

CONNECTING GLOBAL CULTURE & LOCAL AGRICULTURE
MUSIC FOR FARMS



John McDowell • Emmanuël Vukovich •
Julia MacLainz • Evan Premo

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THE MISSION

The mission of Music For Farms is to support healthy, cohesive communities by connecting classical, contemporary, and world music with local, sustainable agriculture, and thereby

- * to demonstrate the indivisibility of culture and agriculture;
- * to strengthen and unite both classical music and farming communities;
- * to compose and perform music for a more important social outcome;
- * and to draw awareness to the communal importance of growing and eating local, bio-dynamically grown food.

THE HISTORY



Founded and conceptualized in New York and Canada by musicians and farmers John McDowell and Emmanuel Vukovich, Music for Farms is a steadily growing musical ensemble which tours venues and farms, performing classical music as well as original compositions and world music arrangements. The group is particularly interested in music inspired by an exploration of connecting opposites – such as in their original work based on Wolfram von Eschenbach’s Parcifal legend, the meeting of

Eastern and Western classical music in their own transcription of Ravi Shankar and Yehudi Menuhin’s Swara Kakali, in their personal backgrounds of jazz and classical music, and finally in their own lives of practicing music and farming side by side.

THE REPERTOIRE

Music played by the ensemble explores themes such as Farms, Pastoral, Harvest, and American.

Past repertoire has included:

- * Parcifal and Zazamanc, by John McDowell and Emmanuel Vukovich
- * F major, by John McDowell
- * Pachamama’s Catharsis, by Pedro Malpica
- * Swara Kakali (transcription of a work by Yehudi Menuhin and Ravi Shankar)
- * Solo violin and solo cello works by Bach
- * Popular Tango and Brazilian selections

Past performances have been held at:

- * Novalis Hall, Angus, Ontario, Canada
- * Bechstein Piano Centre, New York, NY
- * Threefold Auditorium, Chestnut Ridge, NY
- * St. John’s Church, Montreal, Canada
- * Heliconian Club, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- * The Great Room, South Oxford Space, Brooklyn, NY

THE BAND

Pianist, percussionist and film composer **John McDowell** achieved worldwide recognition for his original music for the Academy Award-winning documentary, *Born Into Brothels*. Winner of Best Musical Score at the Bend Film Festival, the soundtrack blends Western and Indian music in a mesmerizing mix. McDowell is also an acclaimed pianist, percussionist, producer, commissioned composer and conductor whose work draws on classical, jazz, pop, and world music. McDowell served as artistic director and leader of several musical projects including the world music band *Mamma Tongue*. He has toured and recorded with *Rusted Root* and *Krishna Das* and has produced several albums including his solo CD, *Speaking the Mamma Tongue* and the soundtrack to the documentary film *Orgasmic Birth*. John runs an organic, biodynamic farm in Rockland County, NY and founded the Rockland Farm Alliance.



Canadian-born violinist and composer **Emmanuel Vukovich** has performed across Europe, the United States, Australia, and Canada. Born in 1980, he received the Golden Violin Award from McGill University's Schulich School of Music and the Canada Council for the Arts Orford String Quartet Scholarship. Emmanuel left home at sixteen to study with Dorothy Delay and Masao Kawasaki at the Juilliard School in New York City. He completed his music studies at McGill University in Montreal working with Denise Lupien and André Roy at the Schulich School of Music, while also completing a minor in Environmental Studies. During

this time, he was a member of the Lloyd Carr-Harris String Quartet, which won several national and international awards, including the Grand Prize at the Fischhoff International Chamber Music Competition.

Cellist **Julia MacLaine** has been praised by *The New York Times* for her "rich tone," "sweet, throbbing vibrato," and "superb playing." She has performed at Carnegie Hall as a member of Ensemble ACJW and as a soloist and chamber musician throughout Europe, North and South America, and Iceland. As well as being co-founder of *The Ikarus Chamber Players*, Julia is a member of *The Knights*, *The Beauséjour Trio*, and the *Tres Americas Project*. She has performed with many other New York ensembles including *Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble*, *The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center*, and *The International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE)*. Last year, with three other members of Carnegie Hall's Ensemble ACJW, Julia created and performed an immersive tribute to whales and ocean life under the blue whale in the Museum of Natural History, featuring new American music, original poetry, and live painting. Raised on a corner of the family farm in Prince Edward Island, Canada, Julia is committed to the "agri-cultural" mission of Music for Farms.



Double bass player **Evan Premo** is an active chamber musician and has performed concertos with numerous ensembles, including the 2009 world premiere of his own *Double Concerto for Violin and Double Bass* with Andrés Cárdenes and the Pittsburgh Symphony Chamber Orchestra. A graduate of the University of Michigan, Evan was a winner of the school's concerto competition in 2006 and, that same year, premiered his own *Concertino for Bass Fiddle and Winds* with the University of Michigan's Symphony Band. He is also a member of *Duo Borealis* with soprano Mary Bonhag. Evan is now a fellow of "The Academy," a program of Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and the Weill Music Institute. As part of this program, Evan performs chamber music regularly at Carnegie Hall and does outreach in public schools in NYC.