

# EAR TO THE GRINDSTONE

Senior Works by Jesse Bartlett-Webber



**SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2008  
DEANE CARRIAGE BARN  
BENNINGTON COLLEGE**

This program, all appropriate promotional material, and all music performed  
in Ear to the Grindstone: Senior Works by Jesse Bartlett-Webber © Jesse  
Bartlett-Webber 2008.

This concert is dedicated to the loving memory of Eddie Benjamin, a man whose life was a testament to the universality of the bonds of friendship.

A note from Jesse:

Many scholars of the conservatory world maintain that young artists should be educated with an emphasis on formal training and technical prowess rather than on the expansion of their greater artistic goals, visions and opinions. In contrast, the liberal arts pedagogy often stresses the broadening of students' educational and personal horizons over the means through which their ideas are nurtured into the physical world. Ear to the Grindstone: Senior Works by Jesse Bartlett-Webber is my attempt at the unification of these two approaches; a perfect balance between *what* to say and *how* to say it. My intention is to thoroughly explore the awesome, communicative power of music, and its effects on the human spirit.

Considering this end, I must apologize to audience members who wish to find within the subtext of my music a profoundly deep, intrinsic meaning or clever social commentary. Unfortunately, the presence of my wit, depth and profundity during the preparation of this event was not possible due to the souring of my relationship with these talents over artistic differences. Similarly, my regrets extend to the listeners expecting to hear grand demonstrations of superfluous technical brilliance or flamboyant exhibitions of stylistic, aesthetic genius; these elements proved to be much too difficult to come by in the organization of the performance due to the frustratingly disproportionate prerequisite of effort involved in their acquisition, as well as their recently soaring market demand.

I would like to warmly welcome you all to the culmination of many months of laborious love and judicious endeavor, as well four years of my own, excited anticipation. I invite you to share with me my laughter, joy, angst, sadness and grief; these are the musical hypotheses of my study of the arts at Bennington College, as well as my life's quest to discover the very nature of the human soul.

Thank you all for coming, and enjoy the show!

The Quintet:

Jesse Bartlett-Webber.....Drums

Rob Borchert.....Piano

Kaarin Lysen.....Bass

Dan Miller.....Electric Guitar

Allie Polubiec.....Trumpet & Voice

The Quartet:

Mary Gregg.....Viola

Nat Parke.....Cello

Kate Ritter.....Violin

Kaori Washiyama.....Violin

Set 1:

*All works composed and arranged by Jesse Bartlett-Webber*

**--Played by the Quintet--**

"Chicky Pocks"

"Last Day in Dodge"

"Bolshivexed"

**--Played by the Quartet--**

I. Variations on "Tales of the Irrelephant"

II. Variations on "Bolshivexed"

III. (Rest)

**--Played by the Quintet--**

"The Tides of War"

***Intermission...***



Set 2:

*All works composed and arranged by Jesse Bartlett-Webber*

**--Played by the Quintet--**

"Observing the Mike-Zender Interferometer"

"Daisy Chain"

"Tales of the Irrelephant"

*lyrics by Jesse Bartlett-Webber and Matthew Souther*

"Maybe It's Time We Said Goodbye"

"Anthem for Eddie (A Friend Always)"

Special thanks go to:

all of my musicians, each and every one of whom has given the invaluable gift of his or her love and effort to this project; Bruce Williamson, a mentor and friend without whom the quintet portion of this concert would not have been possible; Allen Shawn, without whose assistance the string quartet would exist only as a mere shadow of my aspirations; Sue Jones for her surprisingly inspirational administrative authority and organizational savviness; Sonia Perez for the excruciating horrors she has performed on my lack of self-confidence; Becky Godwin, whose short influence on me has contributed greatly to my development as a reader, writer and thinker; Humair Madhani, Travis Garrison and Julia Walker for their dedication to the documentation of this event; Tim Kretchmer and Christe Goshe for willingness to lend a helping hand.

Additional thanks go to:

My family and friends for instilling in me an optimism and commitment to the triumph of humanity; all of my professors who have supplied me with the means to accomplish my dreams, all of my coworkers who helped to ease my astonishment at my recently made discovery of the fact that hard work is an inevitable part of life; my parents, Jim and Jeanie, for the guidance they have provided me so that I might one day reach the aforementioned discovery; my sister, Renée, to whom I always will look as an authority in the in the ways of kindness, selflessness and friendship; my girlfriend, Meg, whose passion and exuberance for life is a continuous source of inspiration; everyone who has found the time to come and witness this performance—may we meet again soon!