



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas College of Music

Faculty Recital | Tuesday, April 16, 2024 | 8:00 pm | Voertman Hall

Quincy Davis, composer WORLD PREMIERE

Empathy Suite (2024) Quincy Davis (b. 1977)

1. People and Places
2. Empathy Sweet
3. Be Like Water
4. Connected
5. More Alike Than Different
6. Be Like Water (Reprise)
7. No Empathy, No Peace
8. Inside

Chloé Kiffer, violin I • Eugen Kim, violin II
Anthony Brooks, viola • Horacio Contreras, cello
Maria De Jesus Contreras, harp • Madison Russell, voice
Bradford Leali, alto/soprano saxophones
Aidan Schwarz, tenor/soprano saxophones and flute
Phillip Dizack, trumpet/flugelhorn
David Meder, piano/keyboard • Spencer Paulsen, bass
Asa Nero, drumset (on movement 2) • Quincy Davis, drumset

1. **PEOPLE AND PLACES**

I've been fortunate to travel to many amazing places around the world. And what I've learned and strongly believe is that venturing outside our everyday environments to engage with unfamiliar faces and cultures allows us to see the common threads that bind us together, recognizing that our intrinsic desires and aspirations are not so different after all. By venturing out and seeking connections, we embrace the interconnectedness of all humanity and the transformative power of empathy to unite us in a tapestry of shared truths and understanding.

2. **EMPATHY SWEET (spoken word written and read by Quincy Davis)**

3. BE LIKE WATER

"The greatest virtue is like water; it benefits everything and harms nothing." These profound words by the great Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu resonate in a world where harshness and division seem to reign supreme. It's easy to forget the simple power of kindness and understanding. Like water, empathy flows freely, adapting to the shape of any situation, nurturing and soothing all in its path. It has the power to heal wounds unseen and bridge the divides that separate us.

You know who I am
I know who you are
See me touch me
Make me know you feel me

Water water
We can be like water
Feel and think like water
Listen and speak like water

Flowing like a river
Rippling through our souls
La la la la la
La la la la la
La la la la la
La la la la la

4. CONNECTED

What is this force, this energy we share
Calm on the outside, with depths beyond compare
No need to struggle, just breathe and abide
In this cosmic dance, we all reside
(We are all connected)

A tapestry woven, of threads intertwined
Through space and time, our spirits aligned
No need to resist, just let it be
For in this unity, we find our happy
(We are all connected)

Cool on the surface, with fire within
The essence of people, is beneath the skin
No need to search, no need to expect
Just embracing this truth, is the best we can do.
That we are all connected

5. **MORE ALIKE THAN DIFFERENT**

This movement was inspired by a quote by Maya Angelou, where she said, "We are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike." This highlights the importance of recognizing our shared humanity and the common experiences that unite us, rather than focusing solely on our differences. However, this does mean we ignore our differences by any means. In fact, it is through recognizing them and celebrating those differences that we can begin to see how we are indeed *More Alike Than Different*.

6. **BE LIKE WATER** (reprise)

And so it goes
In this great tapestry of life
We are all connected
Connected

In love
and peace
And hopes
and dreams
and joy

In times of need
and pain
In life

Despite what some folks feel...

7. **NO EMPATHY, NO PEACE**

The title of this movement is based on a quote by civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. where he stated, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." These words serve as a stark reminder of the essential role empathy plays in creating a harmonious world. It is only through understanding, compassion, and of course empathy that we can bridge our differences, heal our wounds, and build a more peaceful and equitable society. Let us strive to cultivate empathy in our own hearts and in the world around us, for without it, true peace will forever remain elusive.

8. INSIDE

In the echoes of silence
Struggles to be heard
Making it hard to believe
Though I see you, do you see me?
It's time to wake out of sleep
Oh it's time that we see each other's pain
We're all the same we're all the same
Inside inside
Inside inside
Inside inside that we realize that we're all the same we're all the same
Inside inside
Inside inside