



Robert Paterson, photo by Daniel Dottavio. Available in high resolution at www.christinajensenpr.com.

Composer Robert Paterson's
Dark Mountains
commissioned and premiered by
the Vermont Symphony Orchestra

Conducted by Jaime Laredo

Made in Vermont Statewide Tour
September 23 – October 3, 2011

Performances in Johnson, Vergennes, Derby Line,
Lyndonville, Bellows Falls, Randolph,
Woodstock, & Castleton

See complete schedule at the end of this release

Robert Paterson: www.robpaterson.com
Vermont Symphony Orchestra: www.vso.org

Tickets: XXX

Burlington, VT – Composer **Robert Paterson's** *Dark Mountains* will be given its world premiere by the **Vermont Symphony Orchestra**, led by **Jaime Laredo**, at 7:30pm on **Friday, September 23** at the **Johnson State College Dibden Center for the Arts** in Johnson, VT. The concert kicks-off the VSO's annual **Made in Vermont** statewide tour, which includes subsequent performances in at the Vergennes Opera House (September 24), Haskell Opera House in Derby Line (September 25), Lyndon State College Alexander Twilight Theatre in Lyndonville (September 29), Bellows Falls Opera House (September 30), Chandler Center for the Arts in Randolph (October 1), Woodstock Town Hall Theater (October 2), and at the Castleton State College Fine Arts Center (October 3). The concerts will also include Mozart's *Serenata Notturna* (with Laredo performing as one of the solo violinists), Honegger's *Pastorale d'Eté*, Sibelius' *Valse Triste*, and Haydn's Symphony No. 54, "L'Imperiale." *For the complete tour schedule, see the end of this release.*

Robert Paterson has been the Music Alive composer-in-residence with the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association since 2009, sponsored by Meet The Composer and the League of American Orchestras. Although they now make their home in New York, he and his wife, violinist Victoria Paterson, are no strangers to Vermont. Victoria is a native of Middlebury, and the couple lived in Burlington for several years in the mid-1990s, both pursuing performance opportunities and playing with the VSO, University of Vermont Orchestra, Vermont Composers Consortium, and the Lyric Theater Company, among others.

Of his new piece, *Dark Mountains*, Robert Paterson says, "Vermont is famous for its green mountains, but I often find myself taking long drives through the mountains on overcast days or at night, when the mountains lose color and become gray silhouettes. Many roads in Vermont are so dark, particularly in the Northeast Kingdom, that you need to use headlights even during the day. *Dark Mountains* is meant to portray the beauty and grandeur of the mountains and the peacefulness of the open roads, but also the darkness and occasional treacherous passes one may encounter during the evening hours."

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. *Fanfare* describes his work as, "immediately engaging" and "beautifully crafted."

More about Robert Paterson: In 2011, Paterson will receive the Composer of the Year Award from the Classical Recording Foundation for his album, *The Book of Goddesses*. Other 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 a new work for 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 Riaux. Two new albums of his music will be released by American Modern Records, the label of American Modern Ensemble, in 2011.

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. For more information, visit www.robpaterson.com.

Made in Vermont Tour Schedule:

Friday, September 23, 7:30 p.m. | Johnson State College Dibden Center for the Arts | Johnson, VT
Information: www.jsc.edu/DibdenCenterForTheArts

Saturday, September 24, 7:30 p.m. | Vergennes Opera House | Vergennes
Information: www.vergennesoperahouse.org

Sunday, September 25, 4:00 p.m. | Haskell Opera House | Derby Line
Information: www.haskellopera.org

Thursday, September 29, 7:30 p.m. | Lyndon State College Alexander Twilight Theatre | Lyndonville
Information: www.lsc.vsc.edu

Friday, September 30, 7:30 p.m. | Bellows Falls Opera House | Bellows Falls
Information: www.bfoperahouse.com

Saturday, October 1, 7:30 p.m. | Chandler Center for the Arts | Randolph
Information: www.chandler-arts.org

Sunday, October 2, 7:30 p.m. | Town Hall Theater | Woodstock
Information: www.pentanglearts.org

Monday, October 3, 7:30 p.m. | Castleton State College Fine Arts Center | Castleton
Information: www.csc.vsc.edu/tourcastleton/FAC.htm