

# DENNIS YERRY

A versatile jazz pianist, composer, arranger and teacher, Dennis Yerry was raised in the Catskill Mountains of New York State. He studied at the State University of NY at New Paltz and privately with keyboard artists Richard Tee, Sharon Freeman and Ronnie Matthews at the Jazzmobile in NYC. He has been a member of ASCAP since 1987. Mr. Yerry, a Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Native American brings the American Indian perspective on relationships with the earth to schools and university panels in his speaking engagements as well as with his music. He is currently an adjunct professor at Dutchess County Community College in Poughkeepsie, NY, teaching jazz piano and improvisation.

- o Composer and Music Director for **Unto These Hills**, Cherokee, NC, a retelling of one of the longest running outdoor dramas in the country. **2006 - 2012**
- o Performer at **United Nations 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**, Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, CA - **2005**
- o Soloist with Hawkproject, **Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra**, Flagstaff AZ. – **2002**
- o Native American music consultant and performer in PBS Series **"The West"** - Ken Burn's documentary. Performing native flute, singing and drumming. - **1996**
- o Native flute and traditional singing, **"Lewis and Clark"**, PBS Documentary on the **Corps of Discovery** by Ken Burns. - **1997**
- o Musical Director/Composer - **"Black Elk Speaks"** - Denver Center Theatre, **1994**, **1993** (winner - "American Theatre Critics New Play Award"), **1995** - Mark Taper Forum - Los Angeles
- o Composer, **Manituwak**, Schoharie Creek Art Players, play based on local Native American history, **1999**
- o Music composer/director, **American Indian Dance Theatre**, 10th anniversary show, Kotuwakan collaboration with Laura Dean - 1998
- o Music Director / Composer **Woodstock Youth Theatre**, Woodstock, NY – **1995 - 2002**
- o Composer - HBO series **"White Snow"** - Fairy Tales for Every Child - background score for Native American cartoon - **1996**
- o **Native American Giving of Thanks Celebration** at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York
- o **1992 - 2005** Musical Director/Composer/Performer - created performance concept, directed performers and musicians; ensured authenticity, commissioned to compose 3 new pieces in **1992**.
- o **1991** Composer/Conductor - premiere of choral piece, **"The Great Vision"** for 20 piece intertribal chorus, piano and native flute. Featuring **R. Carlos Nakai**.
- o tour of **Finland** and **Soviet Union** as Native American representative to **Meeting of the Worlds** International Music Festival, **PAND** (Performers and Artists for Nuclear Disarmament). - **1990**

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## **Discography:**

**Ann Osmond & Dennis Yerry – Optimistic Voices** – Producer / Performer

**Matt Tooni – Seasons** - Producer

**Kay Olan – Mohawk Stories** – Producer/Composer

**Unto These Hills (A Retelling)** – Producer/Composer for CD of music from the Outdoor Drama in Cherokee, NC

**Shades of Green** – (native flute) CD with Dorothy Papadakos, recorded live with the Great Organ at St. John the Divine Cathedral.

**The Catskills: A Sense of Place** - Child of the Mountains - an Audio Teaching Resource sponsored by the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development

**The Song Inside** – (vocals, native flute) with Sloan Wainwright, Farkie Music

**White Boy With A Feather** – (native flute) with Jason Downs, Jive Records

**Let Us Put Our Minds Together** - the Hawk Project, producer/composer

**The West - Film Soundtrack** - Sony Classical

**The Catskill Collection** - compiled by Jay Ungar and Molly Mason (Fiddle and Dance Records)

**Music for the Fifth World** - collaboration with Jack DeJohnette, John Scofield and members of Living Colour

**Native Son** - solo record release on Wildlife Records featuring Dan Brubeck

**I Send A Cry** - (producer/arranger) New Age recording by Charles Lawrence

## **Reviews:**

**Woodstock (NY) Times:** “Dennis Yerry flawlessly playing a jazz accompaniment”

**NY Daily News:** Mr. Yerry is "one of the most talented newcomers on the local jazz scene."

**Variety:** (re: Black Elk Speaks) " A stunning musical score has been arranged for flute and drums by Dennis Yerry."

**Arizona Daily Sun:** (re: Hawkproject) The Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra brought one of the finest concerts in their history to Ardrey Auditorium. The music was mesmerizing, and struck me as transcendent, taking the listener to their soul's depth.