

The need is clear, in black and white. We are bruited. Our passages are raw, blocked. And we cannot continue this way.

There are ways to unite.

We can be connected by love.

We can understand each other by communicating.

And we can be healed by music.

With that in mind Imani Winds has assembled these musical selections, all written for the ensemble, to bring us together through intentionally relevant compositions, performances, and programming.

- Imani Winds 2020

Pianist, educator, and composer Vijay Iyer wrote **Bruits** at the Hermitage Artist Retreat in Sarasota, FL in 2014. It was during the time of the trial where George Zimmerman used the “Stand Your Ground” law as a defense for the killing of a young black man named Trayvon Martin. Vijay put his experience into the piece of being in Florida at the time of the trial and the way the world changed around that trial. Imani Winds is joined by powerhouse pianist Corey Smythe for this recording.

The Light is the Same was written when Imani Winds resolved to commission works that tell stories speaking to current times. Reena Email wrote this work from the Hindustani perspective as a companion piece for a new quintet arrangement of Gustav Holst’ The Planets, which celebrated its centennial in 2016. Reena wrote the piece when she was “...trying to make sense of what was happening in our country and in our world” at the end of the year. The title comes from a poem by the Sufi poet Rumi:

Religions are many
But God is one
The lamps may be different
But the Light is the same

Another centennial birthday happened in 2015 for African-American historian John Hope Franklin. Duke University commissioned composer and pianist Frederic Rzewski to write a work celebrating Dr. Franklin’s life as a teacher, scholar, and civic/political leader. In the composition **Sometimes**, Rzewski de-constructed the spiritual “Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child” into a fragmented theme and variations. Janai Brugger lent her voice to the recording on Rzewski’s setting of lyrics by Langston Hughes, and Dr. Franklin’s words at the beginning of the piece are read on this recording by his son, John Whittington Franklin.

When listening to this recording please take it with the spirit in which it was intended, as a tie that binds music makers and listeners with honesty and understanding.