

2023 MTNA National Conference, Nugget Casino Resort - Reno, Nevada

**NATIVE AMERICAN LEGACY**  
**The Music of Louis W. Ballard (Quapaw/Cherokee)**

A Lecture-Performance presented by pianist Roberta Rust  
Saturday, March 25, 2023

**BIOGRAPHY**

Louis Wayne Ballard (Honga-nó-zhe “Stands with Eagles”)

Born: Devil’s Promenade (near Miami, OK) July 8, 1931

Died: Santa Fe, NM, Feb. 9, 2007

Education: Seneca Indian Training School (age 6), valedictorian and named outstanding graduate of his high school class (1949), University of Tulsa (BM Music Theory and BME Music Education 1954), teachers (Stefan Bardos, piano and Béla Rósz, composition). University of Tulsa (MM composition - first American Indian to earn a graduate degree in composition, 1962), summer studies at the Aspen Music Festival 1963-69 with composers Darius Milhaud, Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Carlos Surinach and Felix Labunski. Honorary doctorates from College of Santa Fe (1973) and William Jewell College (2001).

Positions/Awards: Music Director Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) (1962-68), National Curriculum Specialist (Bureau of Indian Affairs) (1968-79), Distinguished Service Award US Central Office of Education and citation in the US Congressional Record (1975), Rockefeller and Ford Foundation grants, National Indian Achievement Awards (1972, ‘73, ‘76 and ‘93), McDowell Award for American Chamber Music (1969).

Major Premieres: Orchestral - *Scenes from Indian Life* (Howard Hanson premiered, Rochester, NY 1964), *Incident at Wounded Knee* (commissioned and premiered by Dennis Russell Davies/St. Paul Chamber Orchestra 1974 and at Carnegie Hall in 1999). Chamber - Woodwind quintet *Ritmo Indio* 1969, *Desert Trilogy* for mixed octet 1971 (nominated for a Pulitzer Prize). Ballet - *The Four Moons* 1967 (performed in Tulsa and Oklahoma City for the state’s 60th anniversary of statehood). Choral - *Portrait of Will* 1971 (Will Rogers Jr., narrator). Other premieres at Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Smithsonian Institution. Had entire program of his works performed in 1989 at the Beethovenhalle (Bonn, Germany).

Educational publications: American Indian Music for the Classroom, Oklahoma Indian Chants for the Classroom, Native American Indian Songs, Some Music

Lessons for American Indian Youngsters, Music of North American Indians, My Music Reaches the Sky (children's book), Articles ("Two Ogaxpa Robes Visit Home After 250 Years, But The Ogaxpas Don't Live There Anymore" and "Cultural Differences: A Major Theme in Cultural Enrichment").

Marriages/children: First marriage to Delores Lookout, second marriage to Ruth Doré. Three children.

## PIANO WORKS IN TODAY'S LECTURE

*The Four American Indian Preludes* (1963)  
*Concert Fantasies: A City of Silver* (1981) & *A City of Fire* (1984)

## RECORDING

*A City of Silver & A City of Fire, Premiere Performances of Concert Fantasies by Louis W. Ballard, Roberta Rust, piano*  
Navona Records (PARMA) NV6429  
Released: May 2022

## REFERENCES

Ballard, S. A. (2022) *Louis W. Ballard Memorial Page* [Website, [www.lwballard.com](http://www.lwballard.com)]  
Browner, T.C. (1995) *Transposing Cultures: The Appropriation of Native North American Musics 1890-1990* [Doctoral dissertation, University of Michigan]  
Crappell, C. (2008) *Native American Influence in the Piano Music of Louis W. Ballard* [Doctoral dissertation, University of Oklahoma]  
Ettinger, K.E. (2014) *Louis W. Ballard: Composer and Music Educator* [Doctoral dissertation, University of Florida].

## SCHOLAR CONTACT INFORMATION

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