



Cover art available in high resolution at
www.christinajensenpr.com

Composer Robert Paterson's *The Book of Goddesses*

Release date: November 15, 2011
(American Modern Recordings)

The Book of Goddesses for flute, harp & percussion
performed by MAYA

Freya's Tears for violin & harp
performed by Clockwise

Embracing the Wind for flute, viola, and harp
performed by American Modern Ensemble (AME)

Available on iTunes, Amazon, & all major retailers

Robert Paterson: www.robpaterson.com | American Modern Ensemble: www.americanmodernensemble.org
Clockwise: www.duoclockwise.com | MAYA: www.mayatrio.com | Kris Waldherr: www.artandwords.com

New York, NY—Composer **Robert Paterson's** new album, *The Book of Goddesses*, will be released on **November 15, 2011** on the American Modern Recordings label. The album includes *The Book of Goddesses* performed by the flute, harp and percussion trio **MAYA**; *Freya's Tears* performed by violin and harp duo **Clockwise**; and *Embracing the Wind* performed by the **American Modern Ensemble**. *The Book of Goddesses* was produced by Grammy Award-winning engineer Adam Abeshouse.

The title piece, *The Book of Goddesses*, is inspired by a lavishly illustrated book of the same name by Brooklyn-based author, illustrator, and cellist Kris Waldherr. The book contains descriptions and images of hundreds of female deities from a wide variety of cultures and countries. For his new piece, Paterson chose nine goddesses from around the world to illustrate musically, drawing materials and styles from India, China, Greece, Ireland, North America, Nigeria, and Cuba.

Paterson explains, "Throughout the work, I attempt to fuse my own sound world with the music of each culture. I treat myself as someone outside looking in, more as an observer than a master of each musical style. For example, the harp part in 'Xi Wang Mu' is inspired by the Konghou, an ancient Chinese harp, and the solo bass flute movement, 'Estanatlehi,' is inspired by the sound of a Native American flute. Percussion instruments provide an earthiness, at least with regard to timbre, and each of the trio movements uses instruments that are not common in Western music, including an Indian Ghatam, a Middle-Eastern Dumbek, an Afro-Cuban Cajón and the Udu drum, an instrument traditionally played by Nigerian women."

Waldherr has contributed the richly executed original illustrations and descriptions of each of the nine goddesses (Saraswati, Xi Wang Mu, Aphrodite, Brigit, Estsanatlehi, Xochiquetzal, Oya, Yemayá, and The Muses) found on the cover and in the liner notes of the new album.

Freya's Tears is a companion or sister piece for *The Book of Goddesses*. Each of the movements is inspired by a different goddess – Iris, Freya, and Sekhmet. *Embracing the Wind* was inspired by the image of an Olympic athlete running against the wind, and explores the concept of creating music that sounds flexible and has a wind-like ebb and flow.

Robert Paterson is the winner of the 2011 Composer of the Year Award from the Classical Recording Foundation (CRF) for *The Book of Goddesses*. He will receive the award during CRF's annual ceremony at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall on November 21, 2011, during which MAYA and Clockwise will perform selections from the album.

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

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 RiAx. In addition to *The Book of Goddesses*, American Modern Records, the label of American Modern Ensemble, has released *Star Crossing*, another album of his work.

Paterson has received degrees from Eastman (BM), Indiana University (MM), and Cornell University (DMA), and his composition teachers include Frederick Fox, Christopher Rouse, Joseph Schwantner, Roberto Sierra, and Steven Stucky. He resides in New York City with his wife, Victoria, a violinist, and their young son Dylan.

About MAYA: MAYA, a trio formed by Sato Moughalian, flutes and piccolo; Jacqueline Kerrod, harp; John Hadfield, percussion; in the summer of 2005, offers the uniquely compelling and rhythmically driven combination of flute, harp and percussion, performing classical and new music, world music, and incorporating improvisation into its performances. The mission of MAYA is to perform, record, and commission music from a broad variety of composers with special emphasis toward nurturing relationships with emerging young composers, as well as expanding the repertoire with music from a variety of cultures. Born out of the chamber music tradition and founded by three prominent New York City concert musicians, the ensemble has embarked on a major commissioning program, stretching the boundaries of the classical chamber concert and creating appealing programs that weave together music of diverse traditions. MAYA's performances reflect the artistic vision of its members who seek to create a repertoire which mirrors their expanding ideals of beauty in an increasingly connected world. MAYA's debut CD, *In The Spirit*, a lively collection of seasonal pieces, was released on the Perspectives Recordings label (PR001).

About Clockwise: New York City-based Clockwise was formed in 2006 by two leading South African born musicians, harpist Jacqueline Kerrod and violinist Marc Uys. In only their second season, they embarked on an ambitious commissioning project which culminated in a 2008 tour featuring nine world premieres spread across 30 performances in

major and new venues throughout South Africa, amongst them the Baxter Concert Hall in Cape Town, the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown and the Sudwala Caves (near Kruger National Park). In subsequent seasons, notable venues have included Trinity Wall Street and The Stone in New York City; San Francisco MoMA; and Unisa ZK Matthews Hall, South Africa. In addition to their enthusiasm for participating in the creation of new music, Clockwise also performs a growing repertoire of music from Bach to Britten and Cage.

About American Modern Ensemble: Based in New York City, American Modern Ensemble was formed in 2005 and has quickly become a major force in the American new music scene. AME celebrates and showcases the widest possible repertoire written by American composers, especially chamber works written by living composers. Since its inception, AME has presented over twenty programs featuring performances of works by over eighty American composers, using a world-class ensemble that includes the finest instrumentalists and vocalists in North America. *The New York Times* reports, “The American Modern Ensemble’s married directors –Robert Paterson, a composer and percussionist, and Victoria Paterson, a violinist – have consistently demonstrated a flair for inventive programming since they founded the group in 2005 ... stylish, committed playing ... AME has a strong fan base, and performers of high quality.”

About Kris Waldherr: Kris Waldherr is an author, illustrator, and designer whose art has been exhibited in the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Her many publications for children and adults include *Doomed Queens*, *The Lover’s Path* and *The Book of Goddesses*. *The Book of Goddesses* was a One Spirit/Book-of-the-Month Club’s Top Ten Most Popular Book. It inspired numerous products including *The Goddess Tarot*, which has over 200,000 copies in print. *Doomed Queens* was hailed by *The New Yorker* as “a concise, humorous, and keenly observed history of women and power... With all the inane princess stories out there, a collection that highlights the historical downside is a welcome corrective.” Her picture book retelling of the Persephone myth, *Persephone and The Pomegranate*, was praised by *The New York Times* Book Review for its “quality of myth and magic.” Waldherr’s illustrations have been published as greeting cards, book covers, and in magazines. Her art has been exhibited in galleries and museums throughout the United States and England. In recent years, she has expanded into the digital realm to design and produce iPhone applications and e-books. *The Book of Goddesses* is available as an e-book at WitWisdomWonder.com.

***The Book of Goddesses* (American Modern Recordings)**

Music by Robert Paterson

Release date: November 15, 2011

Performed by MAYA (Sato Moughalian, flutes and piccolo; Jacqueline Kerrod, harp; John Hadfield, percussion); Clockwise (Marc Uys, violin; Jacqueline Kerrod, harp); American Modern Ensemble (Sato Moughalian, flutes; Danielle Farina, viola; Jaqueline Kerrod, harp)

Tracks:

The Book of Goddesses for flute, harp and percussion

1. I. Saraswati [3:59]
2. II. Xi Wang Mu [3:53]
3. III. Aphrodite [3:57]
4. IV. Brigit [3:51]
5. V. Etsanatlehi [4:00]
6. VI. Xochiquetzal [3:43]
7. VII. Oya [4:29]
8. VIII. Yemayá [4:20]
9. IX. The Muses [4:17]

Freya’s Tears for violin and harp

10. I. Iris [4:00]
11. II. Freya’s Tears [4:00]
12. III. Sekhmet [4:00]

13. *Embracing the Wind* for flute, viola, and harp [9:46]

###