



# MOONSTRIKE



**APOLLO**

**CHAMBER PLAYERS**

*Globally Inspired Music*

JENNIFER HIGDON

JEROD IMPICHCHAACHAAHA' TATE

PIERRE JALBERT



A z i c a

*with John Herrington*



**Matthew J. Detrick**  
*Violin I*



**Anabel Ramirez Detrick**  
*Violin II*



**John Herrington**  
*Narrator*



**Whitney Bullock**  
*Viola*



**Matthew Dudzik**  
*Cello*

Houston-based **APOLLO CHAMBER PLAYERS** “performs with rhythmic flair and virtuosity” (*The Strad*) and “recasts music for a diverse and multi-ethnic generation” (*Strings Magazine*). The ensemble’s globally-inspired programming and multicultural new music commissions have garnered international acclaim, including sold-out performances at Carnegie Hall and in Havana, Cuba, a Chamber Music America Residency Partnership award, and frequent features on American Public Media’s *Performance Today*. Released on the Grammy-winning Azica Records label, Apollo’s *With Malice Toward None* album reached No. 1 on Amazon’s ‘Hot New Release’ chart (08/21).

A passionate advocate for contemporary music and underrepresented composers, Apollo successfully concluded a bold initiative to commission 20 new multicultural works by the end of the last decade. **20x2020** features a diverse roster of the world’s leading composers and instrumentalists including **Jennifer Higdon, Libby Larsen, Pamela Z, Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate, Christopher Theofanidis, Vãn Ánh Võ, and Tracy Silverman**. The ensemble’s community partners include schools and universities, at-risk youth centers, refugee and veterans service organizations, and public libraries. Apollo was founded in 2008 by violinist and music entrepreneur **Matthew J. Detrick**.

Former NASA astronaut and U.S. Navy officer **John Herrington**, of Chickasaw heritage, is the first enrolled member of a Native American tribe to fly in space. He traveled to the International Space Station in the space shuttle STS-113 Endeavor, launched on November 23, 2002, and his accolades include induction into the Chickasaw Nation and Oklahoma Aviation and Space Halls of Fame.



..... **MoonStrike** is dedicated to the memory of **Margo Aragon-Herrington**.



## ***In the Shadow of the Mountain* (2020)**

for string quartet

**JENNIFER HIGDON**, *composer*

Growing up in the shadow of the Great Smoky Mountains, my heart, eyes, and ears naturally absorbed the sounds, light, and inherent music of the mountain and its people. As a consequence, when I came to compose my first opera, the resonance of that area lead me to choose as my story Charles Frazier's novel, *Cold Mountain*. The struggles of survival in Appalachia, the majesty of its natural features, and the sonorities of the mountain's music, color the quilt of that opera and of this string quartet. To take some of the opera's music and use it as the building block for a new composition was an interesting challenge. It caused me to rethink structure in wordless story-telling, and pushed me to create new music that invokes similar emotions and hue within the boundaries of the genre. It also made me remember what it was like to experience the magic of living in the shadow of a mountain. -- Jennifer Higdon

*In the Shadow of the Mountain* was commissioned by Apollo Chamber Players, as part of their 20x2020 project.

This work was generously underwritten by **Thomas & Terri Kosten**.

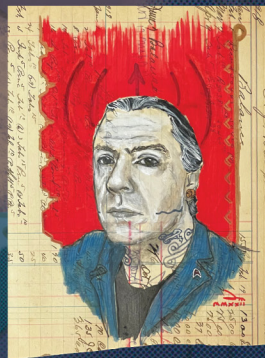
## ***MoonStrike* (2019)**

for string quartet and narrator

**JEROD IMPICHCHAACHAAHA' TATE**, *composer* • **JOHN HERRINGTON**, *narrator*

*MoonStrike* is a work composed for Apollo Chamber Players commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, featuring American Indian stories with live narrator. American Indian legends are very colorful and have a tendency to take twists and turns within the narrative. Regarding the Moon, it is very consistent that the traditional tales involve trickster characters and competitions for ownership of this precious object. *MoonStrike* involves three diverse American Indian legends, includes traditional songs, and is bookended with an arrangement of a Calusa Corn Dance. For Southeast Indians, the Green Corn Dance took place during the annual fall Harvest Moon. *MoonStrike* is dedicated to the memory of Margo Aragon-Herrington. It was Margo's wish that John Herrington and I would collaborate with American Indian astrological stories, and it is my joy and honor to realize this dream. -- Jerod Tate

*MoonStrike* was composed for Apollo Chamber Players' 20x2020 project, underwritten by the **C. Howard Pieper Foundation**.



## **PROLOGUE**

Chokma! Welcome, my friends! Saholhchifoat John Herrington. Chikashsha saya. My name is John Herrington, and I am a citizen of the Chickasaw nation. I, along with the Apollo Chamber Players, am about to tell you stories of the Moon. What is the Moon? Where did it come from? How did it get there? Well, like every culture around the world, American Indians have many different tales of the Moon. But one thing is certain - the Moon is a very valued and coveted being.

## **ORIGIN OF THE MOON (Kalispel)**

Long ago, when the world was very young, the Moon was a plaything of the animal tribe of people. One day, Coyote spoke up loudly to Antelope: "Let our sons go out and learn how to steal the Moon."

When the eight young sons reached the open space, where the animal people were rolling the great round shining ball, they hid themselves at one end of the playfield. The animal people knew that the boys were coming to steal it.

They rolled it towards the boys, certain that it was too heavy for anyone to take away. But the Coyote brothers, one at a time, rolled it home!

The owners of the Moon caught up with the Coyote brothers and killed them, one at a time. Then the Antelope brothers took the Moon from the youngest Coyote and ran so swiftly no one could catch them.

When they reached home and told Coyote that his sons has been killed, Coyote cried loudly: "Put that fire out and bring me the Moon!!"

They obeyed him, he took the Moon back to its owners, and they gave him his sons, restored to life!

One day, Woodpecker said to his Grandmother: "Let ME go and steal the Moon!"

When the Moon people saw him coming, they knew his purpose and began to laugh. "Roll the Moon towards the little Woodpecker," said one of them. "Let us see what he can do with such a big thing."

When the Moon reached him, he lifted it with difficulty and staggered off with it. Again, the people laughed. "Let him go as far as that ridge. But if he passes over it, we will kill him."

They did not know that Woodpecker was very clever. When they reached the top of the ridge, they saw him and the Moon at the top of the next hill. He had rolled the Moon down the first slope, and its momentum carried it almost to the top of the next slope. Woodpecker flew over the valley and pulled the Moon the rest of the way!

The people ran after him until they were tired out, and Woodpecker rolled the Moon to his home!

Sadly, the people started home without the Moon. "Let us make a new Moon," they said. "And let us place it in the Sky."

"Who will be the new Moon?" someone asked. They decided that Yellow Fox should be the new Moon and Yellow Fox agreed. They put him in the sky, where he was to shine by day as well as night. But he made the days so hot they took him down.

Then they asked Coyote, "Do you think you would make a good Moon?"

"Yes, of course," he replied. "I would like to be the Moon, for then I can see everything."

So, they placed Coyote in the Sky. He did not make the days too hot, but he did see everything.

And whenever he saw anything wrong being done, he called loudly the name of the person and the wrong thing he was doing!

The people who wished to do things in secret demanded that Coyote be taken from the Sky!!

## THE MAN WHO MARRIED THE MOON (Isleta Pueblo)

Nah-chu-rú-chu was a leader of his people. He was an expert weaver, wise in medicine, young and tall, strong and handsome. Nahchu-rú-chu had no interest in the village maidens who were in love with him. He was very happy in his weaving.

Two sisters, the Yellow-Corn maidens, were desirous of him, but with evil intentions. They worked very hard to get his attention.

"Enough!" said Nah-chu-rú-chu. "In four days, I will marry. I will hang my pearl gourd outside of my home. Any woman who chooses may throw their finest corn meal at the gourd, and she whose meal is so well ground that it sticks to this omate, shall be my wife."

The village was very excited and got right to work.

Before she lived in the sky, Moon was a maiden of the village, and she was away on an errand when his announcement was made. She did not return until the fourth day and the Yellow-Corn sisters teased her. They were certain she would not win the competition.

When the time came, all the maidens, including the Yellow-Corn sisters, tried throwing their corn meal at the omate, but nothing would stick. Then, Moon tossed her corn meal gently against the pearl omate and every tiny grain stayed. Not one fell to the ground.

Nah-chu-rú-chu was so excited. He already loved Moon, and now his life was perfect and complete. He and his sweet Moon-wife were very happy together.

The Yellow-Corn sisters were not happy. They betrayed Moon by tricking her into staring at her own reflection in a deep water well. They pushed her into the well and buried her alive - killing her.

In his grief, Nah-chu-rú-chu went to Moon's grave and found a white flower growing from the buried water well. He took it home and sang and prayed to it five times. His song was so beautiful and powerful that Moon arose from the flower and came back to life, as lovely and as fair as ever!

But there was still the matter of the sisters.

Moon hunted down the Yellow-Corn maidens and turned them into snakes. She told them: "Your new home is among the rocks and cliffs of the desert, but you must never bite a person. Remember, you are powerful women and you must be gentle."

Then she returned home to her husband, and they were very happy.

## RAVEN STEALS THE MOON (Haida)

There once was a village who lived by the sea. They were fisherman and ate fish. There once was a bird, named Raven, who was very lazy. Instead of fishing for himself, he followed the fishermen and ate THEIR fish!

"CAW! CAW! CAW!" he would say. "Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!" He was always hungry. He was insatiable!

The people were kind. They continued to throw him fish, but it didn't matter; it was just never enough. "Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!" he yelled. "More! More! More!" It was unbearable!!

They grew tired of his begging. "This bird is a pest! He is a nuisance and too overbearing. He will not leave us alone and eats half of our fish! It's too much!"

"Enough is enough, Raven. No more fish!"

Raven threw a huge tantrum and his eyes grew red with rage. "CAW! CAW! CAW! I'll get your fish!"

Raven started snatching all the fish from the people. He grabbed them from their nets, from their fishhooks and their hands. "Ha, ha, ha! I told you!! CAW! CAW! CAW!" "At the next full moon, I'll avenge myself! I'll get you!"

Later, at the end of the new moon, the people were enjoying their fire, telling stories and eating smoked salmon. "I wonder what Raven is up to now," they would ask. "I hope he's far away from us." "We are afraid," said the children.

The Chief assured them: "Don't be afraid. He has forgotten all about us."

Suddenly, they heard a mighty scream and beating of wings! Raven flew in and soared over them. "CAW! CAW! I'll teach you a lesson now!" He soared high into the sky and snatched the bright and beautiful moon, carrying it away - and he left the earth in darkness.

"What shall we do? How can we live without the moon?" They were all sad and lonely. But, four days later, they heard a loud cawing again and the beating of Raven's wings. He had come back!

"CAW! CAW!" he sang. Will you feed me now, if I put the moon where it belongs? Isn't that worth a lifetime of fish?"

"So be it!" answered the people. "What else can we do? OK, it's a bargain."

Raven pulled the moon from its hiding place, grasping her with his beak. He soared high up into the sky and placed her back where she belonged. Now she could, once again, bathe the night with her silvery light.

"I thought the Raven was just an insignificant little bird," said the Chief. "But, now I see, just how powerful he really is."

## EPILOGUE

Well, folks, there you have it. Here are some of our legends of the Moon. There are many, many more, and it is certain that, as we begin our new journey of traversing the stars, there will be many, many more to come.

### *L'esprit du Nord (Spirit of the North)* (2019)

for string quartet with optional field recordings

PIERRE JALBERT, composer

*L'esprit du Nord*, for string quartet, was inspired by and is infused with French-Canadian folk song. Each of the three movements uses a folk song as its basis. The first movement, *Chanson de Lisette*, is a playful theme and variations in which the folk song theme is gradually transformed into a contemporary musical language. The second movement, *Cantique* (Canticle), contains two religious folk tunes: a 'Passion' song and a tune entitled *Les Pèlerins*. An optional 1940s field recording may be used, combined with the live string quartet at the opening and end of the movement. The third movement, *Fiddle Dance*, was inspired by the French-Canadian fiddling tradition. Here again, an optional 1940s field recording (a short excerpt with harmonica and spoons) may be used with the live string quartet at the beginning of the movement. -- Pierre Jalbert



*L'esprit du Nord* was written for Apollo Chamber Players as part of their 20x2020 project, underwritten by an anonymous donor.

# APOLLO CHAMBER PLAYERS

Globally Inspired Music

Matthew J. Detrick, *violin I* • Anabel Ramirez Detrick, *violin II* • Whitney Bullock, *viola* • Matthew Dudzik, *cello*

With astronaut **John Herrington**, *narrator*

## JENNIFER HIGDON

1 *In the Shadow of the Mountain* (2020) 16:05  
20x2020 No. 20

## JEROD IMPICHCHAAACHAAHA' TATE

*MoonStrike* (2019)  
20x2020 No. 18

2 Corn Dance 1:10  
3 Prologue :30  
4 I. Origin of the Moon 6:38  
5 II. The Man Who Married the Moon 10:09  
6 III. Raven Steals the Moon 7:43  
7 Epilogue :14  
8 Corn Dance Reprise 1:18

With **JOHN HERRINGTON**, *narrator*

## PIERRE JALBERT

*L'esprit du Nord (Spirit of the North)* (2019)  
20x2020 No. 17

9 I. Chanson de Lisette 4:59  
10 II. Cantique 7:14  
11 III. Fiddle Dance 3:38

Apollo Founder, Artistic & Executive Director: **Matthew J. Detrick**

Producer/Recording and Mastering Engineer: **Alan Bise**

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**Dustin Mater**

**Teresa B. Southwell**

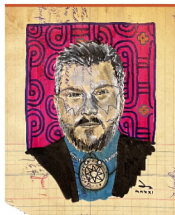
**Sauder Hall, Goshen College**

(Goshen, IN)

*MoonStrike* and *L'esprit du Nord* recorded July 2020

*In the Shadow of the Mountain* recorded July 2021

*MoonStrike* narration recorded at Treehouse Studios (Kalispell, MT) Dec 2021



**Dustin Illetwahke Mater** (Chickasaw) is an award-winning multimedia artist and designer whose works are featured in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

"As a visual artist, one of the tools I use for inspiration and storytelling ideas is music. The performances and compositions on this album filled my imagination with wide vistas, plateaus & the shell carvings of my Muskogean ancestors. The Ledger Art portraits celebrate this uniquely American Indian art form and honor the wonderful artists of *MoonStrike*."



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