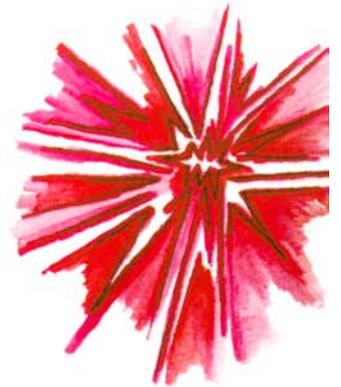


Winter Solstice

a rocky mountain fairy tale



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Winter Solstice - A Rocky Mountain Fairy Tales Orchestral Production

"In the meadows above Canmore, fairies are known to meet and dance in the light of the full moon. If you are quiet and patient, legend has it, you may get to meet them."

Winter Solstice is an entertaining and educational children's program for symphony orchestra created by western Canadians featuring western Canadian content. The show highlights the talents of the musicians and features original composition, creative writing, choreography, visual art and lighting design. The combination of these elements provides an engaging environment for young audiences and helps foster an appreciation of music and art.

Concept

With a uniquely Canadian voice, *Winter Solstice* offers a fresh approach to an established idea. Similar to Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, the story is written to highlight the symphony orchestra. It gives the instruments and their sounds personalities that interest young audiences. By combining the familiarity of a Canadian setting and children's love of outdoor adventure with accessible storytelling and imagery, *Winter Solstice* allows the orchestra and its music to come into focus for young listeners.

The show includes animated narration, 45-minutes of newly composed music for full orchestra, seven stunning banner-sized pieces of art work and dramatic lighting.

Story Synopsis

The story follows a girl's cross-country ski journey to the "very majestic, magnificent and mysterious Mt. Assiniboine." When she arrives at the Naiset cabins, located in the basin beneath the mountain, the narrator celebrates the winter solstice with her friends. Little does she know the fairies are going to appear and reveal to her how they are born through the forces of an avalanche.

Representing the four elements of nature, the Red Fire fairies, Green Forest fairies, Yellow Wind Fairies and Blue Water fairies are each voiced by their own musical motive (soprano, alto, tenor and bass).

Target Audience: Ages 3-12



Artwork by Lynne Huras

BACKGROUND

Success of Winter Solstice & the Rocky Mountain Fairy Tales

The world premiere of *Winter Solstice* was performed by the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra in March 2006. It is the best selling show to date of their Young People's Discovery Series with more than 1,000 excited patrons filling the Jack Singer Concert Hall.

Winter Solstice is the fifth rocky mountain fairy tale and builds upon the success of the four previous stories recorded on *rocky mountain fairy tales*. First released in 2000, this children's CD features original stories about the Canadian Rocky Mountains and the fairies that live there. Each tale is uniquely accompanied by one of the four instrument families of the orchestra (strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion), helping listeners identify the different timbres. The independently produced CD is now in its second run and has acquired a large following of young people in Calgary and throughout Alberta.

The *rocky mountain fairy tales* have enjoyed outstanding success in raising the musical awareness of children. Shows have been performed at numerous schools for over 7,000 students, at the Young Writers' Conference (Calgary), at the National Symposium on Arts Education (Calgary), at the Young Audiences of Houston and at the Canmore Children's Festival.

As the creator of the *rocky mountain fairy tales*, Samantha Whelan Kotkas uses her experience as a musician and an educator to craft stories that engage and educate children. She has spent more than ten years performing and working in orchestras, schools and community outreach programs. With her extensive knowledge and enthusiasm, she assembled a talented team of artists to support this project. (See bios.)

Winter Solstice is the largest production of the rocky mountain fairy tales series and provides a grand atmosphere of creative learning for children, parents and educators. It adds to the small number of existing pieces of orchestral repertoire created exclusively for young audiences.

Praise for Winter Solstice

"I really need to let you know that I was so very impressed with the whole experience! The music was really great ... the lighting was also very impressive ... your story came across VERY well. I just could not believe how well-behaved and attentive the very young audience remained through the performance! You really got through to all of us, young and old(er) both." - Brian Mills, parent

Praise for Rocky Mountain Fairy Tales

"I just wanted to write and let you know how much my children and I enjoy your cd. We moved to Dubai and your cd was among the boxes we brought. One night, my younger son brought it to me and we agreed to play it at bedtime. That was the beginning. Every night since, the boys insist on hearing the story ... whether it's the music, the story, the reminder of the Canadian Rockies ... I'm not sure. But they love it to death." - Kelly Fowler, parent

BIOGRAPHIES

Samantha Whelan Kotkas, creator and narrator

Born in Canada and educated in Calgary and Houston, Samantha has spent a lifetime playing the trumpet and telling stories. She has traveled internationally as a creative consultant and professional trumpet player. For the past ten years, she has been combining her love of music and education in Alberta. Samantha has produced children's presentations for the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, the National Symposium on Arts Education, the Banff Centre for the Arts and her Brass Quintet, the Northern Lights.

As an Ambassador for the National Arts Centre of Canada and a Calgary Arts Partnership in Education Society (CAPES) artist, Samantha continues to consult and perform in many Calgary area schools. She also teaches privately at her Sun Spot Studio.

Keon Birney, composer

Birney is the General Manager of the Melange Chamber Ensemble. He is also an active freelance musician and music teacher. Keon studied composition with Allan Gordon Bell at the University of Calgary and under his guidance wrote music for a variety of chamber and large ensembles. His compositions have been performed by the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, the Alberta Wind Symphony and the Canada National Honour Band. Other recent work includes *Prelude, Kuloscap and the Ice Giants for Solo Percussion* performed by Brett Balon at the University of Saskatchewan in March 2005. Keon holds a Masters degree in Music from the University of Calgary.

Lynne Huras, artist

Lynne was born and raised in the creative environment of the theatre town of Stratford, Ontario. She has, like many artists before her, found her artistic expression in the breathtaking beauty of nature. She is a graduate of the Art & Art History program at the University of Toronto/Sheridan College. Now a resident of Banff, she enjoys spending hours walking, sitting and sketching outdoors, absorbing the sensations of a natural experience and then taking those sketches and experiences home to translate them onto canvas, interpreting the sublime power in Mother Nature.

Brian Pincott, lighting designer

With more than 16 years experience in all aspects of theatre, Brian is dedicated to the arts and most specifically Canadian theatre. He is currently the Production Manager at Alberta Theatre Projects. Brian has been recognized as a leader in his field throughout his career and is a four-time winner of the Betty Mitchell Award for Outstanding Lighting Design. He completed the Lighting Design Internship at the Banff Centre for the Arts in 1992 and graduated from Acadia University with a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1985.

Trina Rasmuson, movement coach

Trina Rasmuson is a professional dancer, choreographer and dance teacher. She has taught dance to students ages 3 to adult for over 16 years. Rasmuson has performed and choreographed for a number of companies and was Co-Artistic Director of Springboard Dance from 1988-2004 which she helped found in 1988. As a member of that company, she taught and performed at schools in both the public and separate school systems. She has also spent time teaching in dance studios, working with actors and choreographing for musical theatre.

TECHNICAL & LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS

Winter Solstice - A Rocky Mountain Fairy Tale

This production contains many technical elements, including lighting, amplified voice, choreography and interaction with the audience.

Please note the following elements are to be provided by the orchestra/venue:

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|-----------------|---|
| Timing | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 45 minutes (see program) |
| Instrumentation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• *2222-4231-tmp+1-hp-str (*second flute doubles on piccolo) |
| Lighting | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• orchestra with stand lights on risers• white scrim behind the orchestra• full dramatic lighting (see instrument schedule) |
| Sound | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 wireless LAV microphone for narrator• monitor for conductor |
| Banners | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• *7 banners hung above orchestra (*travel with production; see configuration) |
| Props | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 <u>sturdy</u> wooden piano bench just left of centre (narrator stands on the bench and climbs on top of it) |
| Rehearsal | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 rehearsal with orchestra; lighting and sound operators required |

- The entire woodwind section starts in the audience. Later moves on stage.
- The principal percussionist is featured at the front of the orchestra and interacts with the narrator in *The Flats* and *The Big Down Hill and the Crash* sections (approx. 4 minutes).
- A string player dances with the narrator at the top of the show (this person is asked, not assigned to do this).
- Musicians are asked to stand at various times in the production.
- The production travels with a Stage Manager who will be available the day before the performance and/or 2 hours before the rehearsal to meet with the stage crew and technicians.
- A detailed script will be provided closer to the performance date.

PROGRAM, TIMINGS & INSTRUMENTATION

Winter Solstice - A Rocky Mountain Fairy Tale

Keon Birney, composer

Samantha Whelan Kotkas, narrator

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| Prelude/Introduction | 13.5' |
| <i>Overture</i> | |
| <i>Interlude (Hoedown)</i> | |
| <i>Introduction</i> | |
| The Journey | 12.5' |
| <i>The Flats</i> | |
| <i>The Big Down Hill and the Crash</i> | |
| <i>Mushroom Snow Pillows and the Blue Water Fairy</i> | |
| <i>The Red Fire Fairy and Tobogganing off Bryant Creek Shelter</i> | |
| <i>Orchestral Interlude – Tobogganing</i> | |
| <i>The Mini Avalanche</i> | |
| Mt. Assiniboine | 7' |
| <i>The Gigantic Pass</i> | |
| <i>The Mountain and the Green Forest Fairy</i> | |
| The Northern Lights | 8.5' |
| <i>Yellow Wind Fairy Comes to Find Me</i> | |
| <i>The Huge Avalanche</i> | |
| <i>Baby Fairy</i> | |
| The Trip Home | 4' |
| <i>Trip Home with Millions of New Fairies in the Area</i> | |
| <i>Reflection</i> | |
| <i>Finale</i> | |

Total Music: 45.5'

Concert Instrumentation: *2222-4231-tmp+1-hp-str (*second flute doubles on piccolo)