

River Icarus: Rusted Bridge / Deep Water (recorded composition & "score")

My proposed project exists in two phases. The first phase is the original composition - the original narrative arc as expressed through music created, recorded and processed into an album to be called "River Icarus: Rusted Bridge / Deep Water". I grew up in St. Paul and the Mississippi River played such a strong role in shaping my earliest imagination. The river landscape in both its natural and human-mediated, industrial form create a backdrop for this composition.

This first phase focuses on developing the story of River Icarus, expressed in sound. The goal is to create a visceral, dynamic musical representation of the narrative fully utilizing the continuum tools described in my Artist Statement. I anticipate this to run about 60 minutes in length. Alternative "scoring" methods will be used to describe the resulting work.

Note that this is an improvisational form. Therefore, the packaged recording is critical to disseminate the work. The sound canvas and "score" that results will form the framework / the source / the inspiration / the broad narrative arc for the performed work.

Between2Deserts: The Journey of River Icarus

This is the performance stage / the outreach phase. In this second phase River Icarus is a wanderer. S/he moves through time and place and "repeats" the story (the composition / narrative recorded in phase one). River Icarus reaches out to audience members (at the places listed below) in an improvisatory re-telling of the narrative in live performance.

I propose to collaborate with a photographer and sound engineer to record the live performances. I am interested in the evolution of the story that River Icarus "tells." The resulting record would be an invaluable learning tool for myself and would hopefully help illuminate the improvisation journey taken by the original work through time (the moment), the listeners, and place (the venue).

There are several letters of commitment from venues that should reach you under separate cover.

The groups/spaces that have committed to collaborating with me to present this project are listed below. They include a range from more informal, experiential environments to more traditional listening settings. In all cases performances will be followed by a composer's forum or workshop. In the case of Sacred Heart additional educational outreach programs for local youth are proposed.

1) Wanda Percy, Drawing professor at the University of MN, Duluth: will collaborate by offering a free-flowing drawing workshop coupled with performance of early sketches of River Icarus. This is anticipated to take place in Spring of 2010. The goal will be to create an interactive experience to facilitate a meditative space and a committed engagement of "being in

the moment". The students will gain an experience that creates new ways of seeing, and responding to the creative process. This particular experience will be an open experimental, drawing experience fostering listening, seeing, engaging and responding in the moment.

2) *The Spiritual Deli, Duluth MN*: On Friday, September 3, 2010 River Icarus will be performed followed by a composer's forum / discussion of creative flow and deep listening.

The performance will be experiential in the sense that audience members will be welcome to participate in a more active listening environment than is available in more traditional performance spaces. Listeners will be invited to sketch, meditate, write, and relax while being surrounded by the River Icarus soundscape. Works created during and after this experience can be contributed to an online blog dedicated to the work.

3) *Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, Minneapolis, MN*. Saturday, September 18, 2010 - Performance followed by a composer's forum.

4) *The Lyric Theater, Virginia MN*: Saturday, October 16, 2010 - Performance followed by a composer's forum.

5) *Sacred Heart Music Center, Duluth MN*. Saturday, November 6, 2010 - Performance followed by a composer's forum. In addition to this event we propose an educational outreach program for local youth. This will include two or more collaborative sessions involving the Sacred Heart Music Center, local schools and youth groups. We anticipate this will involve as many as 600 area students. Each session will include a performance of River Icarus, a discussion of creativity, deep listening, the development of an individual voice, and my personal journey as a composer and musician.

Proposed Action Plan:

I propose to set aside four months to create a 60 minute narrative arc of work, produce a professionally-packaged cd, create experimental "scores" representing the music, promote the project, present and record premier performances and composer's forums, and offer other educational outreach components related to the experience of working as a free-style improvisational composer/performer and creating River Icarus. I have to date done much of the background work that would culminate in River Icarus. I have explored the landscape created by the musical continuums / arcs described in my Artist Statement. I have used the concept of creating a larger narrative arc in my last work "Subway Icarus / Last Dream" which is included in its entirety in disk one of my work samples. The composition that I am proposing would bring these explorations to fruition and would result in a more formal expression of myself as a composer/performer.

I propose the following steps to meet this goal:

- 1) *Musical explorations*: spend time completing the River Icarus sound narrative - use the continuum tools mentioned in my Artist Statement to express the River Icarus story musically
- 2) *Recording layers*: create the sound samples / lay down tracks. I will do this in my own studio.
- 3) *Mixing*: painting / sculpting / composing / sound collage. This is also my domain.
- 4) *Mastering and cd production* (graphics / replication etc). I would like to get a local sound engineer that I have worked with to do a final pass through the material. I still have so much to learn about mastering and feel this step would greatly enhance the final product. I can contribute to the graphics work but need someone to put images in the final form required for replication. To date the hard-copy, cd form of my recordings have been handmade. I would propose getting them professionally replicated for scalability, to produce a more formal end product, and to take advantage of the promotion tools at the disposal of a larger-scale replication business.
- 5) *Promotion*: elicit reviews and interviews, contact independent radio stations, establish a web presence for the work, and promote the premier performances
- 6) *Premier Performances*: improvisational performances of River Icarus, photographic and sound recordings of the live events, composer's forums and additional expanded educational events

Proposed Budget:

Expenses:

- four months creative time (\$4000): composition / alternative scoring
- cd production costs including professional mastering, graphics, and replication (\$2000)
- premier performance-related costs (\$800)
- documentation of performances (\$1200): payment for a photographer and recording engineer

Income: ACF / JCCP Funds requested (\$8000)