



For Immediate Release:  
**Composer Kirsten Volness Shines  
on Debut Album, *River Rising***

SMART · TRANSCENDENT · IMMERSIVE

STRINGS · KEYS · ELECTRONICS

**October, 20, 2020; Portland, OR:** One of Reed College's hippest new faculty acquisitions, Visiting Assistant Professor Kirsten Volness, releases her debut album *River Rising* on December 4th, 2020. Hailing from the epicenter of New York City's interdisciplinary art scene, Volness has brought forward-thinking courses in electroacoustic music, composition, collaborative creativity, and music theory to Portland. Celebrated internationally for her smart, transcendent, and immersive music, Volness creates "irresistible" (*San Francisco Chronicle*) listening that is "nothing short of gorgeous." (*New York Arts*). Her long-awaited debut album *River Rising* is a compilation of her most compelling solo and chamber electroacoustic works which integrate modern composition techniques with jazz and pop influences. The result is a collection of emotive and intimate soundscapes that check all the boxes.

*"The sonic journeys contained on River Rising explore how we humans process our existential place in the world facing climate change, war, isolation, hope — and a call to burst our bubble of privilege and comfort to actively build a better future."* - Kirsten Volness

Each of Volness' compositions reveals "an exquisite sound world" (*New Classic LA*) with disparate, suggestive musical elements woven together to create sublime atmospheres inspired by nature, myth, spirituality, and environmental and sociopolitical issues. A thoughtfully assembled commentary on our changing world, *River Rising* takes the listener on a beautiful and enlightening journey through yearning, groovy unrest, transformation, and deep inner peace.



***River Rising*, Album Release Party  
Hosted by XRAY fm (Portland, OR)**

**WHEN:** Friday, December 4, 2020, 5pm PT / 8pm EST

**WHERE:** streaming on the XRAY fm [Youtube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages

**COST:** FREE

**Attendees receive:**

- An exclusive download link for a remix track by "icon of deviant and cerebral electronic music," (*Liability Webzine*) [Blevin Blectum](#)
- Discount code for full album

Hailing from Los Angeles to Boston, the A-list performers featured on *River Rising* include:

- Violinist **Lilit Hartunian**, known for her “Paganinesque virtuosity” and “captivating and luxurious tone” (*Boston Musical Intelligencer*)
- Violinist **Kate Outterbridge**, who offers “daring, cutting, and vulnerable performance” (*News Break*)
- Violist **Sam Kelder**, who plays with “impressive unity, bringing out the tension” (*Cleveland Classical*)
- Cellist **Jonathan Butler**, celebrated for his “dynamic and committed” performances (*The Boston Globe*)

Also a sought-after performer herself, Volness contributes the piano performance on *Nocturne*, lending her own sensitivity and one-of-a-kind interpretation.

Produced by Volness; engineered by Volness and Garrett Rose, and mastered by Eric Honour.

### Bonus offerings with advance release

- First single, *Alone Together*
  - Music video by Grammy-nominated producer [Scott Quade](#)
- Second single: *Nocturne*
  - Remix by “icon of deviant and cerebral electronic music,” (*Liability Webzine*) [Blevin Blectum](#)
  - Animated music video by [Alexander Dupuis](#)

The CD and digital download will be available for purchase on Bandcamp, and the digital download also available on streaming platforms CD Baby, iTunes, Amazon, and GooglePlay.

**Private Media Room to preview the album:** <http://kirstenvolness.com/album.htm>



**More about Kirsten Volness:** Volness’ music has featured at The Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States (SEAMUS), L’Institut International de Musique Electroacoustique de Bourges, The New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival (NYCEMF), Illuminus Boston, Electronic Music Midwest, Tribeca New Music, American Composers Alliance, and the Montréal and Edinburgh Fringe Festivals. Her rich commission history includes projects with the World Future Council Foundation, ASCAP/SEAMUS, BMI Foundation, The American Opera Project, Kansas City Electronic Music and Arts Alliance, NOW Ensemble, Transient Canvas, Cambridge Philharmonic, and Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. Volness received an OPERA America Opera Grant for Female Composers (supported by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation), the MacColl Johnson Fellowship in 2017, the Fellowship in Music Composition from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts three times (2018, 2014, 2010), and the 2017 Composer-in-Residence position at the Music Mansion. A producer and passionate promoter of multimedia, Volness has cultivated and curated numerous festivals and series featuring the work of interdisciplinary artists. She is the Co-Founder, Co-Director and pianist for Verdant

Vibes (Providence); multi-instrumentalist for Hotel Elephant (NYC); and Co-Director of homeless advocacy group Tenderloin Opera Company (Providence) among other affiliations. A graduate of the Universities of Michigan and Minnesota (summa cum laude), her teaching history includes positions at Reed College and the University of Rhode Island with guest appearances at Brown University, the University of Michigan, and Interlochen Arts Camp. [kirstenvolness.com](http://kirstenvolness.com)

**For additional information, media materials and interview inquiries, please contact:**

**Amelia Lukas**, [Aligned Artistry](#); 415-516-4851; [amelia@alignedartistry.com](mailto:amelia@alignedartistry.com)

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