

## MICHAEL JOEL BOSCO

Michael Joel Bosco is a multi-instrumentalist, writer, and educator from New Haven, CT.

As a drummer, he has toured North America with members of The Decemberists, performed session work at Fame Studios, and been featured in the World Science Festival at Jazz at Lincoln Center. His sound design has been featured by Apple, the Cannes Short Film Festival, the NewFilmakers NY Film Festival, and the New Haven Arts & Ideas Festival. Michael is Artist-in-Residence at Arts High School in Newark, New Jersey and maintains a private percussion studio in his home state. He is a proud member of the Vic Firth Education Team.

In 2012 Michael co-organized the Dalai Lama's visit to Connecticut, inspiring the collaborative volume *Creativity and Compassion: How They Come Together* (Karuna Publications) which he produced alongside chaos theorist John Briggs. Michael's poems and essays are published in anthologies nationwide and he continues to write on the subjects of consciousness and the natural world, most recently working with Indigenous elders in the Lakota and Otomi-Toltec traditions to transcribe their teachings for a Western audience.

Michael is co-founder of Ambitious Music, a production company specializing in audio engineering solutions for young artists, and sits on the board of the Center for Compassion and Creativity in collaboration with the Albert Schweitzer Institute at Quinnipiac University.

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When asked by a reporter what his famous poem *The Road Not Taken* means, poet Robert Frost quipped "What, do you want me to say it again in worse English?" He was reacting to the misconception that is the basis of literary theory: that art exists to convey meaning, that concealed beneath its multitudinous veneers lies an explicit message to be uncovered and a causal-chain connection to the life of the artist. This reductionist way of thinking, ubiquitous in arts criticism, breaks up a work of art into lifeless chunks and leaves it for dead like a disemboweled buffalo left to rot on the prairie.

In his essay *Slaying the Beast of the Known*, author John Briggs tells us that "The critic searches for the meaning of a work. By contrast, the artist strives for meaningfulness rather than meaning. Meaningfulness evades meaning, even rejects it. Meaningfulness is an encounter with something profound, important, potentially life changing, but elusive. Compared to meaningfulness, meaning is superficial."

Instead of talking about some hidden meaning in this piece, I invite you to consider the Native notion of **reciprocity**.

Reciprocity: a microcosm of how all things depend on all other things for their existence and how each individual is inseparable from all other individuals. Briggs says that “Reciprocity calls on you to join the circulation of abundance, offering your attention, acknowledgement and relationship. In that way you’re doing your bit to keep things moving. You have been given energy by the universe; you are called upon to put that energy back into circulation.”

This is that: a chance to put into circulation some of the many unreleased demos I’ve recorded over the years with close friends, my two young nieces, and vocalists from Arts High School in Newark, New Jersey, who I am honored to produce.

It is my way of keeping things moving.

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Featuring performances by: Natalie Fernandez, Mila Sherman, Sara Bosco, Sarah Mae Lagasca, Sara Azriel, Jonah Tolchin, Jordan Putt, Danny Roaman, Matthew Murphy, Aaliyah Watts, Jaheim Herring, Jesayra Quinones, Lia Santana, Crickets, Frogs, Birds, Rain, and me.