Bennington College Presents

Performed by :
Marina Allen, Jacquie Alpine, Tobin Bartolo, Samantha Bell,
Iris Bennett, William Bowers, Mitch Carson, Emily Dorsey,
Rohan Edwards, Chase Fiedler, Olivia Gerber, Christopher Giannitti, Ned Hawlee,
Rainjana Haynes, Dale Hoagland, Lecil James, Arthur Jongebloed, Roi Karlinsky, Oona
Kilcommons, Will Larsen, Jake Landau, Roma Lucero, Matt Mahoney, Carmina
Marquez, Fiona McGovern, Nicolette Polek, Liam Quinn, Danielle Radacosky-Pentoney,
Kerry Ryer-Parke, Sara Triggs, Joe Tucker, Sarah Wood and Rachael Zeltzer
Nicolette Polek and Keane Southard on Keyboard

With the special participation of
Amy Kuzmicki and Mark Wunderlich

Directed by Tom Bogdan, Dances restaged by Allison Easter
Dance rehearsals supervised by Terry Creach
Lighting design by Dado Cobo, Sound design by Dan Roninson,
Costume design by Charles Schoonmaker, Stage Manager, Christiana Stawasz

Greenwall Auditorium, December 5 and 6 at 7 pm

PROGRAM

I. OFFERING
Carmina Marquez, Saturday, Kerry Ryer-Parke, Sunday

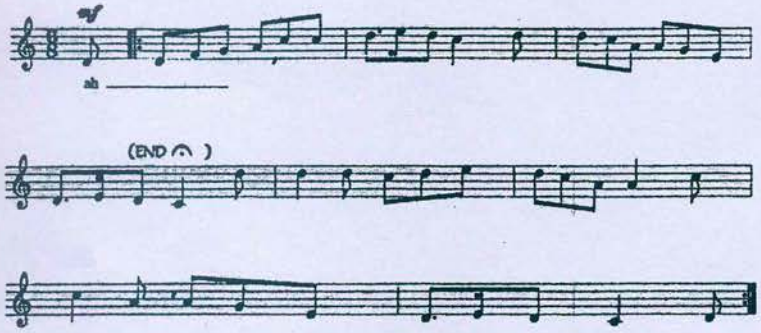
II. DAWN
Roma Lucero and Olivia Gerber, soloists

III. OSAGE WOMAN'S INITIATION SONG
(America, Early 20th Century)

I have made a footprint, a sacred one.
I have made a footprint, through it the blades push upward.
I have made a footprint, through it the blades radiate.
I have made a footprint, over it the blades float in the wind.
I have made a footprint, over it I bend the stalk to pluck the ears.
I have made a footprint, over it the blossoms lie gray.
I have made a footprint, smoke arises from my house.
I have made a footprint, there is cheer in my house.
I have made a footprint, I live in the light of day.

IV. FIELDS/CLOUDS

V. Quarry Weave # 2



VI. TOWER

VII. BUDDHIST TEXT (Lakshminkara, India, 8th Century)
Chase Fiedler, Rainjana Haynes, Arthur Jongebloed,
Jake Landau, Carmina Marquez, Rachael Zeltzer

Take a block of butter and chop-
break the blade of the axe!
the woodcutter laughs!
a frog swallows an elephant!

It's amazing, Do not doubt!
If it confounds you, Drop concepts now!

My teacher didn't tell me,
I didn't understand-
flowers blossomed in the sky!

It's marvelous, marvelous,
have no doubt!
If you're incredulous, Drop your doubts!

A barren woman gives birth!
A chair dances!
Because cotton is expensive, the naked weep!

An elephant sits on a thrown
held up by two bees!
Incredible!
The sightless lead,
the mute speak!
Amazing!
A mouse chases a cat!
An elephant fleas from a crazy donkey!

It's marvelous, astounding.
Do not doubt!
If you are stunned, drop your doubts!

A hungry monkey eats rocks!
Wonderful- The experience of the mind!
Who can express it?

VIII. CELEBRATION DANCE
Marina Allen, William Bowers, Rohan Edwards,
Chase Fiedler, Arthur Jongebloed, Oona Killcommons
Will Larsen, Roma Lucero, Carmina Marquez,
Danielle Radacosky-Pentoney

IX. SPIRITUAL TEXTS

Sufi Poem (Rumi, Afghanistan, 13th Century)
I have lived on the lip of insanity,
Wanting to know reasons, knocking on a door.
It opens.
I have been knocking from the inside.

Zen Poem (Basho, Japan, 17th Century)
Old pond, frog jumps in- splash.

Jewish Text
(Martin Buber, Israel, 20th century)

EVERYWHERE
"Put off thy shoes from they feet"- put off the habitual which encloses your foot and you will recognize that the place on which you happen to be standing at this moment is holy ground.

ETHIOPIAN RAIN SONG (Africa, traditional)

CHINESE POEM (Li Po, China, 8th Century)
The birds have vanished into the sky,
and now the last cloud drains away.
We sit together,
The mountain and me,
Until only the mountain
Remains.

X. EXPLORER'S JUNCTURES
Carmina Marquez, Olivia, Gerber, Kerry Ryer-Parke, Matt Mahoney, Rohan Edwards, Liam Quinn

XI. OTHER WORLDS REVEALED
Leader: Roma Lucero, Saturday, Carmina Marquez, Sunday

XII. EARTH SEEN FROM ABOVE

XIII. CHRISTIAN PRAYER
(Hildegard von Bingen, Germany, 12th Century)

Holy spirit, giving life to all life
moving all creatures, root of all things,
washing them clean, wiping out their mistakes,
healing their wounds, you are our true life,
luminous, wonderful, awakening the heart
from its ancient sleep.

XIV. QUARRY WEAVE #2 (Reprise)
The women of the ensemble

XV. PROCESSIONAL

A Celebration Service is a spiritually inspired performance piece created by Meredith Monk, internationally acclaimed composer, singer, choregrapher, stage and film director, and pioneer in what is now called "extended vocal technique" and "interdisciplinary performance". The work uses her musical compositions, movement and texts compiled in collaboration with Pablo Velo, from worldwide spiritual traditions, to create a contemporary ritual, which celebrates the larger community of people and the power of the human spirit. The event is directed by longtime member of Monk's Vocal Ensemble and the Bennington faculty,Tom Bogdan. The choreography was restaged by Allison Easter, another member of Monk's Vocal Ensemble and supervised by faculty member Terry creach.

PRODUCTION STAFF
Brian Lambert- Master Electrician
Michael Giannitti- Production Manager
Richard MacPike - Costume Shop Manager

RUN CREW
Jonathan Nordh - Assistant Stage Manager
Charles Pisano - Light Board Operator
Rehana Hirji - Wardrobe
Alexander Ray - Wardrobe

CARPENTERS
Dado Cobo
Gabriel Gerreras
Lecil James
Hadil Marzouq
Marshall McGraw
Zadie Ross
Madeline Shepardson
Rebecca Warzer
Viva Wittman

ELECTRICIANS
Shana Crawford
Owen Gerber-Hatem
Nat Guevin
Lecil James
Sam Mistry
Carina Steficek

In 1996, the Union Theological Seminary asked me to create a worship service for a conference of the American guild of Organists. There were strictures on what form it could take. I decided that I wanted to make a non-sectarian service utilizing texts from spiritual traditions worldwide as well as a variety of choral and organ works from my repertoire.

For many years I had been contemplating how I would create sacred space within a performance context. With A Celebration Service I was able to make a form that broke down the boundaries between performance and service, audience and congregation. We performed it twice in June 1996 at the Union Theological Seminary at noon. The service became a lunchtime respite for all of the participants in the midst of a noisy and busy city.

Since that time, we have performed A Celebration Service in several cities in the USA. Because the service seemed to offer an uplifting experience wherever we went my dream became to have people from all over the world perform it. My dear friend and colleague, Tom Bogdan, made this dream come true, mounting productions in Bennington, Vermont, Budapest, Hungary, Boulder, Colorado, Sao Paulo, Brazil, Syracuse, New York and Manila, Philippines. Allison Easter taught the choreography in each of these locations. I am deeply grateful for the cast and production team of Bennington College for once again allowing the life of A Celebration Service to continue.
- Meredith Monk

MEREDITH MONK is a composer, singer, director/choreographer and creator of new opera, music-theatre works, films and installations. A pioneer in what is now called "extended vocal technique" and "interdisciplinary performance" Monk creates works that thrive at the intersection of music and movement, image and object, light and sound in an effort to discover and weave together new modes of perception. Her groundbreaking exploration of the voice as an instrument, as an eloquent language in and of itself, expands the boundaries of musical composition, creating landscapes of sound that unearth feelings, energies and memories for which there are no words. Over the last five decades, she has been hailed as "a magician of the voice" and "one of America's coolest composers". Celebrated internationally, Monk's work has been presented by BAM, Lincoln Center Festival, Houston Grand Opera, London's Barbican Centre, and at major venues in countries from Brazil to Syria. Among her many accolades, she was recently named an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters by the Republic of France, recipient of New Music USA's 2013 Founders Award, the 2012 Composer of the Year by Musical America and one of NPR's 50 Great Voices, and received a 2012 Doris Duke Artist Award and a 2011 Yoko Ono Lennon Courage Award for the Arts. Meredith was chosen a Composer in Residence at Carnegie Hall 2014-2015. President Obama awarded her The National Medal of Arts on September 10, 2015.

We could not perform Meredith Monk's A Celebration Service without the combined efforts of everyone in our Bennington College community. The administration, staff, faculty and students come together with our individual services and gifts to support and facilitate the rich lives and endeavors that we have on this beautiful campus. We celebrate each other in doing so.

I'd like to express special thanks to all of our colleagues in music, dance and drama who open new possibilities of exploration, creativity and expression for our students. You enrich the lives of everyone in our community by making the creation of many productions like A Celebration Service to happen.

I offer gratitude to some particular individuals, whose generous contributions made this production possible: Amanda Pappas, Linda Hurley, Terry Creach, Kerry Ryer-Parke, Joe Tucker, Michael Giannitti, Amy Kuzmicki, Mark Wunderlich, the design and production teams and especially the performers.

Most of all I thank Meredith Monk and the House Foundation for the arts for encouraging and supporting this production at Bennington College. Tom Bogdan

All music composed by Meredith Monk, © Meredith Monk/ Meredith Monk Music (ASCAP) OFFERING from Volcano Songs (1994); DAWN and FIELDS/CLOUDS from Book of Days (1998); QUARRY WEAVE #2 from Quarry (1976); TOWER from Vessel: an opera epic (1971); Jews Harp Drone from Magic Frequencies (1998); CELEBRATION DANCE from The Politics of Quiet (1996); OTHER WORLDS REVEALED, EXPLORERS' JUNCTURES and EARTH SEEN FROM ABOVE from ATLAS: an opera in 3 parts (1991); PROCESSIONAL from American Archeology #1: Roosevelt Island (1994); PANDA CHANT II from The Games (1984).