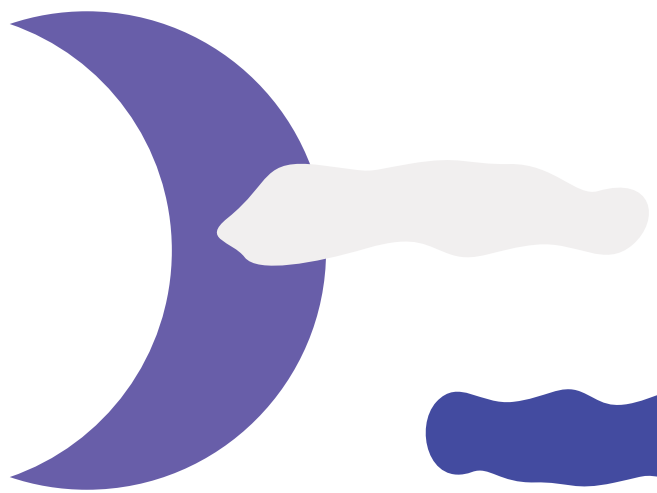


Calgary Philharmonic and  
Making Treaty 7 Cultural Society present

# Napi and the Rock

Online at [calgaryphil.com](http://calgaryphil.com)



**In the spring of 2019, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra partnered with Making Treaty 7 Cultural Society to create a performance based on the sacred and historical Blackfoot teaching of Napi and the Rock. Originally scheduled for April 2020, and delayed by the pandemic, we are pleased to release this project for free online. The premiere will take place at 2:30PM on 20 November 2021, then this 30-minute performance will remain online for viewing at your convenience.**

**In Blackfoot culture, Napi is the being that appears as a trickster, shape-shifter, and creator. Often getting into trouble with their supernatural powers, Napi teaches us important life lessons throughout their travels. In this teaching, Napi is travelling with a companion, Kit Fox, and they encounter weather, animals, and a giant rock.**

**Composers Cris Derksen and Sonny-Ray Day Rider set music to this playful story, and it is brought to life by actors Marshall Vielle and Cory Beaver through the text of playwright Telly James.**

## **Story Resource**

*The Sun Came Down: The History of the World as My Blackfeet Elders Told It*, by Percy Bullchild

## **Suggested Activities**

Visit [native-land.ca](https://native-land.ca) to learn about the land you live on.

Visit [calgarylibrary.ca/connect/indigenous-services](https://calgarylibrary.ca/connect/indigenous-services) to get involved in your community.



**Cris Derksen**  
**Composer**

Juno nominated Cris Derksen is an Internationally respected Indigenous Cellist and Composer. In a world where almost everything — people, music, cultures — gets labelled and slotted into simple categories, Cris Derksen represents a challenge. Originally from Northern Alberta she comes from a line of chiefs from North Tallcree Reserve on her father's side and a line of strong Mennonite homesteaders on her mother's. Derksen braids the traditional and contemporary, weaving her classical background and her Indigenous ancestry together with new school electronics to create genre-defying music. As a performer Derksen performs nationally and internationally as a soloist and in collaboration with some of Canada's finest, including Tanya Tagaq, Buffy Sainte Marie, Naomi Klein, and Leanne Simpson, to name a few. Recent concert destinations include Hong Kong, Australia, Mongolia, Sweden, and a whole lot of Canada: the place Derksen refers to as home. 2021 commissions include pieces for the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Ottawa's Chamberfest, the City of Toronto, Edmonton New Music, the Edmonton Symphony with support from the National Arts Centre, Vancouver's Blueridge Chamber Festival, Vancouver Transform Cabaret, and a 4-part docuseries for the Knowledge Network. A new album of Cris Derksen's works will be released in 2022.



**Sonny-Ray Day Rider**  
**Composer**

Sonny-Ray Day Rider (B.A., Music) is a Blackfoot composer, pianist, from the Kainai Blood Tribe. Sonny-Ray has a broad musical palate working with many genres. Sonny-Ray is pursuing advanced studies (M.Mus) in music composition at the University of Lethbridge. He shows great promise in the field, having accumulated a large breadth of significant creative projects as an emerging Kainai (Blackfoot) artist in an impressively short time span. He also currently has a seat on the Indigenous Advisory Circle to the Library and Archives Canada and is past faculty alumni to the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.



**Cory Beaver**  
**Actor**

Cory Beaver is a passionate and creative individual from the Stoney Nakoda First Nation who is actively involved in the arts as a dancer, performer and actor. He is also a strong individual who always strives to make a change. In 2019, he Co-Chaired a summit called Sevengen, gathering over 200 Inuit, Metis, and First Nation youth from every province and territory. Since then, Cory has been an advocate for youth and indigenous people on various platforms. Cory is very optimistic and ambitious and believes that every voice matters. He is well-rounded with aspirations to inspire, empower, and uplift as many people as possible. Cory currently sits on the advisory board for Clouds Way Theatre company and is also involved with the Making Treaty 7 cultural society. When he is not training or performing, he is out in the mountains hiking or biking.



**Marshall Vielle**  
**Actor**

Marshall is an Actor, Director, Podcaster, and Drag Performer from the Kainai Nation in Southern Alberta. They are a recent graduate from the University of Lethbridge where they received their Bachelors of Fine Arts, specializing in Theatre Performance. They are especially interested in using theatre for community development, having been involved in various projects both locally and internationally aimed at using artistic practices to encourage social change. They work as an advocate for diversity in the performance sector, while also lending their creativity to several Queer Youth initiatives. Marshall is the recipient of the 2018 Theatre Calgary Stephen Hair Emerging Actor Award. When they are not acting, Marshall can be seen teaching as an Artist-in-Residence at Trickster Theatre or Improvising with Dirty Laundry.

**Cory Beaver**  
Actor

**Marshall Vielle**  
Actor

**Karl Hirzer**  
Conductor

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**Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra**

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**Music**

**Blackfoot Sunrise**  
by **Sonny-Ray Day Rider**

**Napi and the Rock**  
by **Cris Derksen**

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**Special thanks to Elders**

**Sheldon First Rider**  
**Joyce Healey**  
**Beverly Hungry Wolf**

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**Telly James**  
Playwright

**Caleigh Crow**  
Director

**Alysha Bulmer**  
Producer

**Elizabeth Ferguson-Breaker**  
Costume Design

**Neil Fleming**  
Set Design

**Ayla Coltman**  
**Allison Robinson**  
Props

**Meredith Johnson**  
Stage Manager

**Allison Robinson**  
Production Manager

**Emma Fleming**  
Rehearsal Videographer

**Jason Stasiuk**  
Orchestra Recording Manager

**Adam Masson**  
Orchestra Recording Coordinator

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**Michelle Thrush**  
Artistic Director  
Making Treaty 7 Cultural Society

**Neil Fleming**  
Executive Director  
Making Treaty 7 Cultural Society

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