



# Advance Program Notes

Rosanne Cash

*The River and the Thread*

Friday, December 11, 2015, 7:30 PM

These Advance Program Notes are provided online for our patrons who like to read about performances ahead of time. Printed programs will be provided to patrons at the performances. Programs are subject to change.

**Rosanne Cash**  
*The River and the Thread*

# Biographies

**ROSANNE CASH**, vocals, guitar

## Rosanne Cash and her new album, *The River and the Thread*

With *The River and the Thread*, Rosanne Cash has added the next chapter to a remarkable period of creativity. In 2015, Cash was awarded three Grammy Awards: her album won for Best Americana Album and the track *Feather's Not a Bird*, which she co-wrote with her longtime collaborator (and husband) John Leventhal, won for Best American Roots Performance and Best American Roots Song. Her last two albums, *Black Cadillac* (2006) and *The List* (2009), were both nominated for GRAMMY Awards; *The List*—an exploration of essential songs as selected and given to Cash by her father, Johnny Cash—was also named Album of the Year by the Americana Music Association. In addition, her best-selling 2010 memoir, *Composed*, was described by the *Chicago Tribune* as “one of the best accounts of an American life you will likely ever read.”

Cash, who has charted 21 Top 40 country singles, including 11 number ones, wrote all of the new album's songs with John Leventhal, who also served as producer, arranger, and guitarist. Featuring a long list of guests—from young guns like John Paul White (The Civil Wars) and Derek Trucks to such legends as John Prine, Rodney Crowell, and Tony Joe White—*The River and the Thread* is a kaleidoscopic examination of the geographic, emotional, and historic landscape of the American South. The album's unique sound, which draws from country, blues, gospel, and rock, reflects the soulful mix of music that traces its history to the region.

“When we started forming the idea for this record,” says Cash, “it felt like it was going to be the third part of a trilogy—with *Black Cadillac* mapping out a territory of mourning and loss and then *The List* celebrating my family's musical legacy. I feel this record ties past and present together through all those people and places in the South I knew and thought I had left behind.”

As the themes and subjects of *The River and the Thread* emerged, Cash gradually envisioned how she wanted to connect the dots into a cohesive work, connecting her own story to the rich history of a region. “I guess I weave in and out of these songs, in a way,” she says. “I don't think I had a complete map of it, but John really became a guide. We would write something and say, ‘This is part of the geography, both emotional and physical.’”

Cash acknowledges that, even with 15 albums and four books behind her, it was difficult to start writing songs again after spending several years immersed in the masterful compositions featured on *The List*.

“You cannot keep that in your mind, except as an inspiration, a standard to aspire to,” she says. “To say, ‘I'm going to write a song as great as *Take These Chains*’—you're not! So the only way to not get dismantled by that is to stay connected to your own muse and immerse yourself completely in what you're doing so it can be as rich and authentic as it can possibly be. That's all you can hope for.”

With *The River and the Thread*, she has risen to that challenge—and emerged with a beautiful and haunting album, one of the finest works in an extraordinary career.

**JOHN LEVENTHAL**, guitars, vocals, music director

John Leventhal is a Grammy Award-winning musician, producer, songwriter, and recording engineer who has produced albums for Rosanne Cash, Michelle Branch, Shawn Colvin, Joan Osborne, Marc Cohn, and Rodney Crowell, among others. As a musician he has worked with all of the above, as well as artists such as Elvis Costello, Dolly Parton, Willie Nelson, Jackson Browne, Emmylou Harris, Bruce Hornsby, and Charlie Haden. As a songwriter, he has had over 100 songs recorded by various artists. In 1998 he won the Grammy for Record and Song of the Year for producing and co-writing the song *Sunny Came Home*. He lives with his wife, Rosanne Cash, and their children in New York City.

# *Biographies, continued*

## **KEVIN BARRY**, *guitars*

Multi-instrumentalist Kevin Barry is based in Boston. He teaches guitar at the Berklee College of Music and tours regularly with Rosanne Cash, Peter Wolf, Marc Cohn, and Ray LaMontagne. He has also performed and/or recorded with Jonatha Brooke, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Susan Tedeschi, Mighty Sam McClain, Sarah McLaughlin, and the Consuelo Candelaria group. Along with acoustic and electric guitars, he has disciplines in lap steel, pedal steel, dobro, bass, and high strung requinto.

## **GLENN PATSCHA**, *keyboards*

Born in Canada in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Glenn Patscha moved to New Orleans in 1989 to study with Ellis Marsalis at the University of New Orleans. He went on to play and record with many New Orleans icons young and old, such as Brian Blade, Nicholas Payton, and Leroy Jones. A recording and touring stint with Marianne Faithfull reignited an interest in composing and songwriting. After moving to New York City in 1998, Patscha started the highly-acclaimed band, Ollabelle. T Bone Burnett signed the band to his Columbia Records imprint, DMZ. He has recorded and performed with Levon Helm, Sheryl Crow, Bettye Lavette, The Holmes Brothers, Cubanismo, Madeline Peyroux, Roger Waters, Lizz Wright, Ryan Adams, Willie Nelson, and Loudon Wainwright, among many others. He has also scored the Sundance Grand Jury Prize-winning film *Sangre De Mi Sangre* with Brian Cullman, award-winning *Finnish Film Kukkulan Kuningas—On Thin Ice*, and a number of short films by photographer Mary Ellen Mark and Martin Bell. Recently Patscha has produced recordings for The Holmes Brothers and Marc Cohn and a record with his new band, The Big Bright, with Fiona McBain (Ollabelle) and Liz Tormes.

## **ZEV KATZ**, *bass*

Zev Katz first met and worked with Rosanne Cash on her album *The Wheel* in 1993. Katz has been a friend and associate of John Leventhal's since 1974. It is his pleasure to be accompanying them in support of Cash's album, *The River and the Thread*. Katz has also played, toured, and/or recorded with a diverse group of artists, including Roxy Music, Bette Midler, James Taylor, Donald Fagen, Luciano Pavarotti, The Yellowjackets, Daryl Hall and John Oates, Mavis Staples, Dr. John, and Ennio Morricone.

## **DAN RIESER**, *drums, percussion*

Dan Rieser has been active in the New York City singer-songwriter/jazz scene since the early '90s. He has performed and/or recorded with Norah Jones, Jesse Harris, Marcy Playground, Two Ton Boa, Chris Cheek, Seamus Blake, The Bloombaddies, The Little Willies, Jenny Scheinman, Marc Cohn, Rebecca Martin, and Madeline Peyroux. He appears on Cash's current recording, *The River and the Thread*, as well as the recent acclaimed collaboration between Nora Jones and Green Day's Billy Joe Armstrong, *For Everly*.

## **MIRIAM CROWE**, *lighting designer/operator*

Miriam Nilofa Crowe designs regularly for Latin Grammy- and Grammy-winner Lila Downs, Ko-Ryo Dance Theater, The Drilling Company, and Strindberg Rep. Recent projects include *home/sick* (The Assembly), *Honky* (Urban Stages), *The Penalty* (Apothetae), *What It Means to Disappear Here* (Ugly Rhino), *Gorilla* (SATC), *RescYou* (Eckert+Sorenson-Jolink), *Project RUIN* (Carlye Eckert and Lucie Baker), *Bridesburg* (Miscreant Theater), *Symphony for the Dance Floor* (Daniel Bernard Roumain), *Life after Dark* (Dana Leong), *Flags* (Firefly Theater at 59E59), *Woman in Waiting* (Farber Foundry), *Beowulf* (Lincoln Center Festival), and *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow* (Yale Rep). She is a founding member of Wingspace Theatrical Design. For more information, please visit [www.wingspace.com/miriam](http://www.wingspace.com/miriam).

# *Biographies, continued*

**D.J. MENDEL**, *video designer*

A longtime collaborator with Rosanne Cash, D.J. Mendel has directed and video designed her last two concert tours, *Black Cadillac* and *The List*, as well as music videos for her songs, *Motherless Children* and *I'm Moving On*. Most recently he designed the video for Cash's *Art and Ideas* lecture for the Association of Presenting Arts Performers keynote speech in New York City (2013). Mendel also has worked with world renowned composer/violinist Daniel Bernard Roumain, directing two of Roumain's music/theatre pieces, *Darwin's Meditation for the People of Lincoln* and *Symphony for the Dance Floor*. Both shows premiered in New York at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival and toured the U.S. For the past nine years, Mendel has directed all of Cynthia Hopkins' work, including the award-winning *Accidental Nostalgia* (Obie Award), *Must Don't Whip 'Um*, *The Success of Failure* (Bessie Award), *The Truth: A Tragedy*, and most recently, *This Clement World*. All of these shows premiered in New York at St. Ann's Warehouse and have toured the U.S. and Europe. Mendel has directed two feature films, *Make Pretend* (which he also wrote) and *Planet Earth: Dreams*, written by avant-garde theatre legend Richard Foreman, as well as numerous shorts films.

**DAVID MANN**, *sound mixing, tour manager*

David Mann has been on the scene as a recording engineer and live sound mixer for many years. His list of associations is a "who's who" of the music industry. Emmylou Harris, Paul Simon, The Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Herbie Hancock, Suzanne Vega, Aimee Mann, Marc Cohn, Ingrid Michaelson, and The Waterboys only cover some of the artists he has worked with. Mann has been working with Cash since 2011.

*Some photographs and moving images have been generously provided by James Jaworowicz and The Jack Robinson Archive, Memphis, Tennessee; Dave Anderson, Little Rock, Arkansas; The Oxford American Magazine; and The Library of Congress.*

# ***In the Galleries***

Be sure to check out our newest winter exhibitions before the Moss Arts Center closes for the holidays. The building will be closed beginning December 24, 2015 and will reopen January 4, 2016. Our galleries will reopen January 5, 2016.

## **CHARLIE BROUWER: KNOWN/UNKNOWN**

December 3, 2015-February 7, 2016

*Ruth C. Horton Gallery*

Charlie Brouwer, an established artist and resident of Floyd County, is well known for his sculpture, community projects, and ladder installations. For this exhibition Brouwer will transform the Ruth C. Horton Gallery with a large-scale ladder installation that incorporates a video and sound piece titled *Known/Unknown*.

## ***the sun that never sets: New Paintings by Paul Ryan***

December 3, 2015–February 7, 2016

*Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery, Sherwood Payne Quillen '71 Reception Gallery*

Paul Ryan, an accomplished artist and art critic based in Staunton, Virginia, incorporates shapes and forms derived from commercial packaging in this new body of oil and acrylic paintings on canvas. Visually intriguing, Ryan's abstract paintings are both delightful and complex, with underlying associations to our culture of consumption, desire, accumulation, and mindless waste.

## **GALLERY HOURS**

Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; interesting and free!