



OLIVER CAPLAN,


*Watershed*

JUVENTAS NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE



*for chris.*

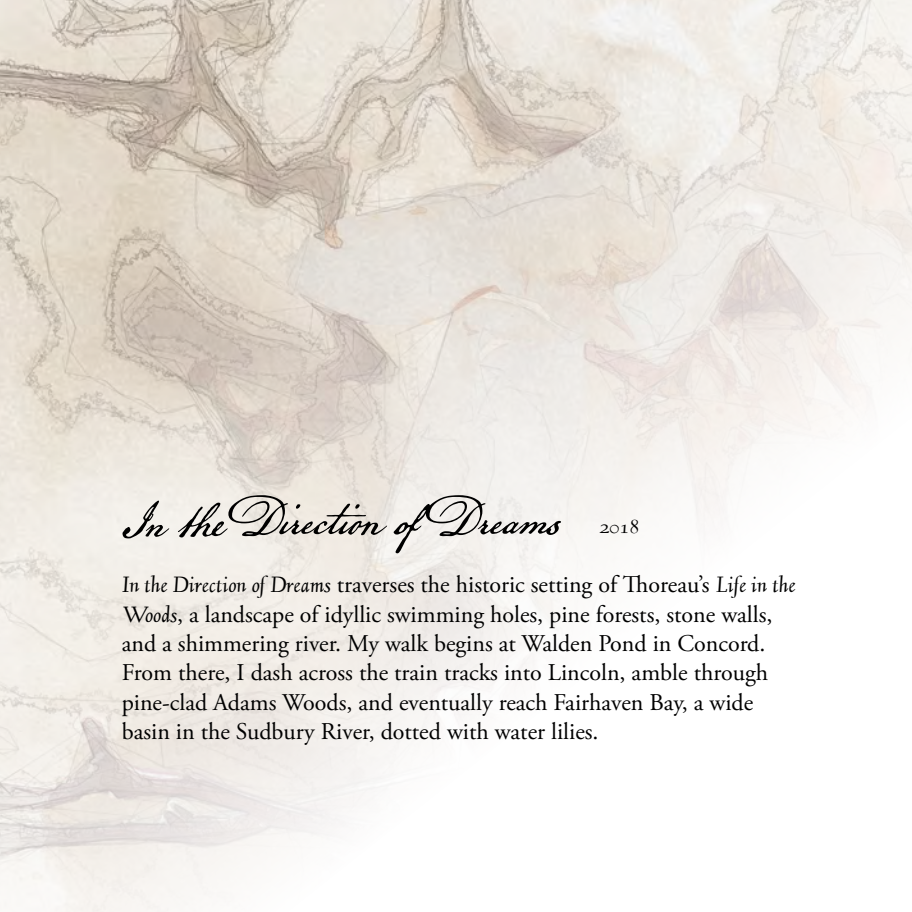
Above all, my favorite  
walks are the ones with  
you by my side.



The works on this album were inspired by three beloved walks near my home in Medford, Massachusetts. These protected greenspaces have provided solace and inspiration for years. In 2020, they became something more: a lifeline. Through fear, loneliness and claustrophobia, these woodland jewels quieted my mind and filled my soul with light.

With this album, I hope to pass this comfort forward, and remind you of your own favorite places.

*Oliver Caplan*



## *In the Direction of Dreams* 2018

*In the Direction of Dreams* traverses the historic setting of Thoreau's *Life in the Woods*, a landscape of idyllic swimming holes, pine forests, stone walls, and a shimmering river. My walk begins at Walden Pond in Concord. From there, I dash across the train tracks into Lincoln, amble through pine-clad Adams Woods, and eventually reach Fairhaven Bay, a wide basin in the Sudbury River, dotted with water lilies.



## *Willow Spring Path* 2019

Just six miles from downtown Boston, the Middlesex Fells Reservation spans over 2,200 acres. *Willow Spring Path* pays homage to one of my favorite trails, which meanders through deciduous and evergreen woodland, rocky outcrops, and gleaming lakes. It is my go-to for evening walks. I wrote this music during the onset of spring, sunlight flooding the land with new life. Moved by the simple joy of being outside more frequently—and free from the weight of winter layers—I rushed from trail to piano to pen these melodies.

# *Watershed*

2020

As with all things 2020, this one begins at home. A few blocks into Medford Square, then down to the boat launch on the Mystic River. From there, the water ribbons for miles upstream, eventually opening into a series of glorious lakes. I have walked this route countless times in normal years, and double that in 2020. Yet, no two strolls are the same. It's the light, or the clouds. The birds: herons, swans, ducks, geese, orioles, tanagers, kingfishers, red-winged blackbirds... even the occasional bald eagle. And sometimes, it's the simple joy of recognizing a neighbor's sparkling eyes above their mask.



# Thank You

John Weston, for a decade of collaboration; you are a true artist and I'm incredibly grateful for your work to support me and other musicians in making music through a global pandemic. Chris Beagan, for standing with me on this crazy journey and amplifying every aspect of this project with your eye for detail and beauty. Ragdale Foundation, for the space and time to compose *In the Direction of Dreams* amidst Shaw's beloved prairie. Music at Penn Alps, for commissioning and premiering *Willow Spring Path*. Julia Scott Carey, Nick Southwick, Wolcott Humphrey, Anne Howarth, Jennifer Bill, Minjin Chung, and Thomas Barth, for bringing this music to life with virtuosity and passion.

My heartfelt gratitude to the 136 donors whose support made the album possible, including the following principal funders:

Jon Saxton & Barbara Fox; Elizabeth A. Dean; Alexander Ripley & Ted Steinemann; John A. Carey; Karen & Fred Ruymann; Colleen Cavanaugh & Philip Gschwend; Robert Beagan; Jason Pavel & Marie Walcott; Jane Parkin Kullman; S. Rosa Ryals; Wendy Skelton; Andrew Caplan & Elise Viebeck; Meg & Aaron Hastings; Katie & Bryce Remesch; Lenny & Lucy Schmolka; Rachel Ciprotti; Drew Wilkins; Ben Sweetser; Katie Ritcheske; Roger Klorese & David Haney; Dan Perkins; Dee Hellring & Charles Oransky; Paula & Bill Caplan; Yukiko Ueno Egozy; Lorna Gibson; Vicki & Andy Wittenstein; Penny Righthand; Meghan S. Guidry; Yvette Nameth; Jill & Ian Reiss; Michael Markowski; Vivian & Will Best; Barbara Turen; Ann MacDonald; Adena & Bill Frank; Isadel Eddy; Kyle Polite; Tootie Larios & George McCarthy; Leslie Jacobson Kaye & Richard Kaye; Alexandra Levin, Reese May & Solomon May; Josh Schanker; Catherine Wee; Arlene Stevens; Jennifer Jaggi; Lori K. Sanders & Jennifer A. Lewis; David & Kristina Salaverry; Julia Scott Carey & Richard Mitrano; Matthew Kusulas & Jack Tamburri; Jaime Alberts, in loving memory of Susan Alberts; Christine Percheski; Cristina Maniu; Amy Bekkerman; Min Zhang; and Stephan Quan.

# Credits

## PRODUCERS

Jon Saxton & Barbara Fox  
Elizabeth A. Dean

## MUSIC

All music written by Oliver Caplan  
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## MUSICIANS

Julia Scott Carey, piano (1-9)  
Nick Southwick, flute (7-9)  
Wolcott Humphrey, clarinet (1-3, 7-9)  
Jennifer Bill, saxophone (4-6)  
Anne Howarth, horn (7-9)  
Minjin Chung, cello (1-3, 7-9)  
Thomas Barth, cello (4-6)

## AUDIO

Recorded & mixed by John Weston  
Recorded at Futura Productions  
Roslindale, MA

## ARTWORK

Photography: James P. Jones  
Design: Catherine Headen

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Published in the United States



OLIVER CAPLAN  
*music*



## *Juventas New Music Ensemble*

Juventas New Music Ensemble is a contemporary chamber group with a special focus on emerging voices. Juventas shares classical music as a vibrant, living art form, bringing audiences music from a diverse array of composers who live in today's world and respond to our time.

Since its founding in 2005, Juventas has performed the music of more than 200 living composers. The ensemble has earned a reputation as a curator with a keen eye for new talent. It opens doors for composers with top-notch professional performances that present their work in the best possible light.

Recognition for the ensemble's work includes the American Prize Ernst Bacon Award for Performance of American Music and support from the National Endowment for the Arts, Massachusetts Cultural Council, and Boston Foundation.



## *Oliver Caplan*

Award-winning American composer Oliver Caplan writes melodies that nourish our souls, offering a voice of hope in an uncertain world. Inspired by the resiliency of the human spirit and beauty of the natural world, his music celebrates stories of social justice, conservation and community.

Mr. Caplan's works have been performed in over 200 performances nationwide. He has been commissioned by the Atlanta Chamber Players, Bella Piano Trio, Bronx Arts Ensemble, Brookline Symphony Orchestra, Columbia University Wind Ensemble and New Hampshire Master Chorale, among others. Winner of a Special Citation for the American Prize in Orchestral Composition, additional recognitions include two Veridian Symphony Competition Wins, the Fifth House Ensemble Competition Grand Prize, eight ASCAP Awards, and fellowships at Ragdale, VCCA, and the Brush Creek Foundation. Additional recordings of Mr. Caplan's music include his 2017 release *You Are Not Alone*, which has been featured on Apple Music's Classical A-list and streamed over 200,000 times; 2012 debut album *Illuminations*; and tracks on Trio Siciliano's *Exploring Music* (2018, U07 Records) and the Sinfonietta of Riverdale's *New World Serenade* (2016, Albany Records).

A leader in the field of contemporary classical music, Mr. Caplan is the Artistic Director of Juventas New Music Ensemble, the only professional ensemble of its kind devoted specifically to the music of emerging composers. Mr. Caplan holds degrees from Dartmouth College and the Boston Conservatory, is a voting member of the Recording Academy, and resides in Medford, Massachusetts.



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OLIVER CAPLAN  
*composer*

OLIVER CAPLAN,

# *Watershed*

JUVENTAS NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE

1-3 *In the Direction of Dreams*

I. WALDEN POND 6:19

II. ADAMS WOODS 4:43

III. FAIRHAVEN BAY 6:22

clarinet, cello, piano

4-6 *Willow Spring Path*

I. RIPPLING LAKE 4:47

II. TOWERING PINES 6:12

III. RETURN OF THE WARBLERS 4:38

saxophone, cello, piano

7-9 *Watershed*

I. TURN 8:16

II. CALM 6:49

III. FLOW 7:32

flute, clarinet, French horn, cello, piano

[www.olivercaplan.com](http://www.olivercaplan.com)

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