



Oil on Ice is a vivid, compelling and comprehensive documentary directed by Bo Boudart & Dale Djerassi, connecting the fate of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to decisions America makes about energy policy, transportation choices, and other seemingly unrelated matters. Caught in the balance are the culture and livelihood of the Gwich'in people and the migratory wildlife in this fragile ecosystem.

This soundtrack features Grammy-nominated cellist, Joan Jeanrenaud on cello along with William Susman on piano and keyboards. Vocalist Adeline Peter Raboff, a prize-winning author and Gwich'in environmental activist the film singing a folk song, "Shik'eenoohtii" (Take Care of Me) with a melody by John Luther Adams. The music evokes a powerful and vivid soundscape of life and conflict in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Note from the Composer:

It's always a joy for a composer to have a great musician play one's score. When Dale Djerassi, co-director/producer of Oil On Ice, suggested that Joan Jeanrenaud play the cello part, I enthusiastically agreed. Not only is Joan a renowned and brilliant performer; she is wonderful to work with in the studio. Joan added so much expression and emotion to the recording. Some of the cello lines are truly virtuosic in the use of harmonics and extended techniques, yet Joan often achieved what I had imagined on the first take. In some sections where we needed an ethereal timbre or improvisatory effect, she knew exactly how to create it. Joan totally understood my intentions with the music. Her interpretation is stunning and deeply moving.

An amazing coincidence occurred during the recording session at Fantasy Studios in Berkeley. Dale got a call from Adeline Peter Raboff, the Gwich'in activist who has a lead role in the film. Adeline told him she was driving through San Francisco from Fairbanks on her way to visit her daughter in Los Angeles. Dale told her to stop by and listen to the session.

I immediately thought of several places where Adeline could participate to add her haunting voice. When Adeline arrived at the studio, she told us she had some Alaskan native rattles made from caribou hooves in the back of her car. We recorded her performing this unique percussion instrument as well. Sometimes serendipitous events are not to be believed!

This was not Adeline's only contribution to the music. At the outset of the film, she sings "Shik'eenoohti" by Alaskan composer John Luther Adams. I used the pitch material from the song as a starting point for the themes in my score. I like to create an organic connection between what is already on screen and what I can contribute giving the dramatic underscore more meaning and an intrinsic value to the film.

The themes suggested themselves as I watched the film a few times. I began to realize that there were three key dramatic elements that I could focus on: The Wilderness, The Community, and The Imminent Threat. Once I composed my three themes, I applied them to appropriate scenes. I would vary their sound, with respect to the picture, by altering for example their harmony, tempo, and instrumentation.

I would like to thank co-director/producers Bo Boudart and Dale Djerassi and executive producer Steve Michelson for their support in the creation of this score and album.

About the Performers:

JOAN JEANRENAUD cellist

Joan Jeanrenaud is best known for the more than 2,000 concerts she performed throughout the world during her impressive tenure with the Kronos Quartet. Jeanrenaud left Kronos in 1999 to pursue different artistic directions including solo and collaborative projects. As a solo artist she has premiered more than twenty compositions written for her. Since 1999, she has composed many works for cello including *Be With*, which won the Isadora Duncan Dance Award for best composition in 2001-02.

WILLIAM SUSMAN composer & performer

The innovative and evocative music of William Susman can be heard both in the concert hall and on film. Mr. Susman's music integrates diverse influences spanning the western classical and jazz tradition to science and numerology. Rhythm plays a strong role in his music through musical devices such as the Afro-Cuban *Montuño*, Medieval Hocket and Isorhythm. His orchestral works are frequently performed throughout the world. He has scored a variety of documentaries over the past several years and has received international recognition through awards and commissions. Many acclaimed soloists have performed and recorded his music.

Awards:

WINNER Pare Lorentz Award - 2004 International Documentary Association

WINNER Best Film Score - 2005 Moondance International Film Festival

WINNER Best Film Score - 2006 Park City Film Music Festival

OIL ON ICE – ALBUM TRACK TIMES

1. Main Title - Arctic Circle* 3:50
2. The River - Map - Part of this Tundra 5:00
3. Treasure - 12 Years After - At the Time 4:19
4. Learning About Caribou - Arctic Village 3:39
5. Coastal Plain - Inupiat Hunters 4:06
6. We Started to Notice - Depend on the Land 3:02
7. Not Everyone - Reunion* 2:39
8. What Goes On 2:11
9. The First Signs - The Issue 4:41
10. Bi-Fuel 3:06
11. Alternatives - End Credits* 3:56

ALBUM CREDITS:

MUSICIANS

Joan Jeanrenaud, cello
Adeline Peter Raboff, vocals*
William Susman, piano and keyboards

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Produced by William Susman

Recorded, mixed and mastered by Stephen Hart
Fantasy Studios, Berkeley, CA on May 5 & 6, 2004