

Performing Arts at Bennington Present

Meredith Monk's

A Celebration Service

Original music and movement recreated by Thomas Bogdan
assisted by John Eagle

Original choreography recreated by Allison Easter

Performed by: Susan Sgorbati, Kirk Jackson,
James Alexandropoulos-McEwan, Christopher Beatley, Sarah Berman,
Lydia Chrisman, Leah Dagen, Alexander Diaz, Connor Dolson, John Eagle,
Jonas Finkel, Joseph Gould, Katherine Heminway, Maria Jacobson,
Alexandre Lapuh, Alexandra Lees, Kate Lyczkowski, Eliza McKelway,
Gregory Obis, Meg Osborn, Zach Ossefort, Amanda Phillips,
Melany Piech, Katherine Rudman, Marika Shyduroff, Riley Skinner, Molly Spier,
Eliza Sprague, Alice Tolan-Mee, Ethan Woods, Maile Zox

Processional dancers: Joe Poulson and students from the First Year Dance
Intensive, Breanna Caso, Sage Coram, Julian Delacruz, Maggie Donoghue,
Carly Flynn, Anna Kroll, Kaya Lovestrand, Finn Murphy, Kenny Olguin,
Vivian Robbins, Clara Rotter-Laitman, Emma Villavechia, Danielle Visci

Keyboards: Kate Lyczkowski, John Eagle

Costumes by Daniel Michaelson and students from Costume Design Projects:
Christina Cooper, Marialena DiFabbio, Katherine Heminway and
Julia Bizezicki, Ainsley McClachrie, Gioia Pirrello, Sophie Sumney-Koivisio and
Terry Teitelbaum, Staff Supervisor of the Costume Shop

Lighting design: David Brinkmann, **Lighting operator:** Theodore Koppel

Lighting Assistance: Electrics Lab Crew **Sound design:** Dan Roninson

Sound operators: Akari Uchiyama, Dan Wininger, Hannah Simmons

Stage Manager: Concetta Panzariello

Stagehands: Anna Rogovoy, Rahleigh Starling

Wardrobe: Josh Gulotta, Sarah Matusek

Special thanks to: Susan Sgorbati, Kirk Jackson, Danny Michaelson,
Terry Creach, Michael Giannitti, Mike Rancourt, Robert Post, Joe Poulson,
Suzanne Jones, Linda Hurley, Liz Pellerin, Nick Brooke
and the Music, Dance, Drama Faculty

Utter gratitude to Meredith Monk and the House Foundation for the Arts

PROGRAM

I. OFFERING

Molly Spier (Friday) Eliza McKelway (Saturday)

II. DAWN

Solos: Leah Dagen, Maria Jacobson, Riley Skinner, Alice Tolan-Mee

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

Kate Lyczkowski (keyboard) John Eagle (Melodica)

VII. BUDDHIST TEXT (Lakshminkara, India, 8th Century)

Jawharp: James Alexandropoulos-McEwan, Marika Shyduroff,
Riley Skinner, Gregory Obis, Zach Ossefort, Maile Zox

Take a block of butter and chop-
Break the blade of the axel!
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 throne held up by two bees!
Incredible!
The sightless lead, the mute speak!

Amazing!
A mouse chases a cat!
An elephant flees 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

James Alexandropoulos-McEwan, Sarah Berman, Lydia Chrisman,
Leah Dagen, Connor Dolson, Maria Jacobson, Eliza McKelway,
Gregory Obis, Amanda Phillips, Marika Shyduroff

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 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, 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

Friday: Eliza McKelway, Maria Jacobson, Alice Tolan-Mee,
Ethan Woods, Gregory Obis, Jonas Finkel

Saturday: Lydia Chrisman, Sarah Berman, Megan Osborne,
Alexandre Lapuh, Alexander Diaz, Connor Dolson

XI. OTHER WORLDS REVEALED

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)

XV. PROCESSIONAL