

A MUSIC OF DIFFERENCE CD

Beauport
classical

AT THE ROOT OF IDENTITY

AND THE THREAT TO PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT

MUSIC OF DIFFERENCE ENSEMBLE

CATHERINE BRANCH Flute, Music of Difference Founder

ROBERT J. BRADSHAW Composer-in-Residence

Music of Difference PROJECT

As Robert J. Bradshaw and I embarked on the second chapter of our Music of Difference collaboration, we began to explore the concepts of expectations, assumptions, and their impact on people's lives. In my own experience studying and living disability, I have noticed how deeply societal expectations, family expectations, and resultant views of one's own self-efficacy can limit positive outcomes for people with disabilities. Our attitudes, perceptions, presumptions, and assumptions are powerful; they can have a dramatic impact on people's lives and (positive or negative) experiences. The relevance of this concept for members of minority populations is explored by Claude Steele in his extraordinary book, [Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We can Do.](#)

In *At the Root of Identity (and the threat to personal achievement)*, Robert J. Bradshaw has used Claude Steele's book as a platform to explore perceptions of difference through music. Where Steele's book has eleven chapters, Bradshaw's piece progresses through eleven movements, each of which explore a particular aspect of Steele's [Whistling Vivaldi.](#) Bradshaw's piece is a powerful, even visceral, work of art. It has served as a great instigator of conversations about the value of reframing and rethinking disability and diversity at Music of Difference events, and I am honored to share it with you here. Thank you for listening, sharing your ideas and reactions, and engaging in creative conversations about reframing disability and difference.

With gratitude,
Catherine Branch



Photograph by
Kate Lemmon

AT THE ROOT OF IDENTITY

and the threat to personal achievement

by Robert J. Bradshaw

- | | | |
|-----------|--|-------------|
| 1 | The first time I realized I was | 3:56 |
| 2 | Environment, and status in it, impacts individual achievement | 2:35 |
| 3 | Hammered, hammered, hammered | 2:03 |
| 4 | Adapting to the particular circumstances of our lives | 2:36 |
| 5 | There exists no group on earth that is not negatively stereotyped in some way | 2:01 |
| 6 | Our problems are not exclusively our own | 2:54 |
| 7 | Physiological Reaction: Elevated Heart Rate | 1:10 |
| 8 | Critical Mass | 3:32 |
| 9 | Hope Arises | 2:23 |
| 10 | Assumptions about the nature of people | 3:08 |
| 11 | Bridging the gap between us | 4:48 |

CATHERINE BRANCH

Catherine Branch is a passionate advocate of integrating disability advocacy and the arts. As a flutist with cerebral palsy, she holds a unique perspective on music's ability to act as an instigator of positive change. Ms. Branch is dedicated to exploring the arts as a vehicle to promote social inclusion for people with disabilities, and in 2008 was awarded a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship to research the role of art in social activism around the world. During her travels she began the "Music of Difference" project: a concert series whose goal is to encourage positive conversations about diversity. The first Music of Difference album debuted in 2011, and as the project grows, a dedication to championing the music of living composers remains at its core. Currently, in addition to working toward her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the Eastman School of Music, she is a research fellow of the national Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program. Ms. Branch works at the Institute for Innovative Transition at University of Rochester, an organization dedicated to supporting positive, informed transitions into adulthood for people with disabilities. Catherine and her colleagues work together to support inclusive higher education, competitive employment, and engaged, self-determined community living for people with disabilities.

ROBERT J. BRADSHAW

Robert J. Bradshaw's music, performed and recorded around the world, is infused with his desire to bring people together through music and to encourage positive conversations about the world around us, tolerance, acceptance and change. Central to this mission is his work with Catherine Branch as Composer-in-Residence for the Music of Difference project. Together, they are working to engage audiences in a new kind of concert experience that explores and encourages interaction through music, multimedia arts, and conversation. For more information about Mr. Bradshaw's work, visit www.robertjbradshaw.com.

CLAUDE M. STEELE, Whistling Vivaldi,
and
At the Root of Identity

At the Root of Identity was inspired by Claude M. Steele's remarkable book, Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do. Each movement explores a particular aspect of the corresponding chapter in relation to my own life - both personal experiences and watching my children, students and friends cope with the challenges of everyday life.

Central to the theme of this work is its relation to Catherine's experience living with diplegic cerebral palsy. It is important that we understand and accept that the words we use to describe ourselves and others play an important role in our ability to achieve at school, in the workplace, in relationships, and in all aspects of our lives.

Although often representing the challenges we all experience, this composition is (as I am) ever hopeful.

Robert J. Bradshaw

ABOUT MUSIC OF DIFFERENCE

Founded by flutist Catherine Branch, the Music of Difference project aims to transform the classical concert into a venue for positive conversations about disability and difference. From a concerto based on the rhythm of unconventional gaits to a piece exploring the impact of stereotype threat and expectations, the project's resident composer, Robert J. Bradshaw, has collaborated with Ms. Branch to encourage positive conversations about diversity through music.

Music of Difference had its premiere performance in 2009 at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in Australia. Since then, Ms. Branch, Mr. Bradshaw, and their colleagues have taken the project to stages, conferences, and classrooms around the United States, including the VSA International Disability Arts Convention in Washington, DC.

As the project evolves, a dedication to championing socially impactful music by living composers remains at its core.

To learn more about the project, visit www.musicofdifference.com, or connect with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MusicOfDifference.

A MUSIC OF DIFFERENCE CD

Performed by:

MUSIC OF DIFFERENCE ENSEMBLE

Catherine Branch, Flute

Quinn Lewis, Baritone Saxophone

Audrey Q. Snyder, Violoncello/Drum

Megan Arns, Percussion

Andrea Venet, Percussion

Robert J. Bradshaw, Laptop

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Artist VII

2014

TT: 31:07

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Robert J. Bradshaw

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personal achievement

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BC41318
TT 31:07



Music by **ROBERT J. BRADSHAW**
MUSIC OF DIFFERENCE ENSEMBLE
featuring **CATHERINE BRANCH** Flute

Music of
 Difference
PROJECT



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AT THE ROOT OF IDENTITYand the threat to personal achievement
by Robert J. Bradshaw

31:07

Performed by **MUSIC OF DIFFERENCE ENSEMBLE****QUINN LEWIS** Baritone Saxophone • **AUDREY Q. SNYDER** Violoncello**MEGAN ARNS** Percussion • **ANDREA VENET** Percussionfeaturing **CATHERINE BRANCH** Flute, Music of Difference Founder
and **ROBERT J. BRADSHAW** Composer-In-Residence

Artist VII • STEREO • BC41318 • TT 31:07

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