

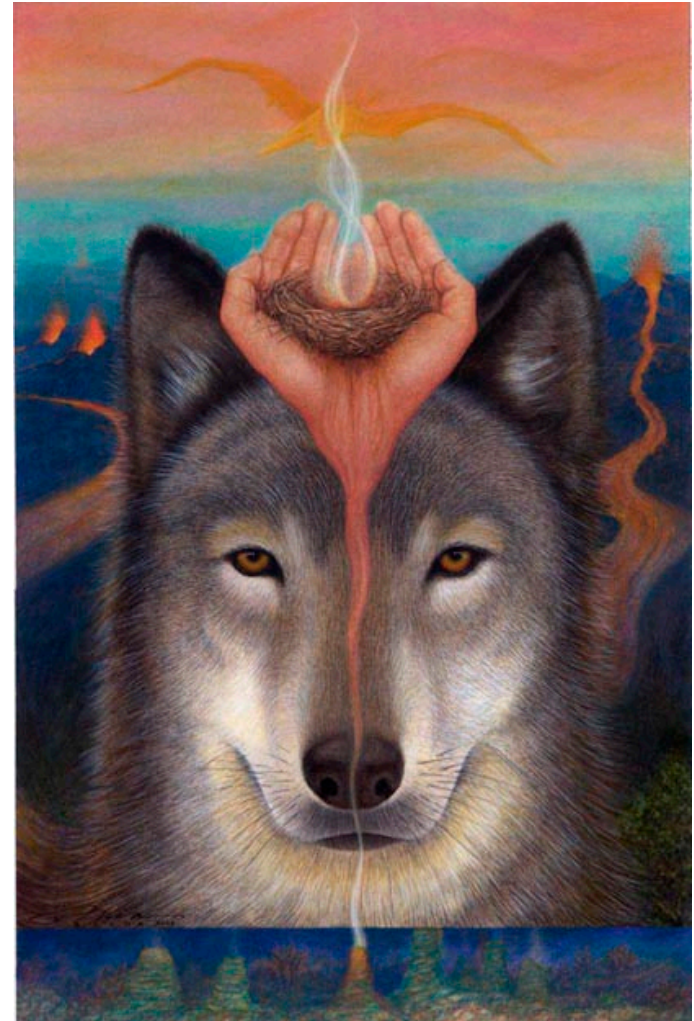
In 2017, composer Andrea Clearfield and poet Ariana Kramer were awarded an Aldo & Estella Leopold Writers Residency through the Leopold Writing Program. The residency was held at the first home of Aldo & Estella Leopold, "Mi Casita" in Tres Piedras, NM. As their collaborative project, Ariana wrote a poetic text, part of which Andrea set to music. "Transformed by Fire" explores Aldo Leopold's changing perception of wolves and the necessary role they play in our ecosystems. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Leopold Writing Program, www.leopoldwritingprogram.org.

**A heartfelt
THANK YOU to the following supporters
who made tonight's program possible!**

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**To find out more about Transformed by Fire, visit
www.arianakramer.com/transformed-by-fire.html**

Transformed by Fire A Musical/Poetic Collaboration with Andrea Clearfield & Ariana Kramer



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The Literary Society of Taos

PRESENTS

Transformed by Fire

Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 7 p.m.

Harwood Museum of Art, Taos, New Mexico

A Poetic Journey into Wolves & Aldo Leopold

Slideshow by Ariana Kramer

Transformed by Fire – Twelve Movements

Poetry read by Ariana Kramer

A Musical Interpretation

A Composer's View, Andrea Clearfield (audio-recording)

Transformed by Fire – Five Movements

Music by Andrea Clearfield, Poetry by Ariana Kramer

Performed by baritone Mark Jackson & pianist Martha Shepp

V. Understanding

I am older.

I know, now.

*A green flame
burns in each of us.*

Wolf enlivens the land
like a fragrant fire.

Wolf runs deer
like water over mountains.

Saplings grow strong.
Bird song fills their branches.

I know, now. I know, now,
a green fire, the green fire.

Everything on, over and in
the land belongs together.

Transformed by Fire

Poetry by Ariana Kramer

I. Encounter

*A mother plays
at the river bank,
crosses water.*

*Her yearlings
frolic.*

She raises her head.

I see her eyes.
They burn
with a green fire.

My shot a thought ringing out.
My bullet the force
of Man against Wolf.

I am young.
I stand on rimrock,
look to dark mountain skies.

My thought:
fewer wolves, more deer;
no wolves, hunter's paradise.

I still see her eyes - still.
They burn me
with a fierce green fire.

II. Spark

A spark
smolders, ignites,
passes through wingtips
of migrating cranes.

I kneel
to small green stems of white stars
I catch their tiny flash in my hands.

III. Bowstring

I have drawn my bowstring
across my heart. I have found my love.

We have taught our children
to swim, to fish, to track, to hunt,
to learn the land.

We have taught them to love
the smell of campfire supper-smoke.
Around the dancing flames
we sing our songs. I whistle along.

We plant trees
to restore the lonely land.

I have drawn my bowstring
across my heart. I have found my love.

We have taught our children
to feel, to see, to hear, to know,
to love the land.

We have taught them to listen
when the wild geese call.

We have taught them to love
the wild places in their hearts.

Together we have learned to love.

IV. Consequence

*No wolves. Hunter's paradise?
A foolish thought. A foolish thought.*

I walk in a wolfless wilderness.

I see deer – dead,
thin from starvation.

Too many to feed.
Trees stripped bare.

*What have we done
to the wilderness?*

Biographies

Andrea Clearfield is an award-winning composer of music for orchestra, opera, chorus, chamber ensembles, dance, and multimedia collaborations. Holder of a D.M.A. from Temple University, Clearfield has composed more than 150 works, founded the renowned music Salon in Philadelphia and has been awarded three Wurlitzer Foundation Fellowships in Taos. She will be Composer-in-Residence at the 2018 Music from Angel Fire Festival. www.andreaclearfield.com.

Ariana Kramer, a Taoseña, has written poetry inspired by nature since childhood. She studied biology at Reed College and received her master's in Leadership in Ecology, Culture & Learning from Portland State University. Kramer is an award-winning freelance writer and has contributed weekly articles to *The Taos News'* Tempo magazine for the past eight years. She is the curator of the 2018 SOMOS April Poetry Month events. www.arianakramer.com.

Mark Jackson is an opera singer, producer and teacher. He has performed with the Taos Chamber Music Group and has been a guest conductor and soloist with the Taos Community Chorus. Jackson studied at the Boston Conservatory of Music, has performed in New York, in various opera companies throughout the U.S. and internationally in South Africa, Mozambique, Switzerland, Pakistan, and Brazil. He teaches at the Taos Youth Music School and privately from his studio, the Taos Institute of Vocal Arts.

Martha Shepp is a multi-disciplinary artist. She holds a BFA from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and an MFA from the University of Tennessee. A chamber player and an accompanist of dancers, instrumentalists, and vocalists in both educational and professional settings, she also creates performances that incorporate moving image, poetry, dance, visuals, and music, and has been a lively collaborator with artists from all these disciplines in her many years as a practicing artist and classical musician. She is a co-founder of PianoTaos.