

MAY 29

# THIS HOLDING

## TRACES OF CONTACT



ARTS • NASHVILLE

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#OZArts



PHOTO BY ADRIENNE BURNS



# WELCOME TO OZ!

Normally, you would be reading this welcome note in a printed program handed to you as you entered the theater. Sadly, we can't stage the performance with a live audience at this time, but I'm proud of artist Jana Harper and her collaborators for inventing a way to expand on the theme of the original performance and create something that may be even more profound.

By reimagining this work for the camera, we can watch it unfold as a series of stunning images, set in landscapes throughout Nashville. Conceiving and shooting these movements during a time of "social distancing" gives them even greater resonance, as the alternating images of intimacy and isolation create a disturbingly beautiful portrait of a historic period.

I'm grateful to the artists for being so nimble, creative, and ambitious, so that we can all experience the work in a digital format. Thanks also to the team at OZ Arts for working collaboratively with the artists to find a way to use a different platform for sharing an artistic vision. Finally, thank you for watching this passionate new work — especially if you are among the audience watching it during the May 29 premiere (and special thanks to all of you who have made an online contribution, allowing us to share the presentation free of charge).

*This Holding: Traces of Contact* will be available via the OZ Arts Nashville website throughout the month of June. Please feel free to share the word and encourage others to view it during that time.

I look forward to welcoming you to OZ Arts in person sometime soon.

Thank you,



Mark Murphy  
Executive & Artistic Director

OZ ARTS NASHVILLE SUPPORTS THE **CREATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND PRESENTATION** OF SIGNIFICANT **CONTEMPORARY** PERFORMING AND VISUAL ART WORKS BY **LEADING ARTISTS** WHOSE CONTRIBUTION **INFLUENCES THE ADVANCEMENT OF THEIR FIELD.**

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# THIS HOLDING TRACES OF CONTACT

## CONCEPT, VISUAL ARTIST, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

Jana Harper

## MOVEMENT DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Rebecca Steinberg

## MUSICAL SCORE AND ARRANGEMENT

Moksha Sommer & Jemal Wade Hines

## VIDEOGRAPHER

Sam Boyette

## PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Kirstin Koepnick

## DANCERS

James Barrett	Becca Hoback
Kira Fargas	Emma Morrison
Lenin Fernandez	Hadassah Perry
David Flores	Sarah Salim
Spencer Grady	Rebecca Steinberg

## MUSIC BY HUDOST

Moksha Sommer: *composition, vocals, keys, programming*

Jemal Wade Hines: *engineering, guitars, programming*

Oz Fritz: *mixing and mastering*

Matthew Nelson: *string arrangements, cello*

Avery Bright: *violin*

Kai Welch: *horns*

Oscar Utterström: *trombone*

Dan Walters: *bass*

Bryan Brock: *percussion*

## SPECIAL THANKS

Banning Bouldin

Lauren Snelling

Vadis and Vicki Turner

Karen Werner

*The world premiere of This Holding: Traces of Contact is made possible in part by support from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Curb Center for Art, Enterprise & Public Policy at Vanderbilt University, The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, Metro Arts Nashville, and the Office of the Provost at Vanderbilt University.*

## A NOTE FROM LEAD ARTIST JANA HARPER

This project began with a simple question, “What are the burdens we carry?”

Over the past three years, in the course of researching this work, I have talked to hundreds of people in dozens of workshops: doctors, dancers, middle-school kids, college students, retirees, folks from many different countries, and from all walks of life. I always start by asking them to name the burdens they carry and together we make a list. To be sure, each group has specific weights they bear, but in the end, we share the same fundamental human concerns: we worry about our loved ones, our futures, our planet, and of course, our health.

Without a doubt, the burden we are collectively experiencing right now is Covid-19. It has changed daily life for everyone and it caused us to transform our project. *This Holding* was originally conceived as a live performance but in the months leading up to its presentation we were

unable to meet in groups or gather indoors. We didn't have access to our rehearsal facility and the assembly of large audiences was prohibited. Luckily, our team is nimble and our presenter is generous so we were able to pivot from performance to film somewhat seamlessly. But Covid-19 didn't just affect the technical aspects of our project, like where we would shoot the videos or which dancers could safely touch one another. It also informed our creative process: it caused us to ask new questions about the rhythms of Covid-life and what burden-sharing looks like under these new conditions.

We might experience or carry our burdens differently, but I hope you will see yourself in this work. If *This Holding* could leave you with one feeling, I hope it is the knowledge that you are not alone.

— Jana Harper

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## ABOUT THE CORE COLLABORATORS



**JANA HARPER** (*Concept, Visual Artist, Director, Producer*): Jana Harper is an interdisciplinary artist whose work explores the themes and tensions between materiality and transcendence, chance encounters and human willfulness, relationships and connectivity, and human acts of meaning making. Originally trained

as a printmaker, her work takes many forms, and she works in both individual and collaborative settings.

A native of Washington D.C., Harper received an MFA in Printmaking and Letterpress from Arizona State University, a BA in Political Science and Fine Art from The Evergreen State College, and was in the Core Fellowship Program at the Penland School of Crafts. Additionally, she is trained in Contemplative Movement, Restorative and Awareness Yoga, and Community Arts Leadership. Since 2006 she has regularly attended workshops and residencies led by the artists & educators Rosenclaire.

Harper's work is held in several public collections including the Library of Congress, the Sackner Archive for Visual and Concrete Poetry, the J.S. Blanton Museum, Proyecto Ace Print Collection, and the Janet Turner Print Collection. Her work has been written about in *The Tennessean*, *Burnaway*, *The Nashville Scene*, in several literary journals including *Grist* and *YEW*, and was recently the subject of a feature article in the bilingual journal *Figurationen: Gender, Literatur, Kultur*.

Her work has been shown both nationally and internationally and last year her collaborative performance *Cargas* (featuring Moksha Sommer on vocals), was the closing event for *Intermittent Rivers*, the Matanzas portion of the 13th Havana Biennial. Other selected exhibitions include *Blessing the River*, Browsing Room Gallery, 2019; *Land Derived Sentiments*, Zeitgeist Gallery, 2019; *Selected Works from the Hand Print Workshop*, Athanaeum Museum, 2017; *Southern Constellations*, American University Art Museum, 2016; *Asymmetric Kin*, Cukurcuma Gallery, Istanbul, 2016; *Anthology: Visual Narratives from Nashville's Print Community*, Frist Art Museum, 2015; *First Impressions*, Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum, 2013; *Let's Talk About Love*, Baby (traveling exhibition 2010-2013) Printed Matter, NY; Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit; Joan Flasch Artists' Book Collection, SAIC, Chicago; National Gallery, Zimbabwe.

Harper is associate professor of the practice in the department of art at Vanderbilt University.



**REBECCA STEINBERG** (*Movement Director, Dancer, Assistant Director*): Rebecca is originally from Danvers, Massachusetts. She received her BFA in Dance and BA in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Upon graduation she lived in Israel and danced in Vertigo Dance Company's

International Training Program. Rebecca was a freelance artist in New York before joining New Dialect in 2015. She has performed in works by Ohad Naharin, Hofesh Shechter, David Dorfman, Doug Varone, Inbal Pinto, Roy Assaf, Bryan Arias, Joy Davis, Idan Sharabi, Banning Bouldin, and Noa Zuk. In addition to performing, Rebecca is a choreographer and dance educator. She has most recently been commissioned to create work for New Dialect, Nashville Ballet, and Middle Tennessee State University. She has taught workshops and master classes across the country to young dancers, adults, and professionals for over a decade. Most notably she has worked with dancers through various education programs at Perry Mansfield Performing Arts School & Camp, New Dialect, Mark Morris Dance Center, Bates Dance Festival, and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival.



**MOKSHA SOMMER** (*Compositions, Vocals, Keys/Synth*): Moksha Sommer is a celebrated composer, musician, and performance artist. Her primary music project is HuDost. In the last year, HuDost released a new album of *Water + Mercy* that has received rave reviews and, as an independent release, reached #24 in

the BILLBOARD SALES CHARTS for Folk/Americana. It recently received The Independent Music Award for Social Action Song. Sommer is also a committed activist and does advocacy work on behalf of people living in extreme poverty (whose voices are not heard). She holds an MFA from the Vermont College of Fine Arts and a BFA from Montreal's Concordia University, both received with Great Distinction. She has received multiple grants from the Canada Council for the Arts. Some of her highlight performances include Bonnaroo, The ARK, Alex Grey's CoSM, the Salvador Dali Museum, The Levitt Pavilions, Bluebird Café, Music City Roots, and many more. Highlight collaborations and shared performances include Ani DiFranco, Philip Glass, Jon Anderson (YES), Bell Orchestre, Neko Case, Jim Lauderdale, Omar Faruk Tekbilek, and Mercan Dede. Sommer hopes to create music and performance that is a powerful expression of life's journey and discovery.



**SAM BOYETTE** (*Filmmaker*): Sam Boyette is a filmmaker and cinematographer who lives in Nashville, TN. He works on a range of projects including music videos, commercials, and TV shows. His past clients include Nashville Soccer Club, Atlantic Records and CMT, to name a few. Since graduating from Vanderbilt in 2016,

Sam has worked on several dance projects with groups such as Intermission and New Dialect, and has been on the *This Holding* creative team since 2017.

## ABOUT THE DANCERS



**JAMES BARRETT:** James received his BA in Dance from Point Park University in Pittsburgh, PA. While in school he had the opportunity to perform works by Doug Varone, Trey McIntyre, and Kevin Iga Jeff. He furthered his studies at Deeply Rooted Dance Theater and Springboard Danse Montreal. After graduation, James

worked with Pittsburgh-based companies Reed Dance, Texture Contemporary Ballet, and Attack Theatre. In 2014, he joined Visceral Dance Chicago where he performed works by Ohad Naharin, Fernando Melo, Marguerite Donlon, and met Banning Bouldin. James joined New Dialect in August 2016, where he has performed works by Bouldin, Idan Sharabi, and Yin Yue. He has also presented his own work through the New Dialect's multi-disciplinary residency, Third Voice.



**KIRA FARGAS-MABAQUIAO:** Kira is originally from South San Francisco, CA. Having two professional dancers as parents, she was inspired at a young age to follow in her parents' footsteps. Kira started her training at the Westlake School for the Performing Arts in Daly City, CA, where she trained intensively

for 15 years. Alongside her primary training, Kira studied at the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, where she had the privilege of working with Summer Lee Rhatigan, Bobbi Jene Smith, and Alex Ketley. She also participated in Salt Dance Fest and New Dialect's summer and winter intensives. In 2014, Kira moved to Tucson, AZ to continue her training at The University of Arizona School of Dance, where she worked with choreographers and teachers such as Guy Shomroni, Yaniv Abraham, Miguel Perez, Amy Ernst, and Tammy Dyke-Compton. She received her BFA in Dance in 2017. Later that year, she moved to Nashville to train with New Dialect as a scholarship student. Kira joined New Dialect as an apprentice in 2019, after performing Banning Bouldin's *The Triangle* at Jacob's Pillow. In addition to Kira's work as a dancer, she is also a passionate teacher and choreographer. Since 2014, she has created a number of award winning works for young dancers. In 2019, Kira received the Youth America Grand Prix Outstanding Choreographer Award.



**LENIN FERNANDEZ:** Lenin, a California native, started dancing in 2010 at Mt. San Antonio Community College. In 2015, he worked with Esklan Arts Factory (Erika Silgoner) in Rome. For the last four years he has been a frequent collaborator with Sonya Tayeh on multiple projects including her NYLA (2016) and Jacob's

Pillow (2018) debut *you'll still call me by name*, the Off-Broadway show *The Lucky Ones*, pre-production for *Moulin Rouge*, and *Rent Live* on Fox. Lenin worked with Teresa Barcelo, Erica Sobol, LA Contemporary Dance, and Heidi Duckler Dance before joining New Dialect in October 2019. Additionally, he has performed for Charissa

Kroger, Acts of Matter, Whyteberg, Szalt, and Arrogant Elbow. Lenin actively engages in community outreach through Heidi Duckler Dance. He works with elementary through high school students, sharing tools of composition and improvisation through the company's site-specific framework. His most recent collaboration was a 12-week movement healing and composition workshop with women from the Chino Women's Prison in Southern California. He is grateful to share in this capacity and to further push the edges of dance as a healing modality.



**DAVID FLORES:** Born and raised in San José, Costa Rica, Flores attended Marymount Manhattan College in New York City where he graduated in 2015 with a BFA in modern dance and was recipient of the Golden Key award. During his college career, Flores performed works by Aszure Barton, Dwight Rhoden, Lar

Lubovich, Doug Varone, Loni Landon and Chase Brock. In 2013, he performed with Nokolais Dance Theater in the First Yunnan Kunming Yang Liping International Dance Festival in Beijing and Kunming, China. He is a Springboard Danse Montreal alum (2014-2015) where he worked closely with and performed works by Fernando Melo, RUBBERBANDance Group, MADBOOTS DANCE, and Banning Bouldin. In 2015, Flores joined Loni Landon Dance Projects and shortly after became a member of Catapult Entertainment in their 2016 European and American tour. David has been a part of New Dialect since August 2016, where he performed works by choreographers Banning Bouldin, Rosie Herrera, Idan Sharabi, Yin Yue, and Joy Davis. Flores is currently an active dancer, teacher, resident choreographer and outreach program co-leader with New Dialect, creative director for Sidra Bell Dance New York and an active collaborator/performer for Loni Landon Dance Projects.



**SPENCER GRADY:** Spencer is originally from Redkey, Indiana. He received his BFA in Dance from Ball State University, then went on to attend the Alexandria School of Scientific Therapeutics for massage therapy. While in Indiana, Spencer worked with Phoenix Rising Dance Company and s | k dancers, and in 2017, he produced

*The Washing*, a solo in residency at the North American Laboratory for the Performing Arts. Spencer joined New Dialect as an apprentice in 2017. During his time with New Dialect, he performed works by Banning Bouldin, choreographed for ND's *Third Voice*, and taught community classes. Here, he began creating a curriculum for Contact Concepts, a class incorporating contemporary floorwork and bodywork principles. As a freelance artist, Spencer has worked in live performance, music videos, short films, and teaching workshops. He has performed works by Kate Wallich and Sidra Bell, and has collaborated with artists and organizations such as iisquared, OZ Arts, Jeff Carl, Imagine Dragons, Maniac Fantastic, Ball State Dance Theatre, and Westlake School for the Performing Arts. In 2019, he released the dance film CAVE in collaboration

with Austin Paul and Maniac Fantastic Productions, and premiered a new work, Oct. 11, alongside Emma Morrison at the inaugural Animata Arts Festival in Nashville.



**BECCA HOBACK:** Becca is a dance artist based in Nashville, Tennessee. She is a founding member of New Dialect, and is featured in the company as a performer, outreach workshop team leader, community and company class teacher, and choreographic assistant to artistic director Banning Bouldin. Becca began her solo project in 2018 to create, commission, and perform solo dance work that is evocative, theatrical, innovative, and experiential for both the mover and the viewer. She is an adjunct dance instructor at Harpeth Hall and a guest instructor for the Metro Parks Dance Division. Becca trained at the UNC School of the Arts, the Milwaukee Ballet School, and Makaroff School of Ballet. She previously worked for Nashville Ballet 2 and Montgomery Ballet. She has performed in works by Roy Assaf, Peter Chu, Bryan Arias, Fernando Melo, Léon & Lightfoot, Marco Goecke, Rosie Herrera, Yin Yue, Alex Ketley, Idan Sharabi, Belinda McGuire, Joy Davis, and Banning Bouldin.



**EMMA MORRISON:** Emma is a Nashville native, who began her training at the Franklin School of Performing Arts in Franklin, TN. She began dancing with New Dialect in 2013, and has since worked with and performed the works of Banning Bouldin, Peter Chu, Alex Ketley, Bryan Arias, Yin Yue, Belinda McGuire, Joy Davis, and Roy Assaf. Along with being a dancer in New Dialect, Emma has assisted Banning Bouldin in creative processes for Salt Contemporary Dance, Groundworks Dance Theater, Springboard Danse Montreal, and The Juilliard School Summer Intensive. She has led masterclasses at Belmont University, Salt Contemporary Dance, New Dialect Summer Intensives, and Groundworks Dance Theater. She is now leading the Contemporary program at Metro Parks Dance in Nashville. Her most recent choreographic ventures have been in the contemporary opera scene, premiering *Frankenstein: The Modern Prometheus* in Fall of 2019, and she is currently developing a multi-media collaboration inspired by the *Dichterliebe* song cycle by Robert Schumann.



**HADASSAH PERRY:** Hadassah attended the Franklin School of Performing Arts before beginning her training with Banning Bouldin in 2013. In 2014, she joined New Dialect as an apprentice and participated in the Bates Dance Festival and the Movement Invention Project, where she trained with such artists as Sidra Bell, Shannon Gillen, and Alexandra Wells. In 2016, Hadassah moved to Israel to attend Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company's study abroad program. There she had the opportunity to create her own works and to research

KCDC's repertory. Hadassah returned to Nashville in 2017 and rejoined New Dialect as a company member this season.



**SARAH SALIM:** Originally from North Carolina, Sarah began dancing at the Holly Springs School of Dance, Cary Ballet Conservatory, and International Ballet Academy. In 2009, she worked as a trainee with Carolina Ballet and in 2011, joined Nashville Ballet 2 where she started training under Banning Bouldin.

Sarah danced with New Dialect from 2012-2019, where she performed in the premiere of New Dialect's *MultiLingual* at OZ Arts, Belinda McGuire's *Incorporeus*, Banning Bouldin's *Murmuration*, Trisha Brown's *Planes*, and Rebecca Allen's *Kat5*, Idan Sharabi's *Ella*, Yin Yue's *PARA*, and Roy Assaf's *Girls*. Sarah also workshoped with Bryan Arias, Peter Chu, Joy Davis, Laurel Jenkins, Alex Ketley, David Norsworthy, Riley Watts, and Shannon Gillen Lipinski. She is the co-founder of Animata Arts, a Nashville-based platform to showcase independent creative talent.

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## ABOUT THE MUSICIANS



**JEMAL WADE HINES** (*Production, Guitar, Programming, Keys*): Jemal Wade Hines has been recording and performing music for over 30 years (starting by playing psychedelic punk and then studying and performing in a polyrhythmic, just-intonation world music ensemble). Hines is Moksha Sommer's partner in HuDost.

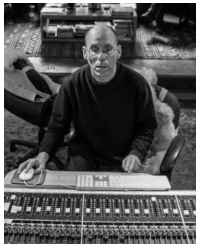
Having toured the U.S., Canada, and Europe constantly since April 2006, HuDost has grown and expanded, travelled rocky and glorious terrain and marveled at all they can learn and explore. Sommer and Hines in this time have grown as artists, as seekers, as a couple and as a family. Since 2015, Hines has been a highly engaged activist, doing advocacy work as a KY Congressional District Representative for ONE (a non-profit organization working to end extreme poverty and, specifically, the sexism of poverty). Hines has a degree in Sound Engineering and is a seasoned producer, guitar-experimenter and sonic ambient effect master.



**MATTHEW S. NELSON** (*Cello, String Arrangements*): Matthew S. Nelson is a composer, cellist, and guitarist who has worked professionally in a wide variety of musical roles since 1999. He is best known for his touring work as bandleader for country artist Raelynn, his touring and session work with award-winning band Jars of

Clay, and his score (co-composed with Dan Haseltine) for the hit original series *The Chosen*, the #1 crowdfunded media project in history. In addition to album credits as diverse as JD Souther, Anderson East, Michael W. Smith, and Hooray for the Riff Raff, Nelson has performed live with Amy Grant, Sleeping at Last, Steven Curtis Chapman, and

Cheap Trick, among a long list of others. He has appeared on NBC's Today, Late Night with Seth Meyers, The Ellen DeGeneres Show, Grand Ole Opry, NPR's Mountain Stage, and the TV drama series *Nashville*. Currently, in addition to working on new music with his neoclassical duo Kingpin-guin, he is slated to return as co-composer for season 2 of *The Chosen*. Matthew S. Nelson lives in Nashville, Tennessee.



**OZ FRITZ** (*Mixing and Mastering*): Grammy Award-winner Oz Fritz has worked as an audio professional and sound architect for over 40 years. Starting in live sound reinforcement, Fritz transitioned into studio recording after moving to New York in the mid '80s. Highlights of his career include a long-time collaboration with producer/musician Bill Laswell. They have worked on over 120 projects together in the recording studio, live concert venues and remote field recordings with such artists as L. Shankar, Material, Ginger Baker, Iggy Pop, The Ramones, Herbie Hancock, George Clinton, Bootsy Collins, Tony Williams, Elvin Jones, Sonny Sharrock, William S. Burroughs, Bob Marley, Icehouse and Yothu Yindi. Other engineering credits include Tom Waits, Miles Davis, Primus and HuDost. More recently he mixed and mastered the new Flat Earth Society double album *Untitled #0*. Fritz lives in Grass Valley, California and is working on a book in his spare time called *Music, Magick and the Game of Life, Confessions of a Sound Engineer*. Previews for this book and more can be found on his blog, *The Oz Mix*: <https://oz-mix.blogspot.com/>

## GUEST MUSICIANS



**AVERY BRIGHT** (*Violin*): Avery Bright is a violinist, violist, and founder of Stringcell Recording in Nashville, TN. He has played on recordings by OneRepublic, U2, Josh Groban, Dolly Parton, and many others.



**BRYAN BROCK** (*Percussion*): Bryan Brock is a seasoned percussionist specializing in creative applications of rhythms, instruments, and techniques from all over the globe. His unique blend of creativity, versatility, and skill enhances a profusion of musical styles. Bryan earned a bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas and has studied throughout America, Cuba, and Ghana with percussion masters from African, Arabic, Brazilian, Cuban, and European traditions. Live performance/touring credits include Frankie Valli, Melody Gardot, Tito Rojas, Nathan Pacheco, Anjani & Leonard Cohen, Incendio, Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band, and the Clare Fischer Latin Jazz Band. Recording credits include sessions for Dr. Dre, India.Arie, Sara Bareilles, Macy Gray, Truth Hurts, HuDost/Jars of Clay and numerous films, video games, and commercial jingles. Bryan plays Meinl

percussion/cymbals, Remo drumheads, Rebellion Drums bodhráns, and Innovative Percussion sticks/mallets. He lives in Nashville, TN.



**KAI WELCH** (*Horns*): Conceived in a tipi in Oregon and raised by parents he describes as "semi-nomadic, back to the land hippy homesteaders," Kai Welch is now a Nashville-based songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and producer, best known for his work with Grammy-winners Kacey Musgraves and Abigail Washburn.

Recently nominated for an Album Of The Year award from IBMA for his production of rising-star Molly Tuttle's debut EP, Kai continues to produce compelling music across multiple genres. His love for music and nature also led him to start Music for Wild Places, a non-profit concert series that takes participants on multi-day, musical adventures through some of the world's most beautiful wilderness areas.



**OSCAR UTTERSTRÖM** (*Trombone*): Oscar Utterström is a Swedish trombonist, composer, arranger and educator based in Nashville, TN. His versatile playing and experience in many styles make him an in-demand session player on trombone, bass trombone and euphonium. As a freelance trombonist, Oscar has performed and/or recorded with acts such as Lauren Daigle, Shania Twain, Kelly Clarkson, CeCe Winans, the Temptations, the Four Tops, My Morning Jacket, Diamond Rugs, Cage the Elephant, Taylor Swift, Little Big Town, and Chris Stapleton. He leads his own group, under his name, in which he plays electric trombone and keyboard. The group has released two albums, *Home* (2008) and *Departure* (2012), on the Right Turn Records label. Oscar has written horn arrangements for many different artists, both for live use and recordings, including My Morning Jacket, Canadian superstar Johnny Reid and the Nashville Jazz Orchestra. Oscar has a B.M. in Music Business from Berklee College of Music and a M.A. in Jazz Studies from Middle Tennessee State University. Oscar plays exclusively on Schilke trombones and AR Resonance mouthpieces. Oscar's books and arrangements can be purchased through [www.maxwelltreemusic.com](http://www.maxwelltreemusic.com) and [www.oscarutterstrom.com](http://www.oscarutterstrom.com).



**DAN WALTERS** (*Bass*): Electric bassist, keyboardist, composer/arranger, singer/songwriter Dan Walters provides solid side-musician support to many excellent artists and makes skillfully crafted music of his own that ranges from rootsy singer/songwriter through theatrical/cinematic guitar rock and into what is loosely called "new music." Dan dedicated his life to music at an early age and has been consistently and energetically involved in the music business throughout the United States and abroad for four decades. Included in his many recording credits are six solo albums. His personal yet universal material genuinely resonates with listeners all over the world. His international experience includes tours of Japan, Europe and Canada.



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