

# CATHEDRAL WOODS

## *A Piano Drama in Three Acts*

CATHEDRAL WOODS is inspired by the forest of the same name on Monhegan Island, Maine, near where I spent my childhood summers. Fourteen miles off the coast, the island feels like a world of its own—timeless and almost otherworldly. The towering trees and quiet, almost sacred atmosphere create the feeling of stepping into a cathedral, inviting reflection and wonder.

This program is built around my Blueprints, a type of musical score I've developed that balances structure and freedom, inviting interpretation. Rather than fixed compositions, they offer instructions and suggestions, meant to be completed through the performer's unique choices and voice.

I'm creating a cycle of 72 Blueprints, with each one representing a season and time of day, moving through a full year of Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer. Similar to how Indian classical music connects certain pieces to specific times and seasons, I want these Blueprints to feel deeply connected to the world around us—as if they belong to the time and place in which they are played.

CATHEDRAL WOODS is a curated collection of these Blueprints, forming three acts. Through Retreat (Act 1), we arrive at a place to Refuel (Act 2), so we can ultimately Renew (Act 3)—much like the cycle of the seasons themselves.

The repetition of two Blueprints (Nos. 6 and 23) in different acts highlights how they can be interpreted both similarly and differently, depending on their larger context. Each act is also paired with a classical work that is woven into and "shadows" the fabric of the act. These classical pieces ground us in the resonance of the past, enriching the present as we move through the seasons and times of day within each Blueprint and act. Together, they form a tapestry where past and present coexist—where we progress through the seasons of our own lives.

With this live performance—recorded on my own Steinway grand at my home, with the help of sound engineer Tom Styles from Jack Straw Cultural Center—I invite you to step into my dream world, where the physical and emotional landscapes of Cathedral Woods evolve through the changing seasons, offering moments of reflection and transformation.

*Blueprints Composed, Completed and Performed Live by*

**Garrett Fisher**



Photo by Wan Higginbotham

## About Garrett Fisher

Throughout his career, composer Garrett Fisher has woven elements from diverse global musical traditions into a distinctive and original style. Since 1994, he has composed over a dozen multimedia works presented both in the United States and internationally, which The New York Times has praised as "a groundbreaking hybrid...a strong, unified and strikingly individual utterance of unambiguous beauty." A classically trained pianist, Garrett's BLUEPRINTS FOR SOLO PIANO

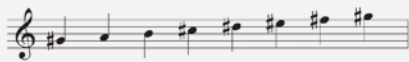
represent his first in-depth compositions for the instrument. Recently, he has launched YouTube and Instagram channels to share these and other compositions, bringing his unique musical voice to new audiences around the world. *GarrettFisher.com*

## Score Samples

To illustrate how the Blueprints work, here are excerpts from Nos. 6 and 23.

### Blueprint # 6: Opening (sample)

Mode: Late Fall - Afternoon

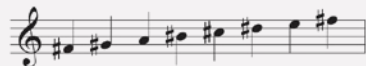


Lingering Thought  
RH: solo melody

Lingering Thought in Time  
RH: in time, or syncopated, with LH chords  
LH: Cluster chords, can have a sense of breathing

### Blueprint # 23: Opening (sample)

Mode: Mid Spring - Afternoon



Start with **Establishing Scale**.

**Climbing Lyric Wisps** rise into **Motivic Answers**

which fall back, overlapping with new Climbing Lyric Wisps.

LH: Start in midrange, each starting note progresses downward.