

Brandon Music steps into Nature with pianist, Annemieke McLane's 'Garden Tour'

Annemieke McLane is "one of Vermont's finest pianists" (Jim Lowe, Rutland Herald/Times Argus). She will perform her new recital program, 'Garden Tour' at Brandon Music on May 6 at 7:30pm. 'Garden Tour' is an extension of her most recent album "Birds of Beethoven", released last August. The pianist is touched by how composers, like painters, capture Nature, and therefore has brought together a collection of works to tell stories of flowers, bugs, the moon, landscapes, and all that makes up Nature. The program will include works such as Rachmaninoff's *Daisies*, Chopin's *Raindrop Prelude*, the beloved *Flight of the Bumblebee* by Rimsky-Korsakov, Debussy's *Nocturne*, and more.

"So, how do you decide what music you put together in a program?", McLane's 96-year old friend asked her once. Her response was "A flow, a good story. I like it when the pieces all link together; like the love for music does, and the love for creation – nature – in this case." She adds, "I try to tell stories, sing with my hands."

Born in the Netherlands, Annemieke Spoelstra McLane studied classical piano and received degrees in Music Pedagogy and a Masters in Performance from the Conservatory in Zwolle, where she studied with Prof. Rudy de Heus. She was awarded the conservatory's 'Student of the Year': "She has great intelligence in pedagogy and is a sensitive performer in well-balanced programs".

McLane won the Netherlands National Young Music Talent for piano-accompaniment, praised for her touch and coloring. In Paris she was a finalist at the international 'Nadia and Lili Boulanger' competition. Since her studies, she has been coached by Tan Crone, who had studied with Nadia Boulanger and Rudolph Serkin. She was accompanist for vocalists and instrumentalists at conservatories in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Arnhem, and Zwolle. McLane has performed in the Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the USA. She has played live on VPR and was filmed by TV France during a concert she gave in Miami.

In 2004, McLane made her way to Vermont. She was staff accompanist at the Boston Conservatory (2004-2006) and from 2010-2012, she was pianist for the Vermont Youth Orchestra choruses. She teaches piano at Saint Michael's College, has accompanied the Saint Michael's College chorale for 11 years and is now pianist for the Handel Society of Dartmouth College. Since moving to the Upper Valley, she has also played for the Theater Department at Dartmouth College and is Music Director (including choruses) for the United Church of Strafford and teaches at her home studio.

She collaborates with vocalists and instrumentalists in concerts and recitals and forms a duo with her husband accordionist Jeremiah McLane. Their album "Danse" came out in 2012, with

their own arrangements of classical music based on folk traditions. As a duo, they perform nationally and internationally.

This event is a part of Vermont Arts 2017, celebrating public funding for the arts.

Concert tickets are \$20. A pre-concert dinner is available for \$25. Reservations are required for dinner and recommended for the show. Venue is BYOB. Call (802) 247-4295 or e-mail info@brandon-music.net for reservations or for more information. Brandon Music is located at 62 Country Club Rd. Brandon, VT 05733 www.brandon-music.net

