



For Immediate Release:

Deena T. Grossman Embraces a Multicultural Lens in New Album: *Becoming Durga*

“Her music melds a passion for the environment with knowledge of the folk traditions of America, Bali, and Japan to form a unique voice from the Pacific Northwest.”

-Oregon ArtsWatch



Lyrical · Compelling · Synergistic · Illuminative

June 23, 2022; Portland, OR: On the heels of her recent, highly acclaimed album *Wildfires and Waterways*, composer Deena T. Grossman releases a second portrait album on July 16th: *Becoming Durga* - an expansive sonic landscape of natural and spiritual realms masterfully crafted through a variety of cultural lenses.

Utilizing Japanese, Hindu, and French influences throughout, the overall effect is that of a coherent, multicultural artistic vision. The album's highlight is its namesake piece, in which Grossman performs on her banjo in a delightful, collaborative improvisation alongside masterful musicians Michael Mandrell (fingerstyle guitar) and Mirabai Peart (violin). A testament to Durga, the Hindu protective mother goddess and a symbol of the triumph of good over evil, the eponymous work is bright yet mysterious; a creative exploration of modal C tuning drawn from the depths of the pandemic.

The album also features inspired playing by cellist Pansy Chang (Pink Martini), flutist Camila Oliveira, and vocalist/violinist/violist Mirabai Peart. Chang captures joy and playfulness in *Raven: A Portrait in Four Movements* with whispered harmonic sighs, teasing glissandi, complex percussive pizzicato, and soaring melodic lines. In *snowy egret, january messenger*, Oliveira evokes the “soulful and solitary” (*Oregon ArtsWatch*) sounds of the shakuhachi, a Japanese flute, in contrast to the wild melodic leaps, intense dynamic range, and emotional swings of *Island of the Spirit*. Mirabai Peart's tour de force performance in *Tememos: Sacred Space* on voice and viola is both poignant and transporting.

Private Media Room to preview the album: deenatgrossman.com/becomingdurga

Released by Moonbridge
Recorded by Billy Oskay at Big Red Studio, Corbett, OR

Produced by Larry Tyrrell
Artwork by Collin Murphy

The CD and digital download will be available for purchase on Bandcamp.

[Advance single video of *Tememos: Sacred Space*, available NOW on YouTube!](#)

Album Release Party & Benefit Concert!

Composer Deena T. Grossman releases her newest album *Becoming Durga* with a benefit concert and party. This live event in the magical Leach Botanical Garden will feature performances by flutist Camila Oliveira, cellist David Eby, guitarist Michael Mandrell, in addition to Mirabai Peart on voice, violin, and viola with Deena T. Grossman on banjo.



WHEN: Saturday, July 16, 7:30pm / doors open at 6:00pm

WHERE: East Terrace, Leach Botanical Garden, 6704 SE 122nd Ave, Portland, OR 97236

TICKETS: \$30 in advance / \$36 at the door: leachgarden.org/events

All proceeds benefit Leach Botanical Garden.

The mission of Leach Botanical Garden is to maintain and enhance living collections of plants for the purpose of education, research, and conservation and to preserve the legacy of the Garden's founders, John and Lilla Leach. Learn more at leachgarden.org.



Composer Deena T. Grossman creates music that is deeply rooted in the natural world and synergistically integrates a unique range of global stylistic influences. Mirroring the rhythms, patterns, and fluidity of nature, Grossman highlights a universal interconnectedness and the importance of environmental stewardship. Her upbringing in Berkeley, California and later travels offered first-hand exposure to many musical cultures, including traditional American and Jewish folk tunes and music of Japan, Bali, and India. She combines these influences into a coherent, multicultural vision realized through dynamic, expressive, and variegated compositions. Grossman has worked closely with some of classical music's most influential figures of the 20th century including Lou Harrison and Thea Musgrave. With formative studies at the University of California Santa Barbara and The Center for World Music, Grossman received a Master of Music degree from Rice University, Shepherd School of Music. "Grossman's environmental music poignantly expresses the mission and values of Columbia Riverkeeper, where she is composer-in-residence." (*Oregon ArtsWatch*) Deenatgrossman.com

Photo by Rachel Hadiashar.

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