

Music for Food and Carriage House presents:

Steph Davis, marimba

Bones, Soil & Song

Program:

The Black National Anthem	J. Rosamond Johnson Arr. Steph Davis
Goodbye	Traditional Guun (as conceived and interpreted by Kakraba Lobi) Arr. Valerie Dee Naranjo
Remember, Marimba	Errollyn Wallen (b. 1958)
Brothers in Peace	Julie Spencer (b. 1962)
Deep River	Traditional Spiritual
Before I'd Be a Slave	Undine Smith Moore (1904-1989) Arr. Steph Davis
Mother's Sacrifice	L. Viola Kinney (1890-1945) Arr. Steph Davis
I go to prepare a place for you	Steph Davis (b. 1999)
Merlin	Andrew Thomas (b. 1939)
I. Beyond the Faint Edge of the World	
II. Time's Way	
Fra Fra Song	Traditional Kuorbine (Lobi/Dagara) Arr. Valerie Dee Naranjo

Program Notes:

The pieces on this program are assigned to the realm of [bones] or [soil]. They all inhabit the realm of [song] – I am very interested in vocality in instrumental music. Though they are assigned to a specific realm, I often imagine them flowing between the three realms. I assigned the pieces to their realm during a session of quick association.

The program begins and ends with traditional balafon music from Ghana. The choice to begin with a piece titled “Goodbye” is an allusion to the nature of time in traditional African thought:

“Time’s movement was generally from the present to the past, so that the more past one has, the more standing as a person one also has. In this regard, a remark to the effect ‘I am looking forward to my own past’ would be a remark well placed in the [traditional African] thought system.”¹

As the closing piece, “Fra Fra Song” looks forward to the future with an Afrofuturist gaze.

The program’s interior invites reflection/meditation on how epistemologies and historiographies can be shaped by one’s ancestral memory [bones] and the land [soil] they and their ancestors have lived on. I’ve chosen this music [song] to accompany these reflections.

¹ Ifeanyi A. Menkiti, “On the Normative Conception of a Person,” *A Companion to African Philosophy* (2006): 325.

Goodbye TRADITIONAL GUUN
[Bones]

Remember, Marimba ERROLLYN WALLEN
[Soil]

Brothers in Peace JULIE SPENCER
[Soil]

Deep River TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL
[Soil]

Before I'd Be a Slave UNDINE SMITH MOORE
[Bones]

Mother's Sacrifice L. VIOLA KINNEY
[Soil]

I go to prepare a place for you STEPH DAVIS
[Soil]

Merlin ANDREW THOMAS
I. Beyond the Faint Edge of the World
II. Time's Way
[Bones]

Fra Fra Song TRADITIONAL KUORBINE
[Bones]