

**Jupiter String Quartet and Michi Wiancko**

*To Unpathed Waters, Undreamed Shores*

Friday, November 6, 2020 at 3pm

**Program**

Michi Wiancko: *To Unpathed Waters, Undreamed Shores* (2020)

*Movement 1: Pelagic Within*

Our journey begins on the water, as we travel from shoreline to open sea.

*Movement 2: Dream of the Xerces Blue*

Dedicated to the magic of pollinators specifically to the gossamer-winged butterfly, Xerces Blue, which became extinct after loss of its coastal sand dune habitat in San Francisco's Sunset District. It was last spotted in the Bay area in 1943

*Movement 3: Central Park Microbial*

A tribute to the microbiome of the soil beneath New York City's Central park, discovered only in recent years to be shockingly diverse and resilient. The vast majority of the park's microbes have yet to be studied or even named.

*Movement 4: Invisible Eviction*

The word is on fire.

*Movement 5: Crying, Together*

A song of mourning dedicated to our most vulnerable populations.

*Movement 6: Follow the Water*

A return to the ocean, and the rivers that flow into it.

*Movement 7: Rise Up*

A celebration, a call to action, and a meditation on our collective humanity.

*To Unpathed Waters, Undreamed Shores*, a multi-movement work for string quartet, celebrates the beauty and vitality of the natural world, suggesting hope and inspiration as humanity addresses fears and worries for our planet. The central themes of regeneration and resilience highlight the need to protect each other and our most vulnerable populations.

The work was written for the Jupiter Quartet with commissioning support from Bay Chamber Concerts in celebration of the organization's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and Krannert Center for the Performing Arts/University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

This performance, a collaboration between the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES), Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE), Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, and the School of Music, marks the Champaign-Urbana premiere of the work.

--*Michi Wiancko, 2020*

### **Jupiter String Quartet**

The Jupiter String Quartet is a particularly intimate group, consisting of violinists Nelson Lee and Meg Freivogel, violist Liz Freivogel (Meg's older sister), and cellist Daniel McDonough (Meg's husband, Liz's brother-in-law). Now enjoying their 19<sup>th</sup> year together, this tight-knit ensemble is firmly established as an important voice in the world of chamber music. *The New Yorker* claims, "the Jupiter String Quartet, an ensemble of eloquent intensity, has matured into one of the mainstays of the American chamber-music scene." In 2012, the Jupiter Quartet members were appointed artists-in-residence and faculty at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where they perform regularly at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, maintain private studios, and direct the chamber music program.

The Jupiters place a strong emphasis on developing relationships with future classical music audiences through educational performances in schools and community centers. They believe that, because of the intensity of its interplay and communication, chamber music is one of the most effective ways of spreading an enthusiasm for classical music to new audiences. The quartet offers masterclasses for young musicians, most recently at Northwestern University, Eastman School of Music, the Aspen Music Festival, Encore Chamber Festival, Madeline Island Music Festival, and Peabody Conservatory.

The Quartet has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, and the Americas in some of the world's finest halls, including New York City's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center and Library of Congress, Boston's Jordan Hall, London's Wigmore Hall, Mexico City's Palacio de Bellas Artes, Austria's Esterhazy Palace, and Seoul's Sejong Chamber Hall. Their major music festival appearances include the Aspen Music Festival and School, Bowdoin International Music Festival, Cape Cod Chamber Music Festival, Rockport Music Festival, Banff Centre, Virginia Arts Festival, Music at Menlo, Maverick Concerts, Caramoor International Music Festival, Skaneateles Festival, Yellow Barn Festival, Encore Chamber Music Festival, Lanaudiere Festival, West Cork (Ireland) Chamber Music Festival, Madeline Island Music Festival, the inaugural Chamber Music Athens, and Seoul Spring Festival, among others.

Their chamber music honors and awards include the grand prizes in the Banff International String Quartet Competition and the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition in 2004. In 2005 they won the Young Concert Artists International auditions in New York City, which quickly led to a busy touring schedule. They received the Cleveland Quartet Award from

Chamber Music America in 2007, followed by an Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2008. From 2007-2010, the Jupiter Quartet was in residence at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Two and, in 2009, they received a grant from the Fromm Foundation to commission a new quartet from Dan Visconti for a CMSLC performance at Alice Tully Hall. Strongly committed to new music, the Jupiters have also commissioned string quartets from Michi Wiancko, Syd Hodkinson, Hannah Lash, and Kati Agócs; a quintet with baritone voice by Mark Adamo; and a piano quintet by Pierre Jalbert.

The Jupiter Quartet remains strongly committed to making music during these challenging times. In July 2020, they gave the world premiere of Michi Wiancko's *To Unpathed Waters, Undreamed Shores*. Other recent and upcoming livestream concerts include performances presented by Bowdoin International Music Festival, Asheville Chamber Music Series, and Syracuse Friends of Chamber Music, as well as virtual residencies with the University of Iowa and Middlebury College.

The quartet chose its name because Jupiter was the most prominent planet in the night sky at the time of its formation and the astrological symbol for Jupiter resembles the number four. They are also proud to list among their accomplishments in recent years the addition of seven quartet children: Pablo, Lillian, Clara, Dominic, Felix, Oliver, and Joelle.

*"Perhaps what stands out most is the Jupiter Quartet's precise, unified, and spirited sense of ensemble. Their chemistry, like that of a top-notch cast of actors, is one of constant give-and-take of energy."* (Cleveland Classical)

## **Michi Wiancko**

Michi Wiancko, a composer, arranger, and violinist whose work has been performed by ensembles, bands, and orchestras around the world, has collaborated with artists from a wide musical spectrum and performed with some of the great musical artists of our time. She has been commissioned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, American Lyric Theater, On Site Opera, Ecstatic Music Festival, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and its Liquid Music series, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Camerata Bern, Aizuri Quartet, Jupiter Quartet, Ensō Quartet, Sybarite5, East Coast Chamber Orchestra, and Metropolis Ensemble.

A 2018 recipient of an Opera America Commissioning Grant, Michi's first opera, *Murasaki's Moon*, premiered at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in May 2019. This work was created in collaboration with librettist Deborah Brevoort and director Eric Einhorn from OnSite Opera. Upcoming projects include new compositions for yMusic and NOW Ensemble, and arrangements and re-imaginings for Camerata Bern, violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja, soprano Anna Prohaska, and violinist Anne Akiko Meyers.

Michi co-composed, performed, engineered, and mixed the original score of the film *The Mend*, profiled by *Time Magazine* as one of the Top 10 films at SXSW. She has worked closely with the

indie rock band Wye Oak, reimagining their songs for electro-acoustic ensemble. She has also arranged for the band EL.VY (comprised of Brent Knopf and The National's Matt Berninger), whom she joined for an appearance on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*. Michi's arrangements have been performed by the String Orchestra of Brooklyn, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Arkansas Symphony, Spokane Symphony, Harvard Chamber Orchestra, Burlington Chamber Orchestra, Boston Conservatory Orchestra, and The Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto.

A passionate collaborator and performer, Michi has been fortunate to work with artists across a vast musical spectrum: Missy Mazzoli, Steve Reich, Silkroad, Yo-Yo Ma, Wye Oak, Emily Wells, Laurie Anderson, William Britton, Daniel Wohl, Emanuel Ax, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Judd Greenstein, David T. Little, Gabriela Lena Frank, Vijay Iyer, International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), The Knights, A Far Cry, Alarm Will Sound, Mark Morris Dance Group, and the East Coast Chamber Orchestra (ECCO), among others.

Described by *Gramophone Magazine* as an "alluring soloist with heightened expressive and violinistic gifts," Michi gave her violin solo debuts with the New York Philharmonic and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, performed her recital debut in Weill Hall, and released a solo album of works by Emile Sauret on Naxos. More recently, she recorded two different projects for Nonesuch Records: a new string quartet composed by Laurie Anderson, and a new work by Steve Reich entitled "Pulse" with the International Contemporary Ensemble, which they performed in Carnegie Hall as part of Steve Reich's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

Michi holds a Bachelor's degree in music performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a Master's degree from Juilliard, where she studied with Donald Weilerstein and the late Robert Mann, respectively. Her early teachers include Sharon Holland and Haroutune Bedelian.

A native of California, Michi Wiancko shares her time between New York and Gill, a small farming community in western Massachusetts, where she and her husband, composer Judd Greenstein, have created a music festival and artistic retreat at their home, the 100-acre hilltop former dairy farm Antenna Cloud Farm.