

NOTES FROM THE COMPOSER – Anne Lederman

I am going to tell you a bit about the musical composition for the production and then let the on-stage musician in this year's production tell you a bit about how he has used different musical instruments to bring my composition to life. Both of us are mainly fiddle players and are involved with *Spirit Horse* because of our work with First Nations fiddle music. I came from Manitoba where there is a strong tradition of First Nations fiddling, as there is all across the prairies and right up into Northern Canada. It is a really energetic style of fiddling that uses the feet a lot, as you will see in the play. The fiddle also reminds us of the Celtic roots of the original play.



Because we can only travel with one musician, the play also demands a lot of special technology so that the audience can hear more than one instrument at once. We wanted the audience to be able to see how all the sounds are being made, so Alex is often playing into what's called a "looper". That means he can play a sound and a machine captures it and repeats it as long as he wants, so that he can add other sounds to it.

I composed some of the music ahead of time, but it all had to be adapted and worked out through the rehearsal process. I created themes for different parts of the play and for different characters. Creating the music for this show was very much a collaborative process with the actors and the director. The music had to reflect what is going on with the characters' emotions, so a lot of it had to be worked out as we went along in rehearsal. It's like creating another voice for each of the actors that will help them express themselves.

Visit Anne's website: <http://www.annelederman.com/>