



For Immediate Release:

SoundsTruck NW Embraces Immigration through Music and Place

*“musician and storyteller [Joe Kye](#) and trombonist and composer [Denzel Mendoza](#) (*Illegal Son*) will hit the mobile stage to empower listeners and connect with nature.” - *The Oregonian**

July 17, 2023; Portland, OR: SoundsTruck NW, the region’s “brand new, comprehensive mobile stage that can expand performances throughout the Pacific Northwest,” (Oregon ArtsWatch) continues its inaugural Summer Series of site-inspired, cross-cultural concerts with *Mount Immigration* on August 20th at the Mount Tabor summit. This free concert features performance by trombonist and composer *Illegal Son*, followed by an intimate and moving set from the award-winning musician, storyteller, and 2023 Oregon Arts Commission Fellow, Joe Kye. Drawing inspiration from the natural movements of Mt. Tabor's lush, urban, mountain landscape, these artist musicians make connections between the world around us and the act of migration - a movement as natural as life itself. Set in the gorgeous and iconic outdoor landscape of Mount Tabor, this concert provides an opportunity for friends and families to come together for an enriching and enjoyable afternoon experience. Guests are encouraged to bring their own seating, picnics, children, and well-behaved pets!



SoundsTruck NW presents *MOUNT IMMIGRATION* Part of its 2023 Summer Series & Inaugural Season!

Sunday, August 20, 2023, 1pm
At the Mount Tabor summit
Free and Open to the Public

Featuring *Illegal Son* with Matthew Holmes
and Joe Kye with Cory Limuaco
soundstrucknw.org/summer-series

A powerful storyteller with an inclusive sense of humor, violinist **Joe Kye** “discharges world[s] of emotion... [and delivers] divine messages” (*Guitar World*) with his lush string loops and eclectic style. Drawing upon his immigrant upbringing, Kye blends indie-rock, jazz, and pop to create a unique and appealing sound that “leaves everyone in awe.” (*Sacramento News & Review*) With his innovative use of digital effects and looping, Kye uses diverse textures, catchy melodies, and his rich, “song-bird sweet voice” (*PopMatters*) to create songs that groove, uplift, and empower listeners. His immigrant narrative remains front and center through his performances, inspiring audiences to compassion and empathy in these divisive times: “...the American dream as it should be, [with] Kye reaching across the divide with music to try and heal it – for everyone.” (*PopMatters*) Audiences will “learn about life as an Asian-American” (*The New York Times*) and “believe anew that something glorious awaits the lovers, the dreamers and you.” (*Willamette Week*) For this unique show, percussionist Cory Limuaco supports Kye in original songs alongside improvisational moments and interactions with the audience and park setting, creating new sonic environments. Learn more at joekye.com. (Photo above left by Ben Sellon)



Denzel Mendoza's **Illegal Son** is quite simply his deeply emotional and incredibly vulnerable interpretation of life as Undocumented Immigrant through sound and music. A Filipino National born in Singapore who grew up in Las Vegas, NV, studied in New York City and is now based here in Portland, Mendoza has lived in the United States for the majority of his life but remains Undocumented. His achievements as a musician have outweighed his path towards citizenship - from traveling nationwide as a sideman and opener for Haley Heynderickx to being awarded at The Grammy Awards for his participation with John Daversa's *American Dreamers: Voices of Hope, Music of Freedom* in 2018. However, labeled as illegal, criminal, and unwanted, Mendoza unwillingly carried shame as a child into his years as a young adult to only then embrace those terms as strengths as the years progressed. To process life under the umbrella of being Undocumented consists of improvisation, a consistent chaos of what's to come - it's insecure, unstable, but hopeful. *Illegal Son* offers his beautiful, original music alongside bassist Matthew Holmes.

Founded by Directors Yoko and Jon Greeney, **SoundsTruck NW** is the region's premier mobile venue. With a mission to support the health, well-being, and vibrancy of communities by bringing live ensemble music and family-oriented programming into neighborhoods, nature, and institutions, SoundsTruck NW is poised to revolutionize the concert landscape in Portland and beyond. Utilizing its custom-built, state-of-the-art mobile stage, SoundsTruck NW (STNW) increases access and connection to the arts with priority given to underserved areas. A feat of engineering and design by Portland-based [Tiny Heirloom](#), the stage situates in any drivable location with self-contained, near-silent, rechargeable solar electric power. Learn more at soundstrucknw.org.



SoundsTruck NW's Summer Series is a highly-anticipated, multi-genre series of concerts, open to the public, that takes place in "destination" locations, highlighting the mobility of the venue, and offering special appeal to audiences. **"Each show is site-inspired, offering attendees a unique and immersive experience unlike any other... promising to be a highlight of the season."** (*The Oregonian*) Programs feature the best local artists and occasional touring musicians from across genres. Characterized by its focus on excellence in small ensemble music, this cross-cultural series directly supports STNW's enrichment programming and is curated by STNW Director Yoko Greeney in partnership with Amelia Lukas, Principal and Founder of [Aligned Artistry](#).

Community Partners:



The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) welcomes, serves, and empowers refugees, immigrants and people across cultures and generations to reach their full potential. We strive in our programming, outreach and education to foster understanding, compassion and communication between Oregon's established communities and newest arrivals. Learn more at irco.org.



Montavilla Jazz is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization made up of people who believe that the diverse art form known as jazz, as a tradition and a practice, is relevant and necessary to the lives of all people as a positive force for community-building and education. Learn more at montavillajazz.org.

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