

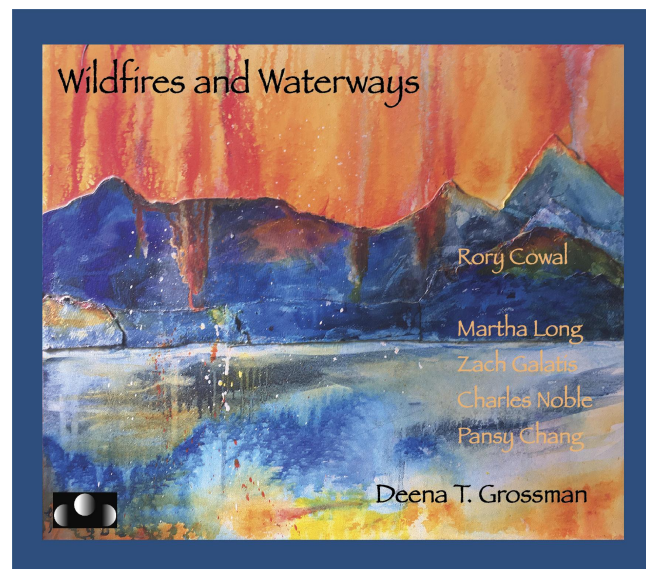


For Immediate Release:

Deena T. Grossman Unites Music, Art, & Climate Activism in New Album: *Wildfires and Waterways*

Lyrical · Compelling · Synergistic · Illuminative

April 26, 2022; Portland, OR: On May 25th, 2022, composer Deena T. Grossman releases her portrait album, *Wildfires and Waterways*, an illuminative and lyrical tribute to the powerful natural elements that shape the Western United States. Released in partnership with Columbia Riverkeeper, for which Grossman is Composer-in-Residence, the album places the lush sounds of Grossman's chamber and solo piano writing alongside vibrant paintings by Collin Murphy and important messages about climate change. The overall effect is that of cohesive, timely, and wild beauty.



The album features superb playing by some of the region's finest musicians in works inspired by the land and waters of the Pacific Northwest. Pianist Rory Cowal, known for "successfully merging states of tension and fluidity" (*The New York Times*), offers a riveting performance of *Wildfires*. A musical elegy to the catastrophic summer of 2018 during which wildfires tore through British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California following years of drought, the work especially commemorates the town of Paradise, California in which 83 people perished. Comprising three movements – *Paradise Burning*, *Firestorm*, *Embers* – the work incorporates a variant of *Dies Irae* and quotes J. S. Bach's chorale BWV 310, *Es wird schier der letzte Tag herkommen* (Lo, the final day is fast approaching) within a creatively expressive palette of tone clusters to great effect.

"Wildfires is my response to the intractable position in which we find ourselves. Caught in a web of corporate greed, world government inaction or outright fanning the flames in a rush to consume all natural resources... somehow we must act to cherish and restore the only home we have." - Deena T. Grossman

In *Waterways*, flutists Martha Long and Zach Galatis (Oregon Symphony principal flutist and piccolo respectively) interweave fluid and uniquely intricate sound patterns with violist Charles Noble (Oregon Symphony principal violist), and cellist Pansy Chang (Pink Martini). *Waterways* traces Columbia River tributaries beginning with Crystal Springs, at the head of Reed College canyon, through Portland to Johnson Creek, continuing to the Willamette and Columbia rivers, and finally out to the Pacific Ocean at Astoria: the point at which the largest river entering the Pacific Ocean in the western hemisphere meets the broadest reach of open ocean in the world. While spending three months observing, walking, and listening all along this path, Grossman composed melodies, harmonies, and rhythms all inspired from the water itself.

Private Media Room to preview the album - available to press.

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

Produced by Larry Tyrrell
Artwork by Collin Murphy

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

Bonus offerings with advance release, available on YouTube

- Available now - First single: [Firestorm from Wildfires](#)
- May 6 - Second single: “Westmoreland Park to Johnson Creek” from *Waterways*
- May 13 - Music video: “Westmoreland Park to Johnson Creek” from *Waterways*

Album Release Party & Benefit Concert!

This multimedia event features the **World Premiere of *Waterways*** in music and painting, a collaboration by Columbia Riverkeeper Composer-in-Residence Deena T. Grossman and artist Collin Murphy. Murphy’s vivid paintings are free interpretations of the *Waterways* composition and Grossman’s journey while walking the Columbia. This exciting performance features Oregon Symphony members Martha Long and Zach Galatis (flutes), Vali Phillips (viola) and Pansy Chang (cello), plus Rory Cowal (piano) and Mirabai Peart (voice and viola). **All proceeds benefit Columbia Riverkeeper.**

(Painting: Collin Murphy)



WHEN: Wed., May 25th, 7:30pm / doors open at 6:30pm

WHERE: The Old Church Concert Hall, 1422 SW 11th Ave, PDX

TICKETS: \$36 in advance / \$46 at the door

<https://events.humanitix.com/columbia-riverkeeper-benefit-concert-waterways>



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 variegate 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. A resident of Portland, Oregon, Grossman serves as the Columbia Riverkeeper Composer-in-Residence.

Deenatgrossman.com

Photo by Rachel Hadiashar.

Collin Murphy's paintings have been exhibited at the Yosemite museum; prints available at FineArtAmerica.com.

Columbia Riverkeeper’s mission is to protect and restore the water quality of the Columbia River and all life connected to it, from the headwaters to the Pacific Ocean. columbiariverkeeper.org

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

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