

**in nature**

a (socially-distanced) world premiere by David Lang

The Crossing  
w/ Roots in the Sky

Donald Nally, conductor

Saturday, August 1, 2020 @ 8pm EDT / 6p MDT  
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, Big Sky Montana  
*presented by Warren Miller Performing Arts Center*  
*produced by John Zirkle and Donald Nally*

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**PROGRAM**

**in nature** (2020, world premiere)                      David Lang

*The Crossing's film of David Lang's in nature will be released in late August*

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**NOTES AND TEXT****in nature**

words and music by David Lang (b. 1957)

*the composer writes:*

My piece *in nature* began when my friend and frequent collaborator Donald Nally asked if I could imagine a piece that could be performed live, now, during this period when we are all separated from each other by the pandemic.

The question, of course, is how to make it possible for singers to sing together, when they can't be together, or breathe together, or interpret anything together. Add to this how far apart the singers would be — a few would be in Montana and the rest scattered across the East Coast.

My solution was to create different levels of coordination between groups of singers. Some are pre-recorded, responding to Donald's conducting prompts. Some are essentially floating freely above the others. An extra wrinkle was Donald's idea to have the piece filmed on site, in nature, by a river in Montana, at sunrise. It seemed ironic to me because many of us at this moment are very far away from nature. The distance between being there and not being there underlies everything I have tried to do in this piece.

*in nature* is dedicated to the memory of Virginia Hitt.

when I am in nature  
I instantly relax  
I understand my nature  
I feel  
I feel embraced for what I am  
I can hear the breeze and the wind blow  
I have been  
I feel utterly alive and connected to this living world  
I let go of my expectations  
I often feel an inner peace  
I stop focusing on myself  
I feel like nature can provide me with whatever I need  
I never feel alone  
I feel closer to god  
I don't have to be anyone but myself  
I truly feel relaxed  
I am constantly awed  
I feel closest to god  
I feel that I am in the presence  
I am a visitor  
I feel at one with the world and with myself  
I am calmer and I feel more alive  
I am adding  
I feel god to the core  
I keep wondering, why aren't there limits  
I am moved  
I am a better person  
I find it easy to open my eyes  
I feel, I see, I hear  
I realize that I do not truly know what the world is  
I am tuned in  
I feel more alive and a part of the earth  
I feel a spiritual connection  
I can focus  
I feel a sense of connection  
I never think  
I feel free, happy and fresh  
I become part of it with no separation  
I feel connected to other species  
I am alone and do not look for answers  
I often feel that I'm a part of it

I am home  
I love to walk  
I feel like I can connect to everything around me  
I often take long walks  
I just enjoy the sounds  
I love  
I am at my best  
I am home  
I am reminded of how small I am  
I experience love  
I am most in awe  
I feel like a modern day transcendentalist  
I enjoy running  
I can literally feel my batteries recharge  
I feel surrounded by love and beauty  
I like to observe  
I do not always know why  
I draw my inspiration  
I am reminded of the healing  
I am able to bring all of my focus  
I feel connected to other animals and plants  
I gain a sense of the totality of life  
I feel the closest to my ancestors  
I feel one with nature  
I habitually look for organized compositions  
I feel like I am part of this huge dynamic magical world  
I think of my childhood  
I can think deeply  
I feel relaxed and part of a bigger entity  
I feel that I am in the presence  
I try to pick up on those cues  
I try to go to national parks  
I know that I am alive  
I feel closer to god  
I love to be aware of my natural surroundings  
I love to hike  
I just feel good and I feel at peace  
I want to create something  
I often feel like I am walking on sacred ground  
I often hear  
I just sit back and take a deep breath  
I feel her presence  
I am often searching for a place  
I move through space and time

I always have issues with being on a road  
I feel peace overwhelming me  
I feel quite aware of my smallness  
I can feel a quiet inside  
I can feel the flow of life  
I need to keep the composition simple  
I feel calmer  
I am closer to god  
I am happy  
I am in my happy place  
I close my eyes  
I feel myself held and supported  
I never know what will happen next  
I love walking  
I feel more energetic, light and calm  
I feel free  
I feel a special attraction  
I feel that I hear natural sounds  
I enjoy breathing in the sweetness  
I like to run  
I do not do well  
I grow up  
I feel so fortunate  
I think  
I remember my place in the order of things  
I also love  
I reconnect  
I am uncertain how else I can heal  
I feel an overwhelming sense of peace and joy  
I am attuned to each sound  
I feel free  
I'm ok because I'm simply being  
I am really enjoying this  
I think of my childhood  
I feel connected to my source  
I am communing with god.

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## TEAM

Warren Miller Performing Arts Center  
John Zirkle, executive and artistic director

David Lang  
Bang on a Can

The Crossing  
Katy Avery  
Jessica Beebe  
Karen Blanchard  
Steven Bradshaw  
Colin Dill  
Micah Dinger  
Joanna Gates  
Michael Jones  
Heidi Kurtz  
Maren Montalbano  
Rebecca Myers  
Becky Oehlers  
James Reese  
Daniel Schwartz  
Becky Siler  
Daniel Spratlan  
Elisa Sutherland  
Daniel Taylor  
Donald Nally, conductor  
John Grecia, keyboards  
Kevin Vondrak, assistant conductor & artistic associate

Roots in the Sky  
Andrew Major, artistic director  
Isobel Anthony  
Kayla Bojkovsky  
Erin Henke  
Ana Jarrett

The Crossing is represented by Alliance Artist Management

Digital Mission Audio Services  
Paul Vazquez

Four/Ten Media

Evan Chapman  
Kevin Eikenberg

Jereco Studios  
Luke Scheeler

Gallatin River Video  
Micah Robin

WMPAC Staff  
Danielle McClain, Operations Director  
Andrew Blessing, Streaming Director  
Ace Beattie, Associate Technologist  
Jesse Emby, Lighting Designer  
Guiliana Olivo, Communications Associate  
Rikka Wommack, Communications Manager  
Logan Henke, Production Manager

Icebox Project Space at CraneArts  
Tim Belknap  
Ryan McCartney

Special Thanks:  
Elizabeth Glatfelter  
Carol Westfall  
Thomas Kasdorf  
Charles Mueller  
Steven Hyder  
Becky Siler  
Jonathan Bradley  
Shannon McMahan  
Andrew Major  
Big Sky Resort Tax  
Yellowstone Club Community Foundation  
320 Ranch  
Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill

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The Crossing plans to return to the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center in July 2021 for its annual residency in Big Sky, Montana.