

A dramatic, low-angle photograph of a mountain peak. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and a bright sunburst effect is visible in the upper right quadrant, casting a glow over the scene. The mountain's surface is dark and textured, with some snow or light-colored patches visible. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

sila: the breath of the world  
john luther adams



featuring The Crossing and JACK Quartet

**Produced by Doug Perkins and Nathaniel Reichman**

Recording engineers: Bill Maylone, Paul Vazquez  
Mixing and immersive mastering: Nathaniel Reichman  
Music editing: Doug Perkins, Paul Vazquez

Recorded on March 21, 22, 23, and 24, 2021 in Hill Auditorium,  
Ann Arbor, MI and Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Wilmington, DE.  
Performed by The Crossing, JACK Quartet, the musicians of the  
University of Michigan Department of Chamber Music and the  
University of Michigan Percussion Ensemble.

Doug Perkins - music director

**The Crossing**

Donald Nally - conductor  
Kevin Vondrak - assistant conductor  
Jonathan Bradley - executive director  
Shannon McMahan - operations manager

**JACK Quartet**

Christopher Otto - violin  
Austin Wulliman - violin  
John Pickford Richards - viola  
Jay Campbell - cello

**Musicians of The University of Michigan  
Department of Chamber Music**

Chair: Matt Albert

**University of Michigan Percussion Ensemble**

Co-directors: Ian Antonio and Doug Perkins

*Sila: The Breath of the World*

*"Songs are thoughts which are sung out with the breath when  
people let themselves be moved by a great force..."*

— Orpingalik, a Netsilik elder

In Inuit tradition the spirit that animates all things is *Sila*, the breath of the world. *Sila* is the wind and the weather, the forces of nature. But it's also something more. *Sila* is intelligence. It's consciousness. It's our awareness of the world around us, and the world's awareness of us. In this time when we humans are so dramatically changing the earth, *Sila: The Breath of the World* is an invitation to stop and listen more deeply.

*Sila* is scored for five ensembles of 16 musicians —woodwinds, brass, percussion, strings, and voices— who may perform the music in any combination, successively or simultaneously, outdoors, or in a large indoor space. The musicians are dispersed widely, surrounding the listeners, who are free to move around and discover their own individual listening points.

*Sila* comes out of the earth and rises to the sky, floating upward through sixteen harmonic clouds, grounded on the first sixteen harmonics of a low B-flat. All the other tones in the music fall "between the cracks" of the piano keyboard—off the grid of twelve-tone equal temperament.

Like the harmonies, the flow of musical time in *Sila* is also off the grid. There is no conductor. Each musician is a soloist, who plays or sings a unique part at her or his own pace. The sequence of musical events is composed, but the length of each event is flexible. The music breathes.

A performance of *Sila* lasts about an hour. There is no clearly demarcated ending, as the music gradually dissolves back into the breath of the world.

—John Luther Adams

## silā ensemble

### Brass

Frank Chiodo (U-M)  
Tyler Coffman (U-M)  
Katherine Cosgrove  
Aiden Drysdale (U-M)  
Grace Kilpatrick (U-M)  
Chris Hall (U-M)  
Dominic Hayes  
Frankie Lazzara  
Amanda Ross  
Jack Smid (U-M)  
Kate Sheeran  
Nathan Shook (U-M)  
Ben Thauland (U-M)  
Marshall Tullous (U-M)  
Clinton Webb  
Jahn White

### Percussion (The University of Michigan Percussion Ensemble)

Olivia Cirisan  
Schuyler Donahoe  
Andrew Fyles  
Jean Carlo Ureña Gonzalez  
William Kelley  
Adam Langs  
Ancel Neeley  
Peter Nichols  
Hohner Porter  
Johnathan Rickard  
Reed Puleo  
Emily Salgado  
James Stagnitti  
Sui Lin Tam  
Daniel Vila  
Ajay Wadhvani

### Strings

Matt Albert (U-M)  
Emelyn Bashour  
Jay Campbell (JACK)  
Nathaniel Cornell  
Josh DeVries  
Wesley Hornpetrie  
Yvonne Lam  
Hannah O'Brien  
Chris Otto (JACK)  
John Richards (JACK)  
Hanna Rumora  
Colin Taber (U-M)  
Jacob Westerbeke (U-M)  
Chase Ward (U-M)  
Brandon Vaughn (U-M)  
Austin Wulliman (JACK)

### Voices (The Crossing)

Katy Avery  
Jessica Beebe  
Karen Blanchard  
Steven Bradshaw  
Colin Dill  
Joanna Gates  
Lauren Kelly  
Maren Montalbano  
Rebecca Myers  
Kira Neary  
James Reese  
Daniel Schwartz  
Rebecca Siler  
Elisa Sutherland  
Clara Swartzentruber  
Shari Wilson

### Winds

Karisa Antonio  
Mickayla Chapman  
Claudia Daniela Aizaga  
Chavez  
Emily Ji (U-M)  
Emlyn Johnson  
Leo Kim (U-M)  
Nancy Ambrose King (U-M)  
William King (U-M)  
Liza Knight (U-M)  
Jonathan Krause  
Tim Munro  
Alexis Phinney (U-M)  
Sarah Pinto (U-M)  
Bryce Richardson  
Justine Sedky  
Joshua Paul Stine  
Nick Thompson

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# sila: the breath of the world



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