FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 24, 2022

SoundCheckEarth
AN IMMERSIVE SONIC EXPERIENCE INSIDE JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

A Harrison House Music, Arts & Ecology Production
In association with Joshua Tree National Park

Friday, April 22, 2022
6:06AM, 10:00AM, 11:30AM

Saturday, April 23, 2022
2:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:06PM

Cap Rock
Joshua Tree National Park
“Kennedy is an inspired musician. It's a skill that I cannot even begin to grasp, but he comes to a place like this and he looks at a Mojave Yucca, he looks at the Joshua Tree and instead of seeing the botanical name, instead of seeing the adaptations to the Mojave desert, he sees how the wind caresses the branches, he sees and hears how the nature of the rock makes a sound, he can hear the sound of the seeds as they drop to the ground and he can incorporate that into the music that he’s doing— and that is for me, a really, really exciting aspect of this project.”

- David Smith, Superintendent of Joshua Tree National Park

“You know, these days when I write music, I try to write about real stuff that's going down and real experiences, as opposed to how I'm feeling. There's a great segue into Listen [the final piece in the composition]. It doesn't matter what we're doing. If we're not listening to ourselves, if we're not listening to the Earth, if we're not listening just in general, then none of the rest of this matters. That moment of reflection, where you’re just silent and you’re quiet and you receive, you know, what is perceived as to be nothing, but just the simple sounds around you.”

- Kennedy Verrett, Harrison House Composing Fellow

A Harrison House Music, Arts & Ecology Production in association with Joshua Tree National Park. SoundCheckEarth will lead listeners into the natural world where the earth, humans and animals are part of the soundscape inside the pristine beauty of Joshua Tree National Park. A site-specific immersive acoustic concert composed by Kennedy Verrett for 17 acoustic instruments, SoundCheckEarth will provide a strolling audience on the half mile walking path at Cap Rock with wondrous deep listening sensations. An unprecedented sonic event within the Park, coupled with the monumental beauty of the landscape – a bassoon player sheltered by a Joshua Tree, percussionists perched on boulders, strings, woodwinds and brass resonating with the rocks – SoundCheckEarth will create an unforgettable experience for those lucky enough to attend. A film by Eva Soltes will follow.

Contact: Devyn White, press.harrisonhouse@gmail.com for interviews, features, and other press queries concerning SoundCheckEarth. Press Kit Photos
For more information, visit louharrisonhouse.org
Composed by Kennedy Verrett (he/him/they/them)

Kennedy is an innovative composer and music educator whose imaginative works capture beauty, rhythmic energy, and melodic interest. Inspired by composers who have preceded him including Lou Harrison, Julius Eastman, and Harry Partch, Kennedy has performed with many ensembles and as a conductor for orchestras, including the Monroe Symphony Orchestra and Fullerton Woodwind Quintet, with whom he also played bassoon and contrabassoon. Additionally, Kennedy performs on piano and an assortment of exotic instruments, including didjeridu and duduk and can be heard on various soundtrack recordings. Kennedy’s orchestrations and arrangements can be found in films such as Deliver Us From Evil (Screen Gems), The Monkey King, Priest (Screen Gems), and Drag Me To Hell (Universal). Kennedy is a 2020-2022 composing fellow at the Harrison House.
Kennedy Verrett and Joshua Tree National Park staff by Eva Soltes

Short video of Kennedy Verrett’s Residency at Harrison House by Eva Soltes
**Director: Eva Soltes** (she/her)

Eva Soltes is the Founder/Director of Harrison House Music, Arts & Ecology. A Performance & Media Arts Professional, Soltes has produced and/or directed nearly one thousand music, dance, theater and media works for national and international audiences. Soltes has also produced original work by gifted, often unknown, artists and documented historical figures who would otherwise have been under-recognized. She has worked closely with dozens of composers including Lou Harrison, Conlon Nancarrow, Terry Riley and John Cage.

As a filmmaker her projects include: Producer/Director of *Lou Harrison: A World of Music*, a feature length documentary about the acclaimed American composer Lou Harrison (1917 – 2003); American Producer of *West Coast Story: Frontiers of New Music*, a three-part BBC TV production featuring the history of California composers including John Adams, John Cage, Lou Harrison, Henry Cowell and Harry Partch; Tour Producer/Co-Producer of *Saxophone Diplomacy*, a broadcast work featuring The Rova Saxophone Quartet performing in the former Soviet Union during the Regan era; Producer/Director/Editor of *On Conlon Nancarrow*, a multi-image short portraying ex-patriot composer Conlon Nancarrow (the first artist to receive a MacArthur award) which Soltes completed as an Artist-in-Residence at The Centre Pompidou. In addition to her work as a filmmaker, she is Founder/Director of Harrison House Music, Arts & Ecology, in Joshua Tree, California where her extensive media archive is available to researchers.
Eva Soltes at SoundCheckEarth Rehearsal by Deborah Strong

Official Event Page: https://louharrisonhouse.org/soundcheckearth/

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