

Hanblecheyapi (2018)

By Melissa Foss Hyatt (1983)

"I was standing on the highest mountain of them all, and round about beneath me was the whole hoop of the world. And while I stood there I saw more than I can tell and I understood more than I saw; for I was seeing in a sacred manner the shapes of all things in the spirit, and the shape of all shapes as they must live together like one being."

Black Elk, Sioux-Lakota Holy Man

In the Sioux-Lakota Tradition, *Hanblecheyapi* is the ritual of the Vision Quest, where the initiate calls upon Wakan Tanka (the Great Spirit or Great Mystery) to receive a sacred vision of the underlying unity of all Creation. This composition is rooted in the concept of the Integral Musician developed by the Orchestra of Indigenous Instruments and New Technologies, which proposes the possibility that the creative process, when it involves and develops all facets of the person, can become a *path of knowledge* akin to what spiritual traditions call an initiation.

"Hanblecheyapi" was composed with digital technology, voice and indigenous instruments of the three Americas, which were constructed and played by the composer. It is based on a Sioux-Lakota prayer text, and the vocal development explores ancestral melodies and vocal techniques of native North American tribes.

Biography

Born in the United States in 1983, she received her Bachelor's Degree in Art History from James Madison University.

She has been residing in Argentina since 2009, studying Composition under Alejandro Iglesias Rossi and Julieta Szewach and obtaining her Master's Degree in Musical Creation, New Technologies and Traditional Arts at the National University of Argentina at Tres de Febrero, in 2018.

Her composition "*Hanblecheyapi*" (also her Master's Thesis) received the First Prize in the Contemporary Music Category from the Tribune of Composers of the Argentine National Music Council.

She is a member of the Orchestra of Indigenous Instruments and New Technologies as well as a researcher at the Center for Research and Creation in Traditional and Avant Garde Arts of the National University of Argentina at Tres de Febrero.

Since 2010 she has formed part of the non-profit Arts organisation *Graffitimundo* (she is currently its partner Manager and Director of its Art Gallery UNION) with the mission to celebrate Argentine urban art. She co-produced the organization's feature-length documentary "*White Walls Say Nothing*", which just received the Award for Best Feature-Length Documentary Debut at the [Master of Art Film Festival](#) in Sofia, Bulgaria in April 2019.