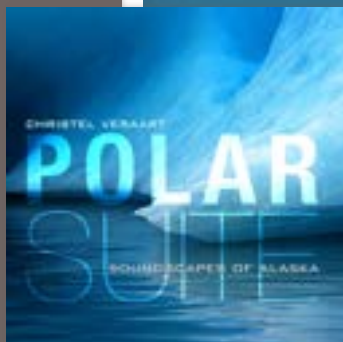


POLAR SUITE

"Strong and fluid sounds
invite the impulse of
movement to be realized"
- Elisa Monte



"Exciting to hear the
Alaskan landscape so
aptly and movingly
given voice"
- Carl Ramm

"Incredibly evocative and well
suited for film and dance"
- Rasmuson Foundation

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...To the soft tones of a distant orchestra, a lonely duduk and cello emerge into the foreground. Voice plays a prominent yet wordless role as if the overwhelming beauty of the landscape has rendered you speechless...

Christel Veraart is a composer, musician and singer. She writes music inspired by landscapes, exploring emotional connections with the natural world and how that shapes moods, dreams and interactions. She has recorded a number of albums and her music has been featured in film and dance productions.

Polar Suite is her latest CD and its fifteen original compositions are inspired by the breathtaking beauty of the Alaskan landscape. Christel Veraart thanks the Rasmuson Foundation for their generous support of this project.

Parts of **Polar Suite** were adapted for dance. They premiered in São Paulo and have since been performed extensively throughout Brazil.

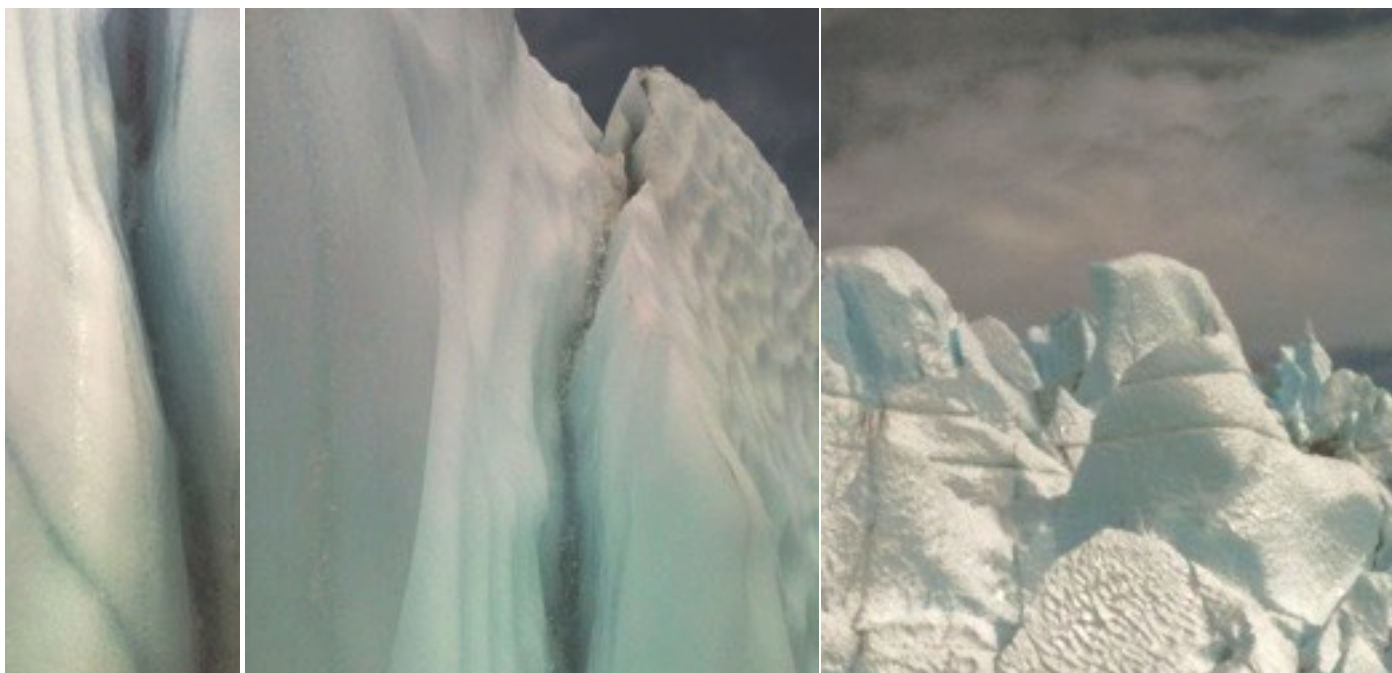
Polar Suite takes you to places where few people ever go and unveils the vast and icy flats that seem to stretch out into infinity to evoke your limitless dreams.

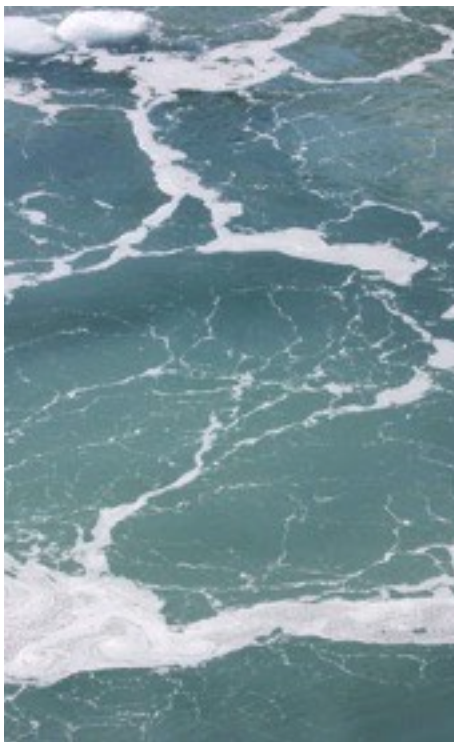
COMPOSITIONS

Alyeska (9.58) is what you hear, see, and feel when everything turns quiet. It is about exploring the outer reaches of inner space and to unveil the vastness of the Polar landscape.

Ice (4.30) Impetuous rhythmical patterns reflect the impermanence of ice, of life in the Arctic, thus creating an atmosphere of transience that excludes all permanence.

Winter Solstice (6.39) captures the intensity of winter, when days are cloaked in darkness and we are inclined to reflect upon our lives. The journey of a lonesome cello who, while surrendering to the elements of the Arctic winter, is reminded of how much landscape and emotion are intertwined.





Midwinter Dream (1.11) In the depth of winter a deep yearning for warmer shores is often present. African marimba, piano and latin beats make you dream of days when walking around barefoot.

Faint (1.34) illustrates the dim, gentle light of winter while walking through the snow.

Inua (3.46) This incantation captures the Arctic peoples idea that human and animals are equal and all life has the same kind of soul or "life essence".

Faint (1.34) Illustrates the dim, gentle light of winter while walking through the snow.

Aurora (4.17) Soft, dreamy and slow - morphing shapes to draw you in while trembling strings paint there magic in the sky.

Polar Moon (6.29) - a cosmic play of transformation from darkness into light where wildly varying percussive sounds



and soaring strings struggle to find their balance.

Arctic Winds (4.06) An otherworldly duet of voice and duduk evokes the Arctic vastness where there is no place for words. As the wind passes over the snowy surface of the tundra, the air is purified and sanctified by mantras. Accepting that all beings are part of a greater ongoing cycle, the music concludes in a wild and echoed celebration that embraces the world.

Nanuq (4.44) Low and dramatic strings accompany the polar bear's lonely quest over the endless tundras and icy flats up in the arctic. Lonely, majestic, powerful and mighty, Nanuq is by some considered almost human.

Wolf Totem (4.15) Native drumming, followed by chanting, voice their request for guidance from the animal spirit of the wolf. Following the ancient *Polaris* star in

the heavens, they sing: *Home of ancients, shine your light. Totem speak to me!* Never forgetting the proper balance within nature - '*Light his trail, his ashen guise*', expresses the fear and awe this powerful spirit instills.

Sedna (4.01) Based on a legend where *Sedna* depicts the sea goddess who holds dominion over all marine creatures and controls the availability of them to Inuit hunters. Rituals must be followed to appease this goddess, and if no fish are caught, their shaman transforms into a fish. Transformed he will then comb the tangles out of *Sedna's* hair. All this to soothe and calm her anger.

Siku (4.40) means ice and features the different sounds of it. The first layer of thin ice that forms on puddles in the fall, a skim of ice, but also new ice appearing on the sea and rock surfaces.

Awaken (3.45) Icy piano sounds represent 'break up' time, when snow and ice start to melt. A guitar adds warmth as soon as birds start building their nests, a clear sign of the ending of a long winter to make room for nature's new season.

Celebration of Spring (4.11) A celebration of longer days, budding trees and landscapes that finally are turning green. Exuberant, cheerful and sparkling, with the vibrance and energy of spring.

