

“When we collaborate and experiment in Song, we are discovering life benefits, not simply musical ones. Our interactions as composers, performers, audiences, students and teachers constitute important relational skills. If we can excite creativity and cooperation in each other, we have accomplished a magnificent thing”

BRENT MICHAEL DAVIDS - COMPOSER

“He’s written two marvelous pieces for us, I mean, there’s nobody else in the world that could write music like that”

DAVID HARRINGTON - KRONOS QUARTET

“A brilliant composer, his presence is a remarkable, authentic and significant testimony to accessibility of original Native music for the stage, screen and hall. From the studio to Carnegie Hall, Brent Michael Davids has dedicated his genius to making a place in the contemporary field for the music and presence of the Original People to flourish and make an extreme impact for all. The one and only Mohican Medicine Hat Man of the music world”

ALLISON ADELLE HEDGE COKE

BRENT MICHAEL DAVIDS

FILM COMPOSER

BRENT MICHAEL DAVIDS is an enrolled citizen of the Mohican Nation. DAVIDS’ composer career spans 30 years, including awards from Ascap, Nea, Rockefeller Foundation, In-Vision, Joffrey Ballet, Chanticleer, Kronos Quartet, Meet-The-Composer, Miró Quartet, National Symphony Orchestra, Bush Foundation, McKnight Foundation, and Jerome Foundation, among others. DAVIDS’ work, *Powwow Symphony (for Powwow M.C. and Orchestra)*, was premiered by New Mexico Symphony and Phoenix



Symphony to rave reviews. Commissioned by the National Symphony, his *Canyon Sunrise* premiered at the Kennedy Center to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Kennedy Center and the 60th Anniversary of the NSO. Garrison Keillor asked DAVIDS for an orchestra work, *Prayer & Celebration*, that premiered on “A Prairie Home Companion” show in Indiana. DAVIDS has also been commissioned by Grammy Award-winning, Chanticleer — *Night Chant*, *Mohican Soup*, and *Un-Covered Wagon* (Teldec). In 2006, the NEA named DAVIDS among the nation’s preeminent choral composers in its project “*American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius*,” supporting festivals and tours in all 50 states. As one of only 29 composers named by the NEA, DAVIDS was selected along with Leonard Bernstein, Harry T. Burleigh, Libby Larsen, Stephen Foster and others.

DAVIDS holds Bachelors and Masters degrees in Music Composition from Northern Illinois University and Arizona State University respectively, trained at Redford’s Sundance Institute, and apprenticed with film composer Stephen Warbeck (*Shakespeare In Love*) on the TV-Miniseries *Dreamkeeper* (Hallmark and ABC). DAVIDS has been featured on ABC, NBC, CBS, NPR, PBS and NAPT. Davids’ film scores include: *The 1920 Classic Myth: Last of the Mohicans*, *World of American Indian Dance*, *The Business of Fancy Dancing*, *The Silent Enemy* and *Bright Circle*.

MUSIC ADVISOR

BRENT MICHAEL DAVIDS is an American Indian music expert in all geographic culture areas of north america, and schooled in American Indian religious studies at the Masters Degree level, with an emphasis in story and ritual. As a knowledgable and practiced Script Advisor, DAVIDS is an authority of American Indian story and music for all North American culture areas. Davids is highly regarded as a professional Source Music Director for American Indian singers, drummers, flutists, solo artists and contemporary bands. As a masterful Composition Instructor, DAVIDS created and developed the Composer Apprentice National Outreach Endeavor (CANOE) to teach American Indian youth to write their own concert music for choir, orchestra, dance and film, and he remains dedicated to American Indian education. DAVIDS is the former Artistic Advisor for the First Nations Composer Initiative (FNCI), the first virtual chapter of the American Composers Forum (ACF), the largest composer institute in the world today.

BRENT MICHAEL DAVIDS

*f*ilm *C*omposer

SELECTED FILM SCORES

- 2007 "THE WILL SAMPSON STORY" (theatrical film); American Indian Film Institute; CA (pre- production).
- 2006 "BRIGHT CIRCLE" (documentary); Shawn Kakuk & Russ Bolinger; St. Cloud, MN (in post).
- 2006 "POWWOW SYMPHONY" (TV film, Phoenix Symphony); BBG; St. Paul, MN (in production).
- 2003 "THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS: THE 1920 CLASSIC MYTH"; BBG; St. Paul, MN.
- 2003 "THE WORLD OF AMERICAN INDIAN DANCE" (TV documentary); NBC-Sports & 4 Directions Entertainment.
- 2003 "DREAMKEEPER" (TV drama); Hallmark and ABC (Associate Composer & Source Music Director).
- 2002 "THE BUSINES OF FANCY DANCING"; Falls Apart Productions; Seattle, WA.
- 1996 "THE SILENT ENEMY" (live performance of score with film); Grand Illusion; Santa Fe, NM.

SELECTED AWARDS

- 2006 Named a preeminent choral composer by the NEA for its national celebration "American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius," all 50 states, USA.
- 2006 CalArts/Alpert Award Nomination in Music; Valencia, CA
- 2004 Grammy nomination for "Our American Journey" compact disc by Chanticleer that features Davids' composition "The Un-Covered Wagon" (track 9) in the Classical Crossover category.
- 2004 Outstanding Graduate Achievement Award, Arizona State University; Tempe, AZ.
- 2002 McKnight Composer Fellowship; Saint Paul, MN.
- 2001 Bush Composer Fellowship, Bush Foundation; Saint Paul, MN.
- 2000 Nautilus New Music Theater Fellowship; Saint Paul, MN.
- 1998 Sundance Institute Film Composers Lab; Los Angeles, CA and Sundance, UT.
- 1998 Rockefeller Fellowship in the Humanities; UC-Davis, CA.
- 1997 McKnight Visiting Composer Residency, American Composers Forum; Saint Paul, MN.
- 1996 Outstanding Young Alumni Award, Northern Illinois University; Dekalb, IL.
- 1995 Meet the Composer Commission Award; New York, NY.
- 1995 CalArts/Alpert Award Nomination in Music; Valencia, CA
- 1995 Gold Medal/In-Vision Award for Soundtrack: New Media Magazine; Phoenix, AZ.

SELECTED COMMISSIONS

- 2005 "TINNITUS QUARTET" for the Miró Quartet, Auston, TX.
- 2005 "TRUMPETING THE STONE" for Grammy Winner & Oneida Trumpet Artist Chrisopher Moore, FL.
- 2004 "WE THE PEOPLE" for the National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, D.C.
- 2002 "THE UN-COVERED WAGON" for Chanticleer; San Francisco, CA.
- 2001 "THE LAST OF JAMES FENIMORE COOPER" for the Miró Quartet, Caramoor Festival, NY
- 1999 "POWWOW SYMPHONY" for the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, Albuquerque, NM.
- 1996 "NATIVE AMERICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM" for the Kronos Quartet; San Francisco, CA.
- 1996 "MOHICAN SOUP" for the Dale Warland Singers; Minneapolis, MN.
- 1995 "CANYON SUNRISE" for National Symphony Orchestra; Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.
- 1995 "Native American Suite" for the Dale Warland Singers; Minneapolis, MN.
- 1995 "TURTLE PEOPLE" for the Kronos Quartet; San Francisco, CA.
- 1994 "VOICES IN STONE" for Ballet Arizona, Phoenix, AZ.
- 1994 "THE SINGING WOODS" for the Kronos Quartet; San Francisco, CA.
- 1991 "MOON OF THE FALLING LEAVES" for Joffrey Ballet; New York, NY.

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

- 2006 "PRAYER AND CELEBRATION" on A Prairie Home Companion; Indianapolis, IN.
- 2005 "STOCKBRIDGE MOHICAN SONG" on A Prairie Home Companion; Tanglewood; Lenox, MA.
- 2002 "THE UN-COVERED WAGON" by Chanticleer; San Francisco, CA.
- 2001 "POWWOW SYMPHONY" by the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra, Phoenix, AZ.
- 1999 "ANCESTOR SONG" at Clonfert Cathedral; Co. Galway, Ireland
- 1999 "CRYSTAL WINDS & BAMBOO BREEZES" at Lincoln Center Out-Of-Doors; New York, NY.
- 1999 "JOE & THE BLUE BUTTERFLY" at the Greenwich Village Jazz Festival; New York, NY.
- 1998 "MOON OF THE FALLING LEAVES" by the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago; Auditorium Theater; Chicago, IL.
- 1997 "NIGHT CHANT" by Chanticleer; St. Gregory's Episcopal; San Francisco, CA.
- 1995 "TURTLE PEOPLE" by the Kronos Quartet; Brooklyn Academy of Music; New York, NY.
- 1994 "THE SINGING WOODS" by the Kronos Quartet; Lincoln Center; New York, NY; and 10 Countries.