

Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth

presents

Welcome to Indian Country

Friday, February 11, 7:30 pm

Spaulding Auditorium • Dartmouth College • 2022

Generously supported by the Steven W. Draheim 1966 Fund and the James C. Hampton '76 Fund.

Funder Credit Statement

Welcome to Indian Country is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation & Development Fund Project co-commissioned by All My Relations Arts/The Native American Community Development Corporation in partnership with The Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth College, The Washington Center for the Performing Arts, and The Moss Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech and NPN. The Creation & Development Fund is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). For more information, visit www.npnweb.org.

Additional support for this performance was generously provided by the Community Foundation of the South Puget Sound, ArtsWA (The Washington State Arts Commission) and from dozens of individual donors.

The Hopkins Center acknowledges we are presenting upon the ancestral and unceded lands of the Abenaki people.

Credits

Tour Producers and Support

Andre Bouchard, Indigenous Performance Productions Executive/Creative Producer
Lynnette Barnier, Communications and Operations Associate
Jude Candelaria, Audio Design and Technician

Musicians

Delbert Anderson
Adam Benham
Nokosee Fields
Julia Keefe
Mali Obomsawin '18
Rena Priest

Indigenous Performance Productions, a nonprofit corporation (IPP), is a by/for Indigenous artist services nonprofit that brings the rich cultural content emerging from Indigenous nations of Turtle Island and beyond to stages around the world. As the only organization of its kind on the continent, IPP works to replace the stories that have been written and told about Indigenous people with stories by Indigenous people. IPP's mission is to produce, promote, present, manage and advance education around Indigenous performing arts and artists. IPP is celebrating its first touring original production *Welcome to Indian Country*, recipient of the National Performance Network Creation, Production and Storytelling awards. More information can be found at www.indigenousperformance.org.

Statement from the Artistic Director

Hu sukítúkni kin wam, tkaxamin. I wish you welcome.

Welcome to Indian Country is, at its heart, a celebration of being Native. We come together to honor those who gave us inspiration, elders and ancestors who fostered our artistic growth and who gave hope and joy to our communities. We come together to set the record straight, because for too long the stories that have been told about Native people were not written by Native people and were neither accurate nor did they encapsulate the joy that we found in our culture, our senses of humor or our world view.

Welcome to Indian Country is a journey through our personal and collective stories. We are on a journey together.

We give our thanks to the Hop and their vision, forming a long-term partnership for the elevation of Native and Indigenous stories. This show was created with significant assistance from the Hop, who has been a national leader in the support of Indigenous touring performing arts. Indeed, when Indigenous Performance Productions first started, the Hop was the venue who first took the leap and worked with us on our first ever booking. Partnerships such as this one are critical to creating intercultural dialogue and reversing centuries of invisibility that Indigenous people have struggled against.

Cem Lents (Thank You), for choosing to take this journey with us. Tonight, we are a community sharing a space. We hope that you will continue this journey and join a discussion with the artists after the performance.

With warmth,
Andre Bouchard (of Kootenai/Ojibwe/Pend Oreille/Flathead Salish descent)
Artistic Director of *Welcome to Indian Country*
Executive Creative Producer and Founder
Indigenous Performance Productions
www.indigenousperformance.org

About the Artists

Delbert Anderson discovered his passion for jazz and improvisation in his early years of education. Anderson went on to attend Eastern New Mexico University studying music education and trumpet performance. Anderson now resides in Farmington, New Mexico where he's active as a performer, composer and educator.

Anderson performs with the group D'DAT, an ensemble inspired by Diné spinning songs fused with jazz, funk and hip-hop. Anderson has created and contributed to many projects in arts: Wellness Program & Educational Workshops, Orchestra Collaborations, Multi Arts Project Spirit Coalescent, Nat'áani Musical, South African Exploration Project, Bureau of Land Management Tour, Indigenous Big Band Project (Julia Keefe) and Welcome to Indian Country (Andre Bouchard).

Anderson directs Jazz at San Juan College in Farmington, NM. Anderson is also the founder of the youth mentor program NAMP—Native American Music Program, D'DAT Management, Inc. (co-founder) and the San Juan Jazz Society—community arts organization.

Anderson has been featured on Grammy.com, JazzTimes, Smithsonian, TedX, Sirius XM, PBS and NPR Music to name a few. Anderson has been awarded the Chamber Music America Presenters Consortium Jazz, South Arts Jazz Road Creative Residencies, Western Arts Alliance Native Launchpad, Emerging Leaders of Color and NPR's top 10 honorable Mention.

Adam Benham is a professional drummer, percussionist and educator residing in Brooklyn, New York. Originally from Spokane, Washington, he holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music in New York City.

Adam has performed and recorded with notable musicians such as Dave Liebman, John Medeski, John Lockwood, Tisziji Muñoz, Don Pate, Bob Moses, Billy Hart, Jon Benitez, Frank Wess, Victor Goins, Ryan Keberle, Julia Keefe, Bernie Senensky and others. Adam is also a drummer in the United States Air Force Band of the West Coast.

Artistic Director of *Welcome to Indian Country*, **Andre Bouchard** of Kootenai/Ojibwe/Pend d'Oreille/Salish descent was born and raised on the Flathead Reservation in western Montana. A veteran director, choreographer and producer he has mounted 46 original dance, theater

and multi-disciplinary works for the stage since 1999. In 2016 he founded Walrus Arts Management and Consulting which was expanded in 2015 to serve as a home to the first Native run performing arts booking agency representing Indigenous dance, theater, music and multi-disciplinary artists. In 2019 he transitioned the operation to a nonprofit model, Indigenous Performance Productions, dedicated to production of new works, supporting Native and Indigenous tours, and to educating the performing arts field around the subject of contemporary Indigenous performing arts. Andre has a BFA in Dance and a BA in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Montana, a Masters in Arts Management from Carnegie Mellon University and was a Leadership Fellow with the Association of Performing Arts Professionals. He currently serves as a Washington State Arts Commissioner and is on the Board of Directors for ArtsNW.

Over the last few years, musician, artist, and collaborator **Nokosee Fields** (Osage/Creek/Cherokee) has proven himself to be one of the most provocative, significant and capable voices in the North American traditional music scene. The great-nephew of celebrated Cherokee fiddler Sam O'Fields, Nokosee carries a longstanding Cherokee fiddling tradition into the present. His recent DIY *sourcerror* project, released anonymously online, delivers compelling, fresh interpretations of older North American fiddle repertoire. Building off of the *sourcerror* project, he obtained grant funding to record an album of rare Indigenous, Black and white fiddle repertoire from North America with his band BOOJUM. The album is now in post-production and will be released in 2022. Beyond his fiddling, he works as a touring musician, playing bass in the country band Western Centuries and in top-tier old-time bands Hard Drive and the Onlies. An in-demand recording artist and performer, he has recorded and worked alongside some of the most well-known artists in the field—luminaries like Tim O'Brien and Dirk Powell.

Co-Musical Director of *Welcome to Indian Country*, **Julia Keefe** (Nez Perce) is a nationally acclaimed Native American jazz vocalist, actor, activist and educator currently based in New York City. She has headlined marquee events at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC, the National Museum of the American Indian in New York, as well as opened for Tony Bennett, Esperanza Spalding. Her life's work is the revival and honoring of the legendary Coeur d'Alene jazz musician Mildred Bailey and is leading the campaign for Bailey's induction into the Jazz Hall of Fame.

About the Artists *continued*

at Lincoln Center. Julia grew up in Kamiah, ID on her Tribe's reservation before moving to Spokane, Washington. She earned her Bachelor's in music from the University of Miami's Frost School of Music in 2012, graduating with honors and her master's in music from Manhattan School of music in 2019. Julia was a featured artist in Sterlin Harjo's critically acclaimed documentary, *Love and Fury*. Her first feature film, *Virginia Minnesota*, was the closing feature at the Catalina Film Festival in 2018. She is the Executive Director of the Board for One Heart Native Arts and Film Festival, showcasing the diversity and vitality of contemporary Native art in the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

Mali Obomsawin (Odanak W8banaki First Nation) is a bassist, singer-songwriter and composer with an eclectic background in rock/pop, avant-garde and American roots music. One-third of the indie-folk-rock band Lula Wiles, Obomsawin has toured internationally and released three recordings on the Smithsonian Folkways Recording label, receiving acclaim from *NPR*, *Rolling Stone* and *Paper Magazine*. As a freelance bassist in the northeast, Mali deftly navigates diverse stages to accompany singer-songwriters, avant-garde ensembles, and old-time bands alike in the region's deep music community. After four

releases with Lula Wiles, Mali is launching her career as a composer with the premiere of her compositional suite, *Sweet Tooth*. The band features a cast of emerging young leaders in the creative music community including Savannah Harris (drums), Miriam Elhajli (guitar, vocals), Noah Campbell (saxophones), Allison Burick (reeds) and Taylor Ho Bynum (cornet). Mali studied upright bass at Berklee College of Music before attending and graduating from Dartmouth College (2018), where she studied jazz theory and transcription with their faculty and her mentor Taylor Ho Bynum. She received a BA in Comparative Literature and Government.

Rena Priest is a Poet and an enrolled member of the Lhaq'temish (Lummi) Nation. She has been appointed to serve as the Washington State Poet Laureate for the term of April 2021-2023. She is a Vadon Foundation Fellow, and recipient of an Allied Arts Foundation Professional Poets Award. Her debut collection, *Patriarchy Blues* was published by MoonPath Press and received an American Book Award. She is a National Geographic Explorer (2018-2020) and a Jack Straw Writer (2019). She holds an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College.

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