



For Immediate Release:

SoundsTruck NW Expands the Cultural Landscape with Inaugural Summer Season

May 17, 2023; Portland, OR: Founding directors Yoko and Jon Greeney proudly announce the exciting launch of SoundsTruck NW, the region's premier mobile venue, and its inaugural season. 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-designed and built, state-of-the-art mobile stage, SoundsTruck NW (STNW) is ready to increase access and connection to the arts with priority given to underserved areas.



A feat of engineering and design by Portland-based [Tiny Heirloom](#), the beautiful and durable stage trailer situates in any drivable location with self-contained, near-silent, rechargeable solar electric power. An automated fold-out awning and stage accommodates up to eight musicians with a Yamaha N3X hybrid piano and custom recording and amplification technology, including top-of-the-line microphones and speakers, provided by [Tone Proper](#). A versatile lighting grid and two audience-facing LED screens for videos, partner logos, and messaging deliver compelling visuals.

Programming consists of two main branches:

- 1. Community Concerts:** Family and community-oriented enrichment programming is at the heart of STNW's mission. Through this extensive program, offered in partnership with the region's finest performing arts organizations, STNW brings specifically adapted live concerts to schools, healthcare facilities, retirement communities, libraries, transition housing shelters, and more. Welcoming and inclusive, these performances offer audiences the excitement of being in the present moment as a collective, right in their communities in a healthy outdoor setting. Key artist and community partners work directly with STNW Directors, developing and implementing programmatic offerings that contextualize and demonstrate the ways in which music facilitates health, adds depth to our lives, and actively creates shared history. These events are free, and many are open to the public.
- 2. Summer Series:** This highly-anticipated, **multi-genre** series of concerts, open to the public, takes place in "destination" locations, highlighting the mobility of the venue, and offering special appeal to audiences. Programs are **site-inspired** and 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](#).

[2023 Summer Series Just Announced...](#)



2023 Summer Series

Celebrating Nostalgia in North Portland

Sunday, June 18 at 4pm

Cathedral Park

Free and open to the public

Charlie Brown III with Lo Steele
Faith & Majesty - *Nostalgia* release show

In alignment with Juneteenth, STNW presents a concert focused on the Black female voice. Also falling on Father’s Day, this show provides a special opportunity for dads to bond with daughters over this empowering music.

Jazz pianist, composer and producer **Charlie Brown III** opens the show, performing with Portland-born singer-songwriter and award-winning actor **Lo Steele**, who calls attention to social issues. “Radiating a spirit of continual growth and community, her songs offer affirmations through self-reflection and a relatable humor, coupled with her vocal command and understated soul-jazz melodies.” (*Willamette Week*)

Indie alt-folk duo **Faith and Majesty** (photo right by Reed Schick) headline, and deliver crowd-pleasing, high-energy performances that embrace a multifaceted approach to modern songwriting. Two sisters (whose names comprise the band name) effortlessly blend

soulful and colorful vocal harmonies with interwoven guitar and ukelele lines supported by bass and drums. With an underlying folk aesthetic characterized by simple and beautiful picking melodies, tinged with a unique combination of surf-adjacent reggae influences and power ballad strength, Faith and Majesty have a sound all their own that wins over diverse audiences.

Defined by dual careers as both musicians and skilled rehabilitation nurses, both sisters draw on their experiences interfacing with a wide cross-section of humanity during their most vulnerable moments, to inform their songwriting. Their music is healing, positive, and caring as it acknowledges and layers feeling behind universally relatable fears, amplified through the Black female experience. Imbued with themes such as “not having it all together,” making mistakes, facing challenges, and dealing with the intangibility and intermingled nature of time, Faith and Majesty bravely offer up meaningful and joyful performance experiences that generate compassion and catharsis. This concert celebrates the release of Faith and Majesty’s new single, *Nostalgia* and is presented in partnership with World Arts Foundation Inc. and Music Portland.





The Japanese-French Connection

Wednesday, July 5 at 7pm

Portland Japanese Garden

Tickets \$40; \$65 (includes food)

Garden Member and student discounts

Available soon at: japanesegarden.org/soundstruck

Amelia Lukas, flutes

Yoko Greeney, piano

Stephen Kehner, percussion

With special guest Andy Akiho

In 1963, Portland Japanese Garden was founded to not only provide its city a place of great beauty and serenity, but to establish a nexus through which people from different backgrounds could meet and learn about each other, with the belief that this could lead to long-lasting peace. Now celebrating its 60th anniversary, the Garden is excited to partner with SoundsTruck NW to provide this novel programming that showcases the incredible art that can arise from cultural exchange.



The Japanese-French Connection builds off the inspiration musicians from both nations have provided each other. The International Exposition held in Paris in 1867 featured a major Japanese traditional art movement that captivated French culture makers and launched an interchange of creativity and outlook that ultimately blossomed into one of modern history’s strongest cross-cultural bridges. French composers developed a passion for Japanese aesthetics and design, and Japanese composers likewise became very interested in French tonality and musical approaches. Taking place at a time when the verdant landscape of Portland Japanese Garden basks in the golden hue of approaching sunset, attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy the rich overlap of influence through the alluring combination of flutes, piano, and percussion, and hear a unique arrangement from GRAMMY-nominated composer Andy Akiho.

Powell Flutes Artist **Amelia Lukas** performs with “a fine balance of virtuosity and poetry.” (*The New York Times*) She weaves together globally informed stylistic elements with an impressive range of extended techniques, and “excels at bringing drama and fire.” (*Oregon ArtsWatch*) Collaborative pianist and chamber music visionary, **Yoko Greeney** is “one of the most significant members in Portland’s classical music scene,” (*Oregon ArtsWatch*) contributing through a multifaceted career of directing, performing, and teaching. An explorative chamber musician, **Stephen Kehner** has played contemporary and cross-genre music with the Silk Road Ensemble, Callithumpian Consort, Nu Deco Ensemble, and Sō Percussion, and is Assistant Principal Percussion with the Oregon Symphony. **Andy Akiho** is a “trailblazing” (*Los Angeles Times*) Pulitzer Prize finalist whose bold works unravel intricate and unexpected patterns while surpassing preconceived boundaries of classical music. (Photo above by Sam Slater)

This performance is presented in partnership with the Japan Institute of Portland Japanese Garden. Food is provided by Bamboo Sushi and St. Honore Bakery, with wine by Torii Mor and beer by Sapporo Beer, as well as an assortment of non-alcoholic beverages.





Mount Immigration

**Sunday, August 20 at 1pm
Mount Tabor**

Free and open to the public

Illegal Son with Matthew Holmes

Joe Kye and Cory Limuaco

Migration is as natural as life. Plants grow towards the sun. Blades of grass meet wind and become an undulating meadow. Children hop from swings to the slide.

For this show, Portland-based musician and storyteller Joe Kye draws inspiration from the natural movements of Mt. Tabor's lush, urban, mountain landscape. Joined by percussionist Cory Limuaco, he'll perform some original songs while weaving in improvisational moments, interacting with the audience and the park setting to create new sonic environments.



Joe Kye (photo above right by Ben Sellon) discharges worlds of emotion with his lush string loops and eclectic style. From viral TikTok jingles skewering microaggressions to delivering keynote speeches about creativity, community, and identity, Joe's work taps into an inner core, inspiring audiences to compassion and empathy. Drawing upon his immigrant upbringing, Kye weaves together electronic and acoustic textures, catchy melodies, and vocals to uplift and empower listeners. Violin-looping meets jazz, classical, and world pop in a sound that defies borders and blurs boundaries. He has opened for Yo-Yo Ma, recorded a Tedx Talk, and been featured on NPR. He's an Oregon Arts Commission 2023 Fellow.

Trombonist and composer Denzel Mendoza is **Illegal Son**, and opens for Joe with bassist Matthew Holmes. A Filipino National born in Singapore, raised in Las Vegas, NV; studied in NYC, NY, and based in Portland, OR; Mendoza has lived in the United States for the majority of his life but yet, he continues to chase the American Dream. Since 2004, Mendoza has been an Undocumented Immigrant. Labeled as illegal, criminal, and unwanted, Mendoza unwillingly carried that shame as a child into his years as a young adult to only then embrace those terms as strengths as the years progressed. Ironically, 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.

Denzel Mendoza's *Illegal Son* is quite simply his interpretation of life as Undocumented Immigrant through sound and music. It is deeply emotional and incredibly vulnerable. Every passing day, there is no promise of a tomorrow; there is only fear and hope. 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.

More details including partnerships coming soon...



Northwest Legacies: Tomas Svoboda

Friday, September 1 at 7pm

Location TBC

Free and open to the public

Palatine Piano Trio

Album release concert



The **Palatine Piano Trio** celebrates the release of their new album which showcases premiere recordings of music by the legendary and recently deceased composer Tomas Svoboda.

With their spirited approach and harmonious connection, the Palatine Piano Trio shares memorable, heartfelt performances of engaging music, both new and old. Featuring three of Portland's most respected musicians - violinist Inés Voglar Belgique, cellist and composer Nancy Ives, and pianist Susan DeWitt Smith - this is Oregon's preeminent piano trio. Having taken their name from the Palatine Hill Road address of Lewis & Clark College, where all three members were on faculty at the time of the group's formation, the ensemble delivers musical excellence combined with an effortless chemistry developed over decades of dear friendship and collaboration. Celebrated for their purposeful programming and exhilarating delivery, the trio works closely with the region's foremost composers, bringing their chamber music to worldwide audiences through an exciting, multi-year recording initiative, *Northwest Legacies*.

SoundsTruck NW Founders and Directors: Yoko & Jon Greeney

Photo by Kitta Bodmer



Collaborative pianist and chamber music visionary, **Yoko Greeney** is "one of the most significant members in Portland's classical music scene," (*Oregon ArtsWatch*) contributing through a multifaceted career of directing, performing, and teaching. Respected for her flawless performances of demanding music, *Oregon ArtsWatch* writes of a recent performance that "given its difficulty... Greeney showed no signs of struggle... [and] performed wonderfully." Of her technically demanding 2019 collaboration with BodyVox, the *Portland Tribune* noted that Greeney "excelled... bringing a fantastic attack to the energetic

dancing." In addition to directing SoundsTruck NW, Yoko maintains a private studio and teaches at Lewis and Clark College. She serves on education and community engagement committees for various local nonprofit organizations including as the Committee Chair for Chamber Music Northwest. A gracious and devoted supporter of arts and culture, Yoko frequently hosts and performs for fundraising events.



"Timpanist **Jon Greeney** is a damn superstar, always in tune, always in rhythm, never too loud (important) but never too soft either (even more important)." (*Oregon ArtsWatch*) Best known for his work as the Principal Timpanist of the Oregon Symphony since 2010, Jon is also a member of the 45th Parallel Universe, Helios Camerata, and The Gemini Project Percussion Group. His prior performances as an orchestral percussionist, timpanist, and chamber musician brought him to venues around the country, including the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall, and include two years as a full-time section percussionist with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Xalapa in Veracruz, Mexico. An alumni of the Peabody Conservatory with a Master's in Music from Cleveland State University, Greeney currently serves as adjunct professor of percussion studies at Portland State University.



Photos above and one page 1 by Sam Slater

Community concerts presented in partnership with the following organizations, will be announced on soundstrucknw.org in the coming weeks.



Rentals and sponsorship opportunities are also available; learn more at SOUNDSTRUCKNW.ORG

SoundsTruck NW was designed and built in collaboration with



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