

AMHERST COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC  
PRESENTS

# Welcome to Indian Country

*Andre Bouchard, Producer/Director*

**Rena Priest, Storyteller**  
**Delbert Anderson, Music Director, Trumpet**  
**Nicholas Lucero, Percussion**  
**Mali Obomsawin, Vocals, Bass and Guitar**  
**Nokosee Fields, Violin**  
**Charly Lowry Vocals, Drum, Guitar**

*Opening Words and Song by*

**Larry Spotted Crow Mann**

Friday, February 10, 2023 • Buckley Recital Hall • 8 PM

MUSIC AT **AMHERST** SERIES

# Way' sl'axt - Welcome,

This is Indian Country. This land is called Turtle Island. This is the ancestral homeland of hundreds of nations who have called it home since time immemorial. Today we gather to celebrate life. We come together to celebrate community, love and connection with culture. We come together to honor our elders and ancestors.

Join with us in celebration. Tonight we are a community.

This show was realized through the hard work of many people. We thank our ancestors. We are the dreams of our ancestors, without whose strength we would not be given life. They speak to us today. We give thanks to the community who came together to realize this dream and to give voice to these stories. We give thanks to the National Performance Network and our partners at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts, All My Relations Arts, the Hopkins Center at Dartmouth College, and the Moss Center at Virginia Tech for their commitment to creating equity for Native performing artists and their partnership in co-commissioning this work.

Cem lents (Thank You) for coming together with us today.



**Andre Bouchard**

## OPENING WORDS AND SONG

**Larry Spotted Crow Mann** is a nationally acclaimed author and citizen of the Nipmuc Tribe of Massachusetts. He is an award-winning writer, poet, cultural educator, traditional storyteller, and tribal musician centered around the intersection of cultural and environmental awareness, spirituality, and youth sobriety in the Indigenous community.

Mann is co-director of the Ohketeau Cultural Center, an organization that allows for the opportunity for interdisciplinary education through cultural workshops, dance, music, and art. Ohketeau, which means a “place to grow,” was founded to provide a safe, rewarding, and enriching experience for the Indigenous community of the Nipmuc region. Previously, Mann served as a board member of the Nipmuc Cultural Preservation, an organization set up to promote the cultural, social, and spiritual needs of Nipmuc people as well as an educational resource of Native American studies. Mann also serves as a Review Committee Member for the Native American Poets Project at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology at Harvard University.

Mann is the author of three books including *Drumming & Dreaming*, *The Mourning Road to Thanksgiving* (2015 Native American WordCraft Circle of Honors winner), and internationally acclaimed, *Tales from the Whispering Basket*. His most recent book, *Drumming & Dreaming*, a spectacular collection stories of Nipmuc legends, will be featured in a state-wide curriculum across Massachusetts as part of a Life Skills Training for teachers and students focused on alcohol & drug prevention in Native American teens.

Larry travels to K-12 schools, colleges/universities, pow wows, and other organizations sharing the music, culture, and history of the Nipmuc people. Outside of Mann's life work within Indigenous arts and culture, he has given lectures on issues ranging from Native American sovereignty and Indigenous identity to drug and alcohol prevention and eradicating health inequities for Native Americans and Indigenous communities worldwide.

*Kindly silence your mobile phone, pager, watch, or any other electronic noise-makers during the concert. And please refrain from using electronic devices with light-producing screens, as they are distracting to your fellow audience members.*

**Cameras and recording devices are strictly prohibited.**

# WTIC CAST/LEADERSHIP

## **Andre Bouchard: Producer/Director (of Kootenai/Ojibwe/Pend d'Oreille/Flathead Salish descent)**

Andre Bouchard is the founder and executive creative producer of Indigenous Performance Productions. He is an activist, director, producer and consultant who was born and raised on the Flathead Reservation in western Montana. In 2015 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 Indigenous Performance Productions, a non-profit company dedicated to producing new works, booking and managing tours, providing professional development and educating the performing arts field about Indigenous culture and performing arts content.

## **Rena Priest (Lummi): Storyteller**

Rena Priest is a member of the Lhaq'temish (Lummi) Nation. She is the incumbent Washington State Poet Laureate and Maxine Cushing Gray Distinguished Writing Fellow. Priest is also the recipient of an Allied Arts Foundation Professional Poets Award and fellowships from the Academy of American Poets, Indigenous Nations Poets, and the Vadon Foundation. Her debut collection, *Patriarchy Blues*, received an American Book Award. Her second collection, *Sublime Subliminal*, was published as the finalist for the Floating Bridge Press Chapbook Award. Her most recent book, *Northwest Know-How: Beaches*, includes poems, retellings of legends, and fun descriptions of 29 of the most beloved beaches in Washington and Oregon. Priest's nonfiction has appeared in *High Country News*, *YES! Magazine*, *Seattle Met*, and elsewhere. She holds an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College.

## **Delbert Anderson (Diné/Navajo): Music Director, Trumpet**

Delbert Anderson creates Diné inspired musical pathways. Anderson preserves his cultural music by creating a foundation of new Diné melodies and fuses them through jazz, jam and funk. Each path serves Indigenous culture through stories, healing, history and collaboration. Anderson has been featured on *JazzTimes*, Grammy.com, NASA, NPR Music Top 10, *Smithsonian Magazine*, Yahoo/Mic.com, TEDx, PBS, FNX Television and many more. Anderson has also been awarded Arts Forward 2022 funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 2021-22 Presenters Consortium for Jazz Award from Chamber Music America funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, 2022 Collective Spirit Award by First Peoples Fund, 2022 Jazz Road Creative Residency from South Arts funded by Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 2021 Emerging/Leaders of Color Program from Western States Arts Federation and the 2019-22 Native Launchpad Award by Advancing Indigenous Performance with Western Arts Alliance.

## **Nicholas Lucero (Southern Ute/Peruvian Indigenous): Percussion**

Born in Albuquerque, NM and raised in Southern Colorado, Nicholas has had the opportunity to play with several great jazz artists ranging from Kevin Eubanks to Bud Shank. Playing music since he was five, Nicholas has worked on integrating his Peruvian and Spanish culture into a modern funky style. Currently touring with D'DAT, Nicholas is also on the board for the San Juan Jazz Society and is a founder of the Indigenous Youth Arts Education Foundation. He has been featured on NPR Music Top 10, *Smithsonian Magazine*, Yahoo/Mic.com, TEDx, FNX Television, and many more.

## **Mali Obomsawin (Abenaki): Vocals, Bass and Guitar**

Mali Obomsawin (they/she) is an award-winning bassist, songwriter and composer from Abenaki First Nation at Odanak. With an expansive background in American roots, rock, and jazz, Obomsawin carries several music traditions. Mali's debut album *Sweet Tooth*, has received international acclaim since its October of 2022 release in *Out of Your Head*, *The Guardian*, *JazzTimes*, and on NPR. A Smithsonian Folkways Recordings artist, she spent the years 2014-2021 touring internationally with beloved folk-rock band Lula Wiles. An

in-demand bassist in the US folk and jazz circuits, Mali appears often as an accompanist with contemporaries Jake Blount and Lizzie No, and has performed at festivals including Newport and Philly Folk. She can also be found in galleries and creative music spaces with the likes of Peter Apfelbaum, Taylor Ho Bynum, and Bill Cole's Untempered Ensemble. Obomsawin received the 2022 International Folk Music Association's "Rising Tide Award," which honors new generation artists who embody the values and ideals of the folk community through their creative work, community role, and public voice. They also received the New England Foundation for the Arts' "New Work New England" award in 2022.

**Nokosee Fields (Osage): Violin**

Nokosee Fields (Osage) was born and raised in Stillwater, Oklahoma, studying orchestral violin at a young age. Over the last years, he has proven himself to be one of the most provocative, significant, and capable voices in the North American traditional music scene. A quest for balance shapes his work, whether he's reconciling the weight of tradition with his creative impulses; challenging the demands and vacuity of colonialist, capitalist structures and systems with the richness of his experience and upbringing as a member of the Osage, Creek and Cherokee Nations; or simply anchoring the beat in the rhythmic push and pull of the multiple bands in which he works. The great nephew of celebrated Cherokee fiddler Sam O'Fields, Nokosee carries a longstanding Cherokee fiddling tradition into the present. Through powerful live and recorded performances, he lovingly and playfully reimagines his tradition with immense skills and sensitivity as a performer of traditional fiddle music. He's won some of the most prestigious contests in the United States and has performed and taught at flagship festivals and workshops. His recent DIY *sourceerror* project, released anonymously online, delivers compelling, fresh interpretations of older North American fiddle repertoire. Besides garnering critical acclaim and solidifying his reputation as a leading fiddler and interpreter in the traditional music scene, the project explores the relationships between the archive and embodied performance, using lo-fi audio technologies to critique histories of anthropological field recording practice and the tendency of contemporary roots music industry to fetishize the past.

**Charly Lowry (Lumbee/Tuscarora): Vocals, Drum, Guitar**

Charly Lowry, a musical powerhouse from Pembroke, NC, is proud to be an Indigenous woman belonging to the Lumbee/Tuscarora People. As an Artist, she is compassionate as it pertains to raising awareness around issues that plague underdeveloped and underserved communities. Since her teenage years of studying the sounds of Motown, Pura Fé, Mariah Carey, Celine Dion, Whitney Houston, and southern gospel, Charly has established a career as a professional singer-songwriter (acoustic/electric guitar and Native American hand drum) who is known for her strong, passionate voice and versatility. Over the past decade Lowry has received 2 kidney transplants, toured extensively and internationally (US, Europe, Canada) as lead singer and recording artist of the multi award-winning band, Dark Water Rising; collaborated with numerous artists, bands, and organizations including (Ulalí, Rhiannon Giddens, New Mastersounds, Decolonizing Wealth and more); she is founder and executive-director of "Peace in the Park", a non-profit that seeks to use the performing arts as a means of combating violence; founder and co-owner of Credentials Social Club (private club and performance venue for members and guests) in Pembroke, NC . Currently spearheading her most recent project, "CHARLY", Lowry's life experiences are guiding her in a music career that is focused upon increasing Indigenous visibility on a global scale; revitalizing and preserving culture, while exploring genres of world, soul, country, folk, blues, rock, and roots music.

## Amherst College Music Department Upcoming Events

**2/17 M@A Presents Gabriela Montero, Piano.** Works by Prokofiev, Rachmaninoff, Stravinsky and the Charlie Chaplin film, *The Immigrant*, with improvised piano score by Gabriela Montero 8 PM \$ FREE with AC ID

*All events are free and held in Buckley Recital Hall unless otherwise noted  
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