



Photo by Daniel Dottavio available in high resolution at www.christinajensenpr.com.

Composer Robert Paterson's *A New Eearth* World Premiere Performances on May 4 & May 6

Vermont Youth Orchestra & Chorus
Conducted by Jeffrey Domoto
Narrated by Environmental Activist & Writer
Bill McKibben

"A gust of wind can grow into a storm.
We know this to be true.
A single drop of water makes a difference.
We know this to be true."
– excerpt from Paterson's *A New Eearth*

Friday, May 4 at 8pm
Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center
122 Hourglass Drive | Stowe, VT
Tickets: \$10, \$5 students available at the door

Sunday, May 6 at 3pm
Flynn Center for the Performing Arts
153 Main Street | Burlington, VT
Tickets: \$15, \$10 students at 802.86.FLYNN or www.flynntix.org

Information: 802.655.5030 or www.vyo.org
Robert Paterson: www.robpaterson.com

Burlington, VT – Composer **Robert Paterson's** *A New Eearth* will be given world premiere performances by the **Vermont Youth Orchestra** and **Vermont Youth Orchestra Chorus** conducted by Music Director **Jeffrey Domoto** on Friday, May 4 at 8pm at the Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center (122 Hourglass Drive, Stowe, VT) and on Sunday, May 6 at 3pm at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (153 Main Street, Burlington, VT). The piece marks the culmination of Paterson's three-year Music Alive! residency with the Vermont Youth Orchestra.

Paterson's piece, *A New Eearth* is inspired by *Eearth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*, a book by author, educator and environmental activist Bill McKibben. In it, he argues that massive climate change is already underway and that the planet could now be called "Eearth" because it is still recognizable, but fundamentally different. McKibben, a Middlebury College Scholar-in-Residence, will be the narrator for the performances.

Paterson, who in addition to his time with the VYO lived in Vermont for several years in the 1990s, has written many musical works inspired by nature and describes himself as deeply concerned about environmental issues. He says, "In *A New Eearth*, I intersperse my own narrated text with poems and quotes from around the world, including texts by Wendell Barry, James Joyce, Percy Bysshe Shelly and William Wordsworth. The text and poems allude to the four ancient, classical elements—earth, air, fire and water—a theme that appears in many of my other works."

Paterson's orchestral music was last heard in Vermont during the Vermont Symphony's *Made in Vermont* tour in the fall of 2011. Jaime Laredo conducted eight well-received performances of Paterson's *Dark Mountains*, inspired by Vermont's landscape, in cities and towns throughout the state.

The May 4 and May 6 Vermont Youth Orchestra concerts will also include music by Dvořák and Copland, Elgar's Cello Concerto featuring soloist Liam John, and Holst's *The Planets*. *A New Eearth* is commissioned by the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association through a Music Alive! residency grant from New Music USA and the League of American Orchestras.

About Robert Paterson: Composer Robert Paterson's richly colorful, wildly eclectic and intensely rhythmic music is influenced by visual art, nature, machines, and more, and is inspired by everything from the changing seasons, crashing waves, and Dali's melting clocks to the life of New York Mets Baseball catcher Mike Piazza. His recent honors include winning the Cincinnati Camerata Composition Competition, the Copland Award, Louisville Orchestra Composition Competition, Brian Israel Prize, two ASCAP Young Composer Awards, and grants from Meet The Composer, the American Music Center, the American Composers Forum and ASCAP, as well as fellowships to Yaddo, the MacDowell Colony, the Aspen Music Festival, and the Atlantic Center for the Arts.

Born in 1970, Paterson was raised in Buffalo, New York, the son of a sculptor and a painter. Percussion was his first love, and an enduring one. Paterson pioneered the development of a six-mallet marimba technique presenting the world's first all six-mallet marimba recital at the Eastman School of Music in 1993. He discovered a passion for composition early in life as well, writing his first piece at age thirteen.

Recent and upcoming performances of Paterson's work include the European premiere and sixteen additional performances of *Dancing Games* by the Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire (France); the premiere of *Dark Mountains* by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra conducted by Jaime Laredo; two new choral works for the Chamber Choir of Europe; an orchestral opera in two acts with writer and librettist David Cote, based on the award-winning British novel *A Child Possessed* by R.C. Hutchinson; Wind Quintet by the Philharmonia Quintet (Poland); *Eternal Reflections*, commissioned for the San Francisco-based Volti choir; *Embracing the Wind* by the Aureole Trio and New York Harp Trio; the Louisville Orchestra world premiere of *Electric Lines*, winner of the orchestra's new music competition, and a work previously selected for the Minnesota Orchestra and American Composers Orchestra New Music Readings; *Enlightened City*, commissioned for the 100th anniversary of the IHS Orchestra; and the world premiere of *Crimson Earth* by the University of Connecticut Wind Ensemble.

Ensembles that have performed Paterson's music include the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, New York New Music Ensemble, Da Capo Chamber Players, California EAR Unit, Finger Lakes Chamber Ensemble, Ensemble Aleph (Paris), Naiades Ensemble (London), Ensemble Nouvelles Consonances (Belgium), the Kairos String Quartet, the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, the MANCA Festival presented by the Centre National de Création Musicale (CIRM) and the June in Buffalo new music festival. Paterson appears on recordings for Mode Records, Centaur Records, Capstone, and RiAx. In 2011, *The Book of Goddesses*, which won Paterson the Composer of the Year Award from the Classical Recording Foundation, and *Star Crossing* were released by American Modern Records, the label of American Modern Ensemble.

Paterson has received degrees from Eastman (BM), Indiana University (MM), and Cornell University (DMA). He resides in New York City with his wife, Victoria, a violinist, and their young son Dylan.

About Bill McKibben:

Bill McKibben is the author of a dozen books about the environment, beginning with *The End of Nature* in 1989, which is regarded as the first book for a general audience on climate change. He is a founder of the grassroots climate campaign 350.org, which has coordinated 15,000 rallies in 189 countries since 2009. *Time Magazine* called him "the planet's best green journalist" and the *Boston Globe* said in 2010 that he was "probably the country's most important environmentalist." The Schumann Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College, he holds honorary degrees from a dozen colleges, including the Universities of Massachusetts and Maine, the State University of New York, and Whittier and Colgate Colleges. In 2011 he was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In late summer 2006, McKibben helped lead a five-day walk across Vermont to demand action on global warming that some newspaper accounts called the largest demonstration to date in America about climate change. Beginning in January 2007 he founded stepitup07.org to demand that Congress enact curbs on carbon emissions that would cut global warming pollution 80 percent by 2050. With six college students, he organized 1,400 global warming demonstrations across all 50 states of America on April 14, 2007. Step It Up 2007 has been described as the largest day of protest about climate change in the nation's history. A guide to help people initiate environmental activism in their community coming out of the Step It Up 2007 experience entitled *Fight Global Warming Now* was published in October 2007 and a second day of action on climate change was held the following November 3.

McKibben has been awarded Guggenheim and Lyndhurst Fellowships, and won the Lannan Prize for nonfiction writing in 2000. He currently resides with his wife, writer Sue Halpern, and his daughter, Sophie, who was born in 1993, in Ripton, Vermont.

About the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association:



Since 1963, the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association has provided young musicians with outstanding educational opportunities, exciting musical challenges and unique performance experiences. Music Director Jeffrey Domoto is building upon this solid foundation of excellence with an artistic eye that sees well into the VYOA's future. His tremendous enthusiasm for nurturing and challenging young musicians while building community within and beyond the VYOA is a firm goal of the organization. By providing instrumental and choral ensemble experiences for students of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, we lay the groundwork for students to pursue a lifetime of making music, should they choose to do so. All of our students leave the VYOA with a respect for music, for learning, and for the arts, attributes that will enhance and inform their individual careers in communities beyond the VYOA.

Currently, the VYOA offers incoming musicians a variety of program options: four orchestras, a beginning string ensemble, a chamber music program, a two-tiered choral program, and two summer camps; all are based in our beautiful home, the Elley-Long Music Center at Saint Michael's College. The 500 students who participate in our orchestral and choral ensembles range in grades 1 through 12 and hail from eleven Vermont counties and bordering states.

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