



## ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Adventure-composer Stephen Lias's passion for wilderness and outdoor pursuits has led to a growing series of works about the national parks of the United States. He has served as Artist-in-Residence at Rocky Mountain, Glacier, Denali, Glacier Bay, and Gates of the Arctic National Parks, and has written over a dozen park-related pieces that have been performed on concerts and recitals in such places as Colorado, Texas, Sydney, and Taiwan. He is the founder and leader of Alaska Geographic's annual "Composing in the Wilderness" field seminar.

The grandeur of the central valley of Yosemite National Park is indelibly etched in the American consciousness (even for those who have never stood there) through the unforgettable photographs of Ansel Adams. John Muir called these mountains the "Range of Light" and Adams used that phrase as the title of his 1979 volume of Yosemite photos. Those images served as the inspiration for this piece.

### HALL OF THE WHITE GIANT (2012)

Brad Meyer (marimba)

One of the more strenuous and adventurous places to visit at Carlsbad Caverns National Park is the Hall of the White Giant. Far off the public walkways, this four-hour adventure is a real spellunking trip replete with muddy scrambles, exhausting climbs, clothing-ripping tight spaces, and (of course) amazing rock formations as the reward.

### DENALI (2011)

Russian String Orchestra  
(formerly Chamber Orchestra Kremlin),  
Misha Rachlevsky, Music Director

In 2011 I had the privilege of being the first composer ever to serve as Artist-in-Residence at Denali National Park. This rare opportunity to commune with nature, watch wildlife, hike the tundra, and be reminded of my own smallness was a deeply inspirational experience. I have returned every year since.

### RIVER RUNNER (2009)

I. Lajitas  
II. The Sentinel  
III. Rock Slide

In 2009 some friends and I experienced the stark beauty and physical challenges of paddling Santa Elena Canyon in Big Bend National Park. We came away with indelible memories of the remote landscape and the feelings of fear, excitement, and awe it inspired. Trombonist Deb Scott was with us on that trip, and this piece was written for her.

### THE GHOSTS OF MESA VERDE (2013)

Christina Guenther and Jennifer Keeney (flutes)

Anyone who has ever visited the cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde National Park knows the eerie emptiness that pervades this unusual location. This piece imagines a tentative descent into an ancient kiva where the past comes to life in a vibrant and exuberant dance, then evaporates suddenly as smoke flies up the chimney and out into the night.

### RANGE OF LIGHT (2014)

I. Winter Sunrise  
II. Vernal Falls  
III. Jeffrey Pine  
IV. Clearing Winter Storm

## ABOUT THE MUSIC

This CD made possible by the generous support of the SFA College of Fine Arts, George and Peggy Schmidbauer, and the kindness of many contributors including:

Teresa Allison	Chris Jackson
Nancy Andrew	Ed and Zelma Lias
Ken and Kay Awtrey	The Maletsky Family
Russell Cannon	George Middlebrook
Kris Capps	Tara Perrien
Graham Connor	Chuck and Pam Phillips
David and Sheila Cowee	David and Kay Phillips
Campbell Cox	Joe Phillips
Cees Degroot	Lenard and Boots Sowell
John Dodd	Cynthia Walsh-Lemle
NJ Gates	Val and Mike Winkelman
A. C. 'Buddy' Himes	Joshua Zinn

**DENALI** recorded and edited at the GDRZ – State House of Radio and Audio Recordings, Moscow by Alexander Volkov.

All other pieces recorded in Nacogdoches, TX by Kevin Kelleher, Mike Waggoner, Adelaide Harber, Steve Sanchez, and Ryan Davis.

Technical assistance provided by Kevin Kelleher and Byron Reinhardt.

Editing and mastering by Chad Jacobsen.

Graphic design by Hilary Dana Walrod.

Cover photo by Zelma Lias. Profile photo by Stephen Wood.

# ENCOUNTERS

music inspired by our national parks

STEPHEN LIAS

ENCOUNTERS

TC-2046

Stephen Lias, composer

2016  
National Park Service  
CENTENNIAL



1-3

**RIVER RUNNER** (for trombone and piano)

Big Bend National Park

Deb Scott and Ron Petti

4

**THE GHOSTS OF MESA VERDE** (for flute duo)

Mesa Verde National Park

Christina Guenther and Jennifer Keeney

5-8

**RANGE OF LIGHT** (for saxophone and piano)

Yosemite National Park

Nathan Nabb and James Pitts

9

**HALL OF THE WHITE GIANT** (for marimba)

Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Brad Meyer

10

**DENALI** (for string orchestra)

Denali National Park and Preserve

Russian String Orchestra

(formerly Chamber Orchestra Kremlin),

Misha Rachlevsky, Music Director

tealcreekmusic.com

Inquiries and Sheet Music: stephenlias.com

© Copyright 2015 by Alias Press

TC-2046