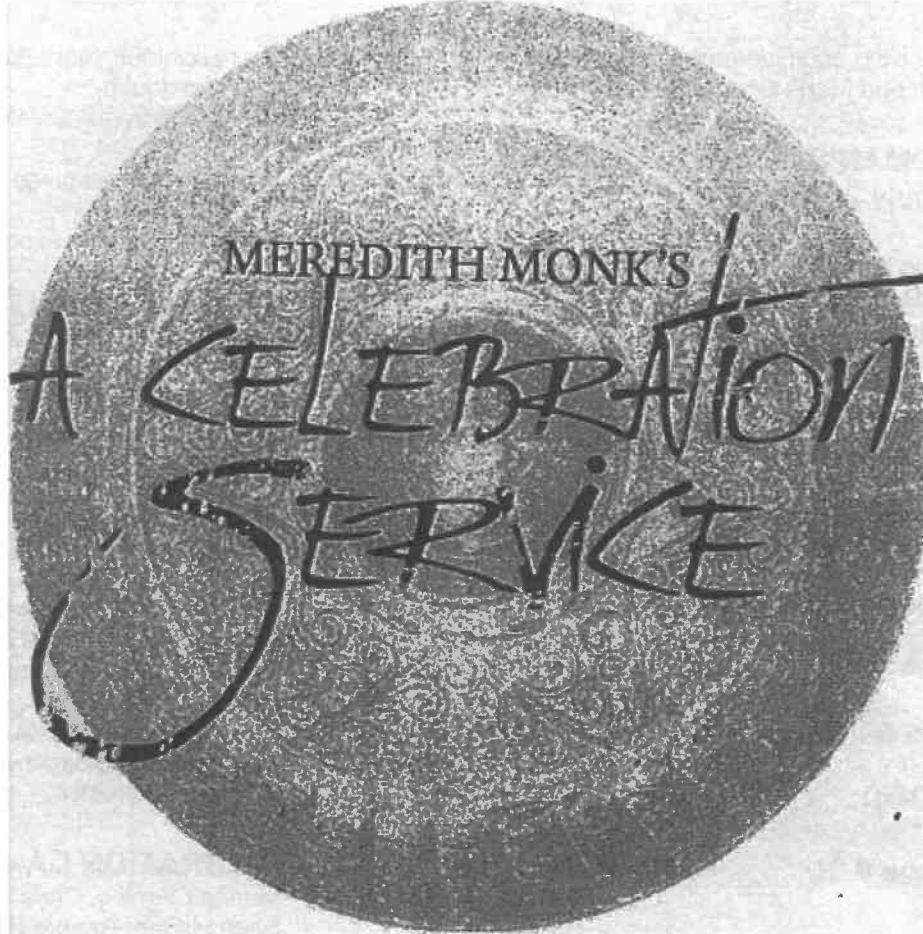


Bennington College Presents



Performed by:

Joseph Alpar, Surabhee Arjunwadkar, Jasmine Bete-Mitchell, Cadence Boyce, Mert Dindar, Marina Fleming, Ruth Fogarty, Mira Fowler, Chris Golovina, Lucas Guin, Shea Hagan, Brooke Hugot, Greta Jensen, Erin Ellen Kelly, Lilly Kendall, Anna Rose King, Ethan Koss-Smith, Lazuli Leith, Sadie Levinsohn, Milo Lis, Melle Lowenthal, Toj Marceau, Denise MacDonald, Adam Mathewson, Moxie McBreaity, Grace Muller, Molly Palmer, Emily Reid, Kerry Ryer-Parke, Marta Shcharbakova, Emrys Torn, Joe Tucker, and Ruben Whitaker.

Keyboards:

Ruth Fogarty, Jasmine Bete-Mitchell

Community leaders performed by  
Oceana Wilson and Tom Bogdan

Directed by Tom Bogdan, Dances restaged by Allison Easter

Dance rehearsals supervised by Levi Gonzalez

Lighting design by Asa Giles & Emily Heath, Sound design by Curt Wells  
Stage Manager Lorena Fernandez Camba

Greenwall Auditorium, May 4 and 5, 2023 at 8:00 pm

## PROGRAM

### I. OFFERING

Kerry Ryer-Parke, Thursday, Milo Lis, Friday

### II. DAWN

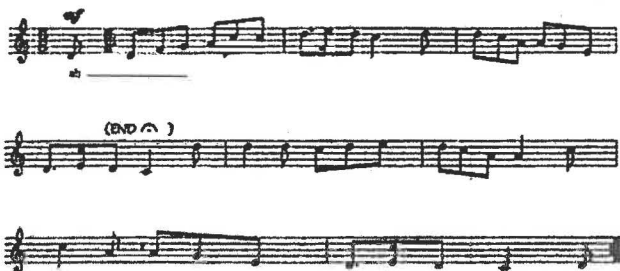
Anna Rose King and Cadence Boyce, Thursday  
Lazuli Leith and Marta Shcharbakova, Friday

### III. OSAGE WOMAN'S INITIATION SONG (America, Early 20<sup>th</sup> 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, 8<sup>th</sup> Century)

Surabhee Arjun, Cadence Boyce, Marina  
Fleming, Lillian Kendall, Marta Shcharbakova  
and Ruben Whitaker

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 Fleming, Chris Golovina, Lucas Guin,  
Shea Hagan, Brooke Hugot, Erin Ellen Kelly,  
Adam Matthewson, Moxie McBreaity,  
Grace Muller and Molly Palmer

### IX. SPIRITUAL TEXTS

Sufi Poem (Rumi, Afghanistan, 13<sup>th</sup> 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, 17<sup>th</sup> Century)  
Old pond,  
frog jumps in-  
splash.

Jewish Text (Martin Buber, Israel, 20<sup>th</sup> century)

### EVERYWHERE

"Put off thy shoes from thy 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, 8<sup>th</sup> 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. OTHER WORLDS REVEALED

Leader: Joe Tucker, Thursday  
Ethan Koss-Smith, Friday

XI. EXPLORER'S JUNCTURES

Milo Lis, Grace Muller, Kerry Ryer-Parke,  
Joe Tucker, Lucas Guin and Joseph Alpar

XII. EARTH SEEN FROM ABOVE

XIII. CHRISTIAN PRAYER

(Hildegard von Bingen, Germany, 12<sup>th</sup> 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)

Trebles of the ensemble

XV. PROCESSIONAL

Dancers: Mira Fowler, Brooke Hugot, Erin Ellen  
Kelly, Sadie Levinsohn, Melle Lowenthal, Molly  
Palmer and Emrys Torn

**A celebration Service** is a spiritually inspired performance piece created by Meredith Monk, internationally acclaimed composer, singer, choreographer, 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 Levi Gonzalez.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Seancolin Hankins: Technical Director  
Richard MacPike: Costume Shop Manager  
Dale Doucette: Lighting Supervisor  
Curt Wells: Audio Supervisor  
Michael Giannitti: Production Manager

Run Crew: Miriam Campbell, Julianna Guzman,  
Ananda Liveright, Shawnee Ripley

Wardrobe: Sarah Krekel

Costume First Hands: Elizabeth Gavrilov, Stefanos  
Zogopoulos, Stella Feldschuh, Teagan Moon, Thalia  
Eddyblouin

Electrics Crew: Bailey Kasdon, Parker Lawrence,  
Timberlake Pieper, Asa Giles, Emily Heath, Sarah  
Kramer Lee, Maddy Brock, Koh Kozuru, Natalie  
Bayeslan, Rachel McCauley

Carpenters: Bella Wells-Fried, Emmett Donovan, Ryan  
Fahey, Thorn Ansari, Andrew Tachman, Shloka Shah,  
Robin McDonald, Stella Feldschuh, Wills Millin, Oliver  
Wessels

Prop Monitors: Hannah Pereira and Teagan Moon



"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, Manila, Philippines and Kiev, Ukraine. 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: Gina Deibel, Liza Charbonneau, Allison Easter, Levi Gonzalez, Oceana Wilson, Kerry Ryer-Parke, Joe Tucker, Joseph Alpar, John Kirk, Michael Giannitti, 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

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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 Archaeology #1: Roosevelt Island (1994); PANDA CHANT II from The Games (1984).

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