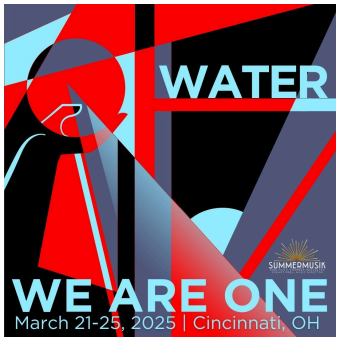


SUMMERMUSIK
CINCINNATI CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
ECKART PREU, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Summermusik Announces We Are One: Water, an Orchestral Music Festival Highlighting the Significance of Water

CINCINNATI, OH – Summermusik will present the fourth installment of its We Are One festival series March 21-25, 2025. The mission of We Are One is to amplify under-consulted voices by acknowledging historical and contemporary inequities and celebrating unique cultures.

We Are One: Water will explore the importance of water in Native American and Asian Indian culture while addressing conservation issues through storytelling, music, art, and dialogue. Free events will take place at the Bell Tower Arts Pavilion in Evendale, Christ Church Cathedral in Downtown Cincinnati, Cincinnati Art Museum in Mt. Adams, and First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati in Clifton, and a special, ticketed event will occur at the Fitton Center for Creative Arts in Hamilton, OH.

“The significance of water is often underestimated in American culture. We Are One: Water will offer attendees an opportunity to learn about different cultures and take practical steps to conserve water in their own lives while enjoying performances from extraordinary musicians and artists,” says Summermusik Associate Conductor Daniel Parsley.

This collaborative project will feature Navajo nation pianist Conner Chee, who received his training at the School of Creative and Performing Arts and the University of Cincinnati as well as Lakota nation hoop dancer Starr Chief Eagle. Other featured artists include filmmaker and dancer Padma Chebrolu of the Cultural Centre of India and Hindustani vocalist Vidita Kanniks. Partners organizations include the Cincinnati Arts Association, Cultural Centre of India, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Learning Through Art, Inc, and Urban Native Collective, who will work with Indigenous artists to decorate a rain barrel that will be displayed at the festival and given a permanent public home. Organizations with missions related to environmental conservation are invited to exhibit at the closing event, and for the first time, a We Are One festival will include a program specifically for families and children ages 8-13.

“With more than 25 partners, the 4th annual We Are One festival promises to be the largest and most-impactful to-date,” says Summermusik Executive Director Evan Gidley. “Today’s orchestral music audiences want more than just Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven. They desire to listen to and learn about the music of other cultures, and We Are One provides an authentic experience as our partners and guest artists play a significant role in planning the content of the festival.”

Tickets for all events excluding the Fitton Center for Creative Arts program can be obtained by making a reservation online at summermusik.org or by calling the Summermusik box office at 513.723.1182 x2. Tax-deductible donations are welcome for those who are able to give in an effort to help keep programming accessible. Tickets for the special event at the Fitton Center can be purchased directly through the Fitton Center website at www.fittoncenter.org/fitton-showstoppers.

Metro will offer complimentary bus passes to those in need of transportation, and requests for these passes can be made through the Summermusik website by March 7, 2025.

We Are One: Water is made possible with support from the James J. and Joan A. Gardner Family Foundation, The Thomas J. Emery Memorial, Johnson Foundation, Oliver Family Foundation, Arts Midwest, Interact for Health, Metro, Lucy Allen, Susan Esler, and Janice Seymour.

## We Are One: Water Events

**Passage of the River** (Live Dance and Commentary)
Friday, March 21, 2025 | 7:30-8:45pm | Bell Tower Arts Pavilion, Evendale
7-7:30pm: Preconcert performance by students from Cincinnati Music Village
Tickets: Free, reservation requested

Cultural Centre of India
Padma Chebrolu, dance
Vasudevan Namboodiri, mridangam
Vishalakshi Subramanian, vocals
Jyothish Kaimal, flute

Dancer, writer, director, and producer Padma Chebrolu will offer a live and interactive dance performance featuring traditional Indian music interspersed with excerpts from her film, "Passage of the River-Environmental Movie," which has won more than 30 awards from international film festivals. The movie explores the deep connections between life, heritage, and the natural world, set along the culturally rich and historically significant Ohio River. At the end, attendees will have the opportunity to learn a few basic Indian dance steps.

Program
Introduction to the *Passage of the River* movie project
Introduction and viewing of the short film "River Dances Within Me"
Live performance of music from the film with dance: "Krishna Sabdam"
Introduction and viewing of the short film "Rivers Awakening"
Live performance of music from the film with dance: "Tarangam"
Q+A
Audience learns a simple dance: "Happy Diwali"

**Connor Chee Public Piano Masterclass**
Saturday, March 22, 2025 | 10:30am-12pm | First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati, Clifton
Tickets: Free, reservation requested

Connor Chee, piano
Local piano students from Northern Kentucky University, Thomas More University, University of Cincinnati, and independent studios

Connor Chee will lead a masterclass for local piano students presented by Alfred Music. Connor's piano book, *Sandpaintings*, is ideal for late intermediate to early advanced piano students and is available for purchase through Alfred's website.

**Special Event: Echoes of the Great Miami** (Small Ensemble Performance)
Saturday, March 22, 2025 | 7:30-8:45pm | Fitton Center for Creative Arts, Hamilton
6:30-7pm: Preconcert discussion led by Logan York of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma on the history of Native American culture in the Greater Cincinnati region
Tickets: $41 members and $50 nonmembers (including fees)

Join Navajo pianist Connor Chee and a Summermusik string quartet for an evening highlighting the music and ideals of Native American culture on World Water Day.

Program
MICHAEL BEGAY
*Chiaroscuro*

CONNOR CHEE
*Coyotes*

CONNOR CHEE
Selections from *Scenes from Dinétah*

DAWN AVERY
*Onekha'shòn:a, Ya'kòn:kwe (The Waters, The Women)*

JEROD TATE
*Pisachi*

CONNOR CHEE
*Navajo Vocable No. 12*

Additional Repertoire TBA

**Spirit Chief Names the Animal People** (Family Orchestra Concert)
Sunday, March 23, 2025 | 4-5:15pm | Christ Church Cathedral, Downtown
3-4pm: Craft time! Make a water-inspired tapestry with Learning Through Art, Inc.
Participants will take home a book pack which includes the children's book *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstorm and an accompanying study guide as part of the Books Alive! For Kids® arts literacy program. *We Are Water Protectors* seeks to "help educate young people about the importance of water and how we must protect it and care for it."

Tickets: Free, reservation requested

Daniel Parsley, conductor
Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, Summermusik's resident ensemble
Starr Chief Eagle, hoop dancer
Connor Chee, piano
Learning Through Art, Inc.
Cincinnati Arts Association
Urban Native Collective
Christ Church Cathedral's Native American Ministries Council
Vox Veritatis
Additional Choirs TBA

Water is Life! This exploratory program designed for children ages 8-13 and their families teaches participants about the importance of water in Native American culture and encourages audience members to take small steps to protect our environment.

Program
Drum circle led by Christ Church's Native American Ministries Council

Opening presented by Urban Native Collective

SARA THOMSEN
*Water is Life (Choral Work)*

Introduction to Lakota culture by Lakota hoop dancer Starr Chief Eagle
Starr Chief Eagle solo hoop dance performance

Introduction to Navajo culture by Navajo pianist Connor Chee
Connor Chee solo piano performance

DAWN AVERY
*Indian Territory (Orchestral Work)*

Introduction to the Spirit Animals

JEROD TATE
*Spirit Chief Names the Animal People (Orchestral Work)*
Cate Donahue, narrator
Starr Chief Eagle, dance

**A Requiem for Water** (Panel Discussion and Choral Performance)
Tuesday, March 25, 2025 | 7:30-9pm | Cincinnati Art Museum Fath Auditorium, Mt. Adams
6:30-7:30pm: Exhibition of community partners
Tickets: Free, reservation requested

Cory Christopher, Cincinnati Nature Center
Beth Himburg, Mill Creek Alliance
Kristen Woods, WAVE Foundation

Summermusik musicians
Vidita Kanniks, Hindustani vocalist
Jim Feist, tabla
Thomas More University Dolce Chorus
We Are One Chorus
*Daniel Parsley, conductor*

Discover the challenges facing experts in conserving the Ohio Valley water ecosystem and learn what you can do to help efforts. Then, enjoy a small ensemble performance featuring Reena Esmail's *A Requiem for Water,* inspired by panic resulting from the ongoing Southern California drought.

Register as an exhibiting organization at no cost

7:30-9pm: Program
Water Conservation Panel Interspersed with:

String Quartet:
MICHAEL BEGAY
Chiaroscuro

String Quartet Work TBA

KIM ANDRÉ ARNESEN
*I denna ljuva sommartid*

Thomas More University Dolce Chorus:
ANNA-MARI KÄHÄRÄ
*Itken pois*

We Are One Chorus:
REENA ESMAIL
Malhaar: A Requiem for Water

**For more information and ticket reservations –**

**Call 513.723.1182 x2 or visit Summermusik online at www.summermusik.org**

**For promotional materials click here,**

**About Summermusik:** Founded in 1974, Summermusik with resident ensemble Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra creates intimate, transformative experiences that connect the musically curious. Under the direction of Music Director Eckart Preu, Summermusik provides a vibrant musical experience in an intimate and informal setting for both the seasoned and novice concert patron. The Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra is comprised of 32 professional musicians, the ideal ensemble size for presenting orchestral works from the Baroque and Classical eras as well as commissioned works by contemporary composers. Often, the ensemble shrinks down to as small as 3 musicians, which allows for flexibility and creativity in programming. Collaborations are a hallmark of Summermusik, including partnerships with Walk with Amal, CET, Cincinnati Ballet, and Cincinnati Art Museum, among others. The We Are One festival series was launched in 2022 and amplifies under-consulted voices by acknowledging historical and contemporary inequities and celebrating unique cultures.

*Summermusik is supported by Robert and Debra Chavez, Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr. Foundation, ArtsWave Community Campaign, Louise Dieterle Nippert Musical Arts Fund, Irv and Melinda Simon, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, The Charles H. Dater Foundation, Ohio Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.*

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