

## Acknowledgments

This recording was made in June and August, 2018 at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois, and at Acoustic Barn Studio in Charlotte, North Carolina. Recording, editing, mixing, and mastering for *Then Again* was completed by Rick Dior. All other recording, editing, mixing, and mastering for the project was completed by Chris Burke.

Scores are available directly from the composers.

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Cover image: Jean Mooney

## DANCING ON GLASS: String Chamber Music by Women Composers



ANNA CROMWELL, violin | USA NELSON, violin & viola | MIRA FRISCH, cello

WORKS BY ADRIENNE ALBERT | VICTORIA BOND | JULIE MANDEL | RAIN WORTHINGTON

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## The Music

### **Julie Mandel: *Moods***

Julie Mandel majored in music at UCLA and studied composition with Ernst Krenek and Eric Zeisl. Her *Trio for Flute, Viola and Harp*, premiered recently at Queens College, and her *String Quartet #3*, recently premiered at Lake Forest College in Chicago. Both are available through Theodore Presser. Her setting of *The Plious Cat* based on a short story by I.L.Peretz, has been recorded, as has *Intervals*, her 24 piano works recorded by Hadassah Guttman. *Subway Suite*, is a full-length theater piece (music, lyrics and concept by Ms. Mandel) and was produced by Queens College in New York. Her one-act opera, *I Wish, I Wish, I Wish* was given a staged reading at The Thalia Theatre. *A Glorious Day*, her musical based on a Shaw play, was recently produced by the Blue Grass Opera Co. in Lexington, Kentucky.

Her other theater works have been produced by the National Theater for the Performing Arts, Theatreworks, the National Music Theatre Network, and the Westside Dance Project. She has been the recipient of Meet The Composer Awards and of many ASCAP Awards.

Her chamber works have been performed by the American Chamber Ensemble, The Seattle Chamber Players, and The Stony Brook String Quartet. She is Treasurer of The New York Women Composers, and Concerts Director of The Long Island Composers Alliance.

*Moods* while it is mostly tonally-based, does, as the title implies, change it's key-moods often. This is particularly true of the movement titled Longing. It keeps shifting keys and harmonies as though searching for some goal just out of reach. The challenges here, I believe, are to deal with all the constantly changing accidentals.

—Julie Mandel

### **Rain Worthington: *Then Again, Relays, and A Dance of Two***

Self-taught in composition, Rain Worthington's catalog includes works for orchestra, chamber ensembles, duos, solos and miniatures. Inspirations for pieces have ranged from New York City trucks backing up late at night, to the two-note expression of a sigh, to a dream of a careening bike ride through dark fog.

Performances of Worthington's compositions have spanned the globe from Brazil to Iceland, Cyprus to Korea, and Italy to India. Her work takes “. . . ideas of American musical style to a new place – like a walk in a familiar, yet very different park” – Chamber Music.

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“There is a deep interiority to this music...a composer of considerable imagination, emotional expressiveness, and poetic sensibility.” – AMERICAN RECORD GUIDE

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PARMA Recordings released Worthington's orchestral album *Dream Vapors* to critical acclaim. Her orchestral music has been performed nationally and premiered internationally in Italy and Brazil. Navona Records' 2019 releases include two new orchestral works *In Passages* and *Full Circle*. Her composition *Shredding Glass* received its world premiere in Brazil by Orquestra Sinfônica de Limeira in June 2019.

Worthington serves as Artistic Administrator & Composer Advocate for the New York Women Composers.

**Adrienne Albert: *Elegy***

Award-winning composer Adrienne Albert (ASCAP) has had her chamber, choral, vocal, orchestral and wind band works performed throughout the United States and across the globe. Before beginning composing in the 1990s, Albert enjoyed a long career as a singer working with composers including Igor Stravinsky, Leonard Bernstein, Philip Glass, Gunther Schuller among others. Adrienne's own music has been supported by noteworthy arts organizations including the National Endowment for the Arts, American Composers Forum, MTC/Rockefeller Foundation, Subito Awards, Mu Phi Epsilon Fraternity, MPE Foundation, ACME, and ASCAP. Recent commissions include works for The Cornell University Chorus, Harvard-Westlake School, Holyoke Civic Symphony, Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation, Palisades Virtuosi, Zinkali Trio, Pennsylvania Academy of Music, Chamber Music Palisades, Pacific Serenades as well as private individuals. A graduate of UCLA, Albert studied composition privately with Stephen Mosko, and orchestration with Albert Harris. Her music has been recorded on MSR, Naxos, Navona, Centaur, Little Piper, Albany, and ABC Records and is published by Kenter Canyon Music (ASCAP). Her music can also be found through Falls House Press, FluteWorld, Theodore Front Musical Literature, and Trevco-Varner Music. "Music has always been a central part of my life. Whether it has been performing, singing, or composing, it is the thread that weaves through each part of my being. I find joy in every form of music, and have been extremely fortunate in having an extraordinary past which informs my present and makes me look forward with great enthusiasm to the future." For more information, visit: <http://www.adriennealbert.com>.

**Victoria Bond: *Dancing on Glass***

Internationally acclaimed composer/conductor Victoria Bond's compositions have been praised by the *New York Times* as "powerful, stylistically varied and technically demanding."

Bond's opera *Clara* about Clara Schumann received its premiere and 11 performances at the Berlin Philharmonic Easter Festival in Germany in April, 2019. The German press wrote: "Victoria Bond gives each character a three-dimensional role, enriched with original musical colors."

Ms. Bond has composed eight operas, six ballets, two piano concertos and numerous orchestral, chamber, choral and keyboard compositions.

She has been commissioned by American Opera Projects, the Houston and Shanghai Symphony Orchestras, Cleveland and Indianapolis Chamber Orchestras, Michigan Philharmonic, Cassatt String Quartet, Young People's Chorus, American Ballet Theater, Pennsylvania Ballet and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. A new CD of her chamber works was recently released on the Naxos label, performed by members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Bond holds a Doctorate in orchestral conducting from The Juilliard School.

*Dancing on Glass* is based on the Chinese folk song Liu Yang River. This song has a fascinating history. It originates from the Hunan Province and was a favorite of street musicians who often sang it accompanied by a drum. However, it became the melody of a famous patriotic song celebrating the most well-known citizen who came from the Hunan province, Mao Ze-Dong. The song makes reference to the nine turns that the Liu Yang River makes before it flows into the lake which is its final destination.

Because this work was commissioned by The Jade String Trio, I decided to use both the melodic contour of the folk song and the number 3 as the basic materials. There are 9 sections, consisting of 3 solos, 3 duets and 3 trios. The title derives from the dance of light on the surface of the glass-like river. The sections which flow into each other without a break reflect the changing character of the river as follows:

1. Dancing | 2. Capricious | 3. Rapids | 4. Tranquil | 5. Dripping | 6. Ice | 7.  
Accompanied by a Drum | 8. Swirling | 9. Splash

— Victoria Bond

## The Performers

**Anna Cromwell** is Assistant Professor of Violin and Viola at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. She has been on faculty at Eastern Illinois University, Western Kentucky University, Minnesota State University, Bravo! Summer String and Keyboard Institute, and Tennessee Valley Music Festival. Cromwell can be heard performing in Duo XXI with cellist Dr. Mira Frisch on the CD, *Quest: New Music for Violin and Cello*, released in late 2010 by Albany Records. Duo XXI's second CD, *Metal Cicadas*, was released by Albany Records in 2014. As an avid teacher and lecturer, Dr. Cromwell has given numerous presentations at the Music Teachers National Association Conference, the American String Teachers Association National Conference, and the Illinois, Kentucky, and Indiana Music Educators State Conferences. In addition, Dr. Cromwell's articles have appeared in the NCASTA online journal and the Illinois ASTA journal *The Scroll*. Dr. Cromwell earned both her M.M. and D.M.A. under Sally O'Reilly at the University of Minnesota where she was a Dahl Fellowship recipient. She studied at Rice University under Kathleen Winkler, and graduated summa cum laude from Vanderbilt University where she was a student of Christian Teal.

**Lisa Nelson** is an Instructional Professor of Viola, Violin, and String pedagogy at Illinois Wesleyan University. She is coordinator of the IWU String Preparatory Department, and a member of the Illinois Chamber Music Festival faculty. As an active chamber musician, she regularly appears in recitals throughout the U.S., Canada, Bulgaria, Italy, Israel, and the Czech Republic. Lisa Nelson earned her doctorate in Viola Performance from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She also holds a double-degree (Bachelor of Music in violin performance and

Bachelor of Arts in mathematics) from St. Olaf College, Minnesota, where she graduated summa cum laude with departmental distinction in music. Her teachers have included Masumi Per Rostad, Sherban Lupu, Charles Gray, and Mihai Craioveanu. Dr. Nelson is a member of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra and is faculty at the International Chamber Music Academy in Kyustendil, Bulgaria for young talented musicians. Along with teaching and performing, Lisa Nelson is Executive Director of the Illinois Chamber Music Festival and IWU Cello Camp.

**Mira Frisch**, Associate Professor of Cello and Director of String Chamber Music at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, previously taught cello and chamber music at Truman State University in Missouri and at the summer festival *Musicale della Toscana* in Italy. She has performed as a recitalist and chamber musician throughout the United States and in Bermuda, Italy, and France. Her recordings as a member of Duo XXI, with violinist Anna Cromwell, were released on the Albany Records label in 2010 and 2014. The ensemble's performance was called "beautifully played" by American Record Guide and their "precise ensemble playing" was noted by Fanfare Magazine. Dr. Frisch can also be heard on the album *There Lies the Home*, produced by Cantus; and the Albany recordings *Songs of the Fisherman*, an opera for tenor, dancer, and chamber ensemble; and *Dark Dances*, a recording of the chamber music of John Allemeier. She has presented at national conferences of the American String Teachers Association, College Music Society, Music Teachers National Association, and the Society of Composers. In the Carolinas, Dr. Frisch has performed as guest principal cellist with the Charleston Symphony, as a section cellist with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, and with the Madison Park String Quartet. She is past-president of the North Carolina Chapter of the American String Teachers Association. Dr. Frisch received the Bachelor of Arts degree in Music and Mathematics from Saint Olaf College, the Master of Music degree in Cello Performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Cello Performance from the University of Minnesota.

# DANCING ON GLASS:

## String Chamber Music by Women Composers

### Julie Mandel

#### *Moods*

- 1 I. Contentment [3:30]  
 2 II. Longing [5:54]  
 3 III. Joyous [7:21]

Anna Cromwell, violin I Lisa Nelson, viola  
 Mira Frisch, cello

### Rain Worthington

#### *Then Again*

- 4 [5:02]

Mira Frisch, cello

### Rain Worthington

#### *Relays*

- 5 [3:30]

Anna Cromwell, violin I Lisa Nelson, violin

### Rain Worthington

#### *A Dance of Two*

- 6 [4:18]

Anna Cromwell, violin I Lisa Nelson, violin

### Adrienne Albert

#### *Elegy*

- 7 [3:59]

Anna Cromwell, violin I Mira Frisch, cello

### Victoria Bond

#### *Dancing on Glass*

- 8 I. Dancing [2:07]  
 9 II. Capricious [1:44]  
 10 III. Rapids [1:32]  
 11 IV. Tranquil [1:27]  
 12 V. Dripping [1:48]  
 13 VI. Ice [2:55]  
 14 VII. Accompanied by a Drum [1:06]  
 15 VIII. Swirling [0:24]  
 16 IX. Splash [2:24]

Anna Cromwell, violin I Lisa Nelson, viola  
 Mira Frisch, cello

Total Time = 49:02



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