

another language

performing arts company

Season XXXI

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Spotlight



Clarion, Utah

By Brent Haddock

Clarion, Utah

This newsletter edition features the Ghost Town projects of Marden Pond:

As I have had multiple opportunities over the years to create commemorative musical works pertaining to pioneers – including ghost towns and the intrepid souls who created them – it has become apparent to me that my efforts are not just about the rubble of some pre-existing dwelling place, but about the real people who dwelt there and the struggles and conquests these people experienced in these places. My musical expressions have been an attempt to reach into the now-still hearts of these hearty trailblazers, to feel in my own heart what they might have experienced, and hopefully, to place in the hearts of my listeners at least a bit of the courage, determination, sorrow, joy or desperation, loneliness or community, that these people felt.

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I had become aware of the Clarion community in central Utah through a commission from the Utah Pioneer Heritage Arts association to create a single movement for the centennial celebration of the town held in 2011. (The project finally expanded to include a complete suite for viola and orchestra. I later had the privilege of visiting the site with a close friend and collaborator – photographer and printmaker, Brent Haddock – whose artistic vision further increased my awareness and love of this hallowed townsite.) Learning of this town introduced me to a whole culture of which I had been unaware – a Jewish agrarian community that struggled for five years to establish itself near Gunnison, Utah. I was so deeply moved by their cause, by their persistence, and by the ultimate collapse of their undertaking. The physical remnants of this community now include only a few crumbling building foundations, a tumble-down cistern, and a tiny cemetery; but the idealism and grit of these people, along with their enduring faith and ongoing persistence, have left an indelible reverence and gratitude for their efforts. In addition, the indomitable heritage bequeathed to their posterity has become an inspiration for their own descendents as well as for multiple generations of their Utah friends and neighbors.

The dazzling landscape painter and eloquent author, Alfred Lambourne, created a one-man colony on Gunnison Island in the northwestern arm of the Great Salt Lake. Lambourne spent over a year living alone on the island, hoping to raise grapes and perhaps creating an artists colony. He hoped his long-term homestead there would allow him to personally claim the island. (This effort did not succeed, because he found no natural water source on the island and there were legal challenges to his ownership.) I was introduced to his work by fellow musician, Bruce Fowler, his great grandson. Having the rare opportunity to visit Gunnison Island with a pelican-surveying group from the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources, I spent an enchanting day – mostly by myself – searching the island for remnants of Lambourne's cabin. This island visit changed my paradigm of the Great Salt Lake, from a barren expanse of salt and water, to an all-embracing realm of solitude and self-reflection. On this trip to the island, along with numerous driftwood remnants of the former railroad trestle that crossed the Lake, the only indicator of human presence was the pile of boards that were once a shack occupied by itinerant guano sifters (who gathered bird droppings to sell as fertilizer) while Lambourne inhabited the island. It wasn't until another fortunate trip to the island the following year that I found the remaining obscure entrance to his cabin. The only indicator of the spot is a vertical set of stones that mark the doorway. Other remnants, such as the cast iron stove, and any building materials have either decayed away or been removed by rare-yet-thoughtless souvenir hunters. (This island is a protected space, unauthorized to visitors except Wildlife Resource personnel who carefully monitor the nesting pelican colony on the island.) Through my own life-changing visits to Gunnison Island, through Lambourne's vivid writings, and through his enchanting paintings and drawings, I have come to know his heartfelt fondness for this lonely place.

It is a curious coincidence that both of these homesteads are named after, or are near to a place, named after John W. Gunnison, a U.S. Army officer who surveyed large tracts of Utah Territory. He accompanied explorer, Howard Stansbury to survey the Great Salt Lake valley in 1849. In 1853 he led a mapping expedition in preparation for the building of the transcontinental railroad. (There are also a town, a county, a National Forest, and a river in Colorado that bear his name.) Gunnison was killed in an Indian skirmish near Delta, Utah in that year.

By Marden Pond



Newsletter



Another Language is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, donations are tax deductible.

About Marden Pond:



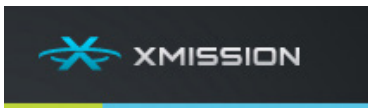
Marden Pond (b. 1950), recipient of the 2014 Alfred Lam-bourne Prize, is active as a composer, arranger, conductor, producer, author, and educator. He has taught music for nearly four decades, including positions at Saddleback College, Orange Coast College, Pepperdine University, the College of Eastern Utah, Utah State University Extension, Brigham Young University, Arizona State University, the University of Northern Colorado, Granite & Salt Lake City School Districts, & Utah Valley University (where he received the 2011 Faculty Excellence Award). Dr. Pond holds advanced music degrees from the University of Northern Colorado and Arizona State University. He is the author

of books and articles on music theory, digital & electronic music, music pedagogy, music education, jazz improvisation, music for theatrical dance, & music in the home. The composer of music on over twenty recorded albums, Dr. Pond has also created music for jazz ensembles, symphony orchestras, choirs, the ballet stage, film (including the Emmy Award-winning film, *The Shadow Of Light* from Milestone Productions), video productions, modern dance groups, & a wide variety of chamber, studio, commercial & recording ensembles, a substantial amount of innovative electronic music, commissioned arrangements, & even commercial jingles. Produced in collaboration with concert pianist, David Glen Hatch, the CD, *Title of Liberty*, was named the 2008 Pearl Award winner as "Classical Instrumental Album of the Year." He has conducted numerous musical ensembles -- professional, recording studio, community, educational. These include symphonic groups (orchestras, bands, etc.), chamber ensembles, jazz groups, choirs, theater orchestras, etc. He arranged and conducted music for a special performance in Arlington National Cemetery on the one-year anniversary of the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon.

For further information about Dr. Pond visit <http://mardenpond.com>, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/marden-pond-05a11413>, <http://anotherlanguage.org/projects/2014/ghosttown/clarion/clarion.html>, http://anotherlanguage.org/projects/2014/ghosttown/gunnison_island/gi_sanctuary1.html. All music & photos, Copyright ©2014 by Marden Pond.

Participate in the Ghost Town Project:

Another Language is encouraging investigations of Utah ghost towns. Original photographs, movies, animations, visual art, music soundscapes, poetry and text compositions submitted by participating artists will be uploaded to anotherlanguage.org. Correlations between historical ghost towns and modern conceptual ghost towns are encouraged. What is your personal ghost town? What do you see, think, and feel when experiencing a place that was once thriving? Go to www.anotherlanguage.org for further information. Make sure to register to reserve your site! If you have questions please email info@anotherlanguage.org or call (801) 707-9930.



Supported by the Utah Division of Arts and Museums, with funding from the State of Utah and the National Endowment for the Arts. Another Language thanks the voters of Salt Lake County for their support of the Zoo, Arts & Parks program.

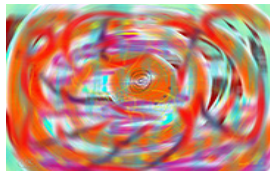
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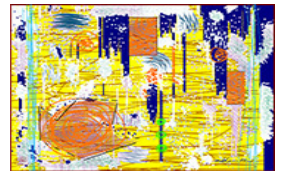
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