and a film called 'Shadowlands' - a true exercise in the classic Hollywood Noir genre. He was also nominated for a Canadian Screen Music Award this year for the same project.

A Genre buff who loves a good laugh, he hopes to score more projects of a wide variety in the future. Jordan is always excited to discuss future collaborations and ideas waiting to be brought to life - any excuse to nerd out!

Meet the Artists

Joel Goundry - Film Producer (Roadwest Pictures)



Joel's approach has always been about people first. His attention to detail and commitment to integrity and relationships is an important part of what makes his work at Roadwest Pictures a success. Roadwest's work has spanned many genres and approaches, including multi-episode docuseries (*Being There*, *Caregivers in the Wild*), feature film work (*Ties That Bind* - 2023 release), and various other film and client work. It is the relationship between collaborators that Joel feels is so important, and collaborating on this project was an amazing and rejuvenating experience.

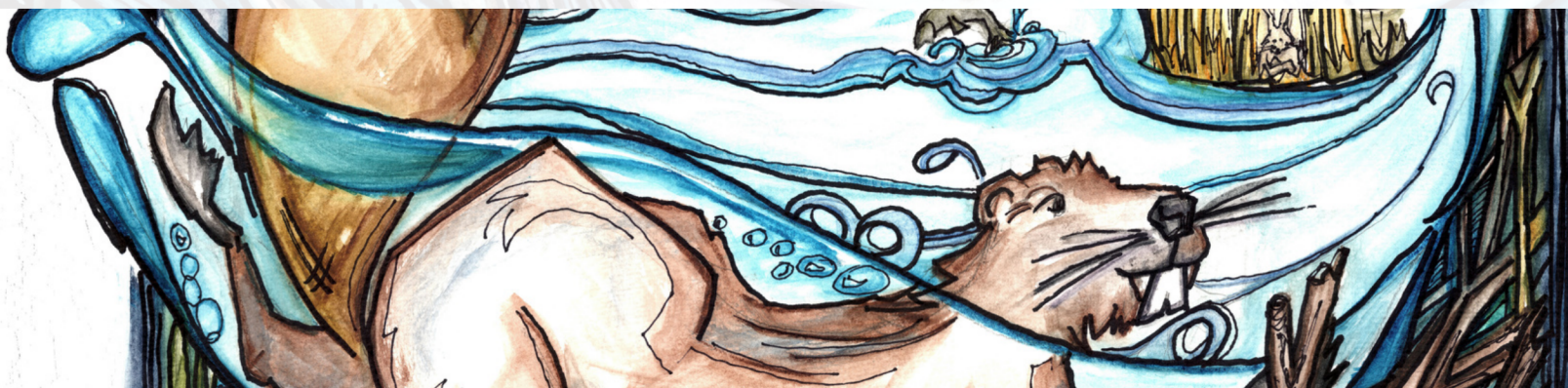
His favourite part of *Wandering With Wonder* is the drone shots of the land - it's so amazing to see this beautiful part of the world from the eyes of an eagle...

Dan Perrott - Film Editor (Roadwest Pictures)



Having a BFA in Drama from the University of Calgary and a diploma in Film/Video Production from SAIT, as well as being a musician and composer, Dan felt uniquely lucky to be able to draw on all of these various inclinations for *Wandering With Wonder*. Through Roadwest Pictures, Dan has worked on editing various film projects for organizations such as Tiny Footprints, Calgary YMCA, Alberta Health Services, Mount Royal Conservatory, *Being There* and *Caregivers in the Wild*. He also is working on the edit for the upcoming shot-in-Alberta feature film *Ties That Bind*.

As a composer, Dan has written *Return To Treasure Island*, an original musical for Storybook Theatre, and continues to contribute to Forte Musical Theatre's long-running holiday musical theatre revue *Naughty But Nice* every Christmas.



Meet the Artists

Paul Johnston - Sound and Audio Engineering



Paul Johnston, Associate Professor, is an award-winning producer, engineer, musician, and Head of Recording at MacEwan University. After many years as a freelance musician/producer in Montreal, Paul moved west to Edmonton to take an academic appointment at MacEwan. His enthusiasm and experience are central to his teaching. The establishment and operation of Bent River Records play a key role in his interdisciplinary, experiential teaching approach.



Film Credits

"WANDERING WITH WONDER"

Written and Created by Samantha Whelan Kotkas

Executive Producer: Jennette Miller

Directed by Dean Bareham

Orchestration Composed by RDSO's Music Director Claude Lapalme
and TD Grand Jazz Award-Winning Composer & Pianist Chris Andrew

Film Production: Roadwest Pictures

Artistic Producer & Production Manager: Joel Goundry

Film Editing: Dan Perrott

Director of Photography: Phil Harrison

Camera Operator: Jaimie Stewart

Sound and Audio Engineering: Paul Johnston and Erin Yamabe

Sound Design: Jordan Andrew

Music Director: Chris Andrew

Music: Chris Andrew, Matt Epp, Sherryl Sewepagaham,
Walter MacDonald White Bear

Orchestral Performance Conducted by: Claude Lapalme

Orchestral Musicians: Red Deer Symphony Orchestra

RDSO Personnel Manager: Dean O'Brien

Jazz Trio: Chris Andrew, Rubim de Toledo, Jamie Cooper

Choir: Luminous Voices - Artistic Director, Tim Shantz

Background Vocals: Erin Yamabe

Dance and Choreography: Yukichi Hattori

Puppetry: Green Fools Theatre

Puppeteer: Rebbekah Ogden

Costume Design: Anni Kuhn

Artwork: Lynne Huras

Leighton Centre Liaison: Amanda MacKay

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Filmed on location at The Leighton Art Centre.

Thank you to the Music Department at MacEwan University for their generous support of this project.

Orchestral recording at: Polaris Centre for the Performing Arts