



DAWN AVERY

GRAMMY nominated world music artist Dawn Avery creates a contemporary soundscape using electronic, pop and classical elements. Her sultry vocals and soaring cello lines reflect a deep spirituality rooted in her Native American heritage and appreciation of many sacred traditions.

Avery has worked with musical luminaries Luciano Pavarotti, Sting, Phillip Glass, John Cage, John Cale, and R. Carlos Nakai. She toured the world playing Delta Blues with the Soldier String Quartet and Persian Funk with Sussan Deyhim. She has performed with orchestras, opera companies and Broadway musicals. A prolific composer, active performer and improviser, she is also an award-winning educator and ethnomusicologist.

Avery's recent projects and recordings include the Global Music Award winning CD *50 Shades of Red* (2014). Tara Gatewood of "Native America Calling" said this downtempo work represents a new genre in Native American music.

"To many in Indian country, GRAMMY and NAMA-nominated Mohawk musician Dawn Avery is an immutable force. Avery's life's purpose is to connect Native individuals with their culture and Indigenous identity through music." Tony Enos, *Indian Country Today*, August 29, 2017

"What really added to the joy I felt during this production was the score written and performed by Montgomery College Professor/Composer Dawn Avery (on the violoncello and voice), and her band of excellent musicians... What a pleasure to hear this beautiful score played live with so much love." Joel Markowitz, *DC Metro Theater Arts*, May 3, 2016

"Dawn Avery's original compositions blend elements of classical, Native and world music. Avery's music flows beautifully."

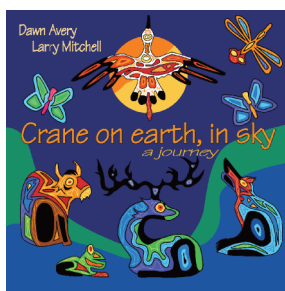
J. Poet, *Native Peoples Magazine*, November 2013

"As a globally known cellist, she's sharing her dream of cultural memory through music with the world. She can make her cello sound like the cosmic spirituality of Jimi Hendrix, the classically infused fury of Metallica or the vocal falsetto of the indigenous peoples of the Turtle Island plains."

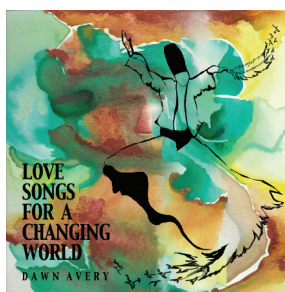
Jon Thompson, *Kenora Daily Miner and News*, February 29, 2012

"Cellist Dawn Avery, who has an extensive background in contemporary music of all genres, was indefatigable in drawing out a colorful menagerie of sounds. Like Tanya Anisimova and Maya Beiser, she is able to sing and play cello simultaneously, and keened to great effect in several of the pieces. Like Matt Haimovitz, she channeled Jimi Hendrix when imitating a distorted-feedback, electric guitar rendition of the national anthem... an evocative tapestry of history and sound."

Robert Battey, *The Washington Post*, November 8, 2007



In 2017, she released another Global Music Award winning album. *Crane on Earth, in Sky: a Journey* was written for the (sold out) off-Broadway play, "Ajijaack on Turtle Island." The music and play, produced by Heather Henson of the Jim Henson legacy, are inspired by Native American storytelling and music, presenting strong environmental themes and introducing important cultural symbols.



Her next release *Love Songs for a Changing World* (2018) features chill wave music compositions inspired by Mohawk and Sufi dervish traditions. On these and many projects, Avery collaborates and performs with Grammy Award winning producer/guitarist Larry Mitchell.

Dawn Avery looks for opportunities to make a positive difference through music, with projects that are highly spiritual and communicate positive messages that benefit Native communities, women, the environment and the promotion of peace.



Photographs of "Ajijaack on Turtle Island" taken by Carol Rosegg for IBEX Puppetry

DAWN AVERY

AWARD WINNING EDUCATOR

Rarely are performers as at home in Lincoln Center as they are in an Iroquois Longhouse. Committed to Indigenous language and cultural preservation as a musician, educator and participant of Longhouse ceremonies, Avery leads workshops and produces projects as part of the Native Composer's Project. Of Mohawk descent, Dawn Avery's Indian name is Ieriho:kwats and she wears the turtle clan. Her album, *Our Fire: Contemporary Native American Songs* (2011), won several nominations in the Indian Summer Awards, New Mexico Music Awards, and Native American Music Awards.

In addition to touring her spiritual downtempo projects (featuring dance, film, storytelling and ritual), Avery has toured with the North American Indian Cello Project, premiering contemporary classical works by Native composers. She has collected awards for her own classical compositions from Duke University, the Ford Foundation's Indigenous Knowledge, Expressive Culture grant program (of the American Composers Forum), the Smithsonian's Museum of the American Indian, American Dance Festival, Washington Flute Association, NYU and Meet the Composer, among others.

Nurturing future generations, Dawn Avery runs a world music program at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland where she is a full professor. She holds a BM from the Manhattan School of Music, a MFA from NYU and a PhD in ethnomusicology from the University of Maryland, College Park with primary research in Native classical contemporary composition and the application of Indigenous research techniques and theory. Dr. Avery received the 2011 United States Professor of the Year award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Avery is experienced at giving lectures and workshops for all levels and ages. Students, teachers and community leaders find her to be personable and engaging, with a hands-on style of communicating. She can provide workshops for university and graduate school programs or serve as a guest teacher for music classes at elementary and secondary schools. Below are suggested subject areas. Program hosts are welcome to suggest additional topics.

WORKSHOPS and LECTURES:

- ◆ Indigenous Contemporary Music and Traditional Influences
- ◆ Sacred and Indigenous Music
- ◆ World Music and Meditation
- ◆ World Music Composition and Improvisation
- ◆ Contemporary Performance Techniques