

APRIL
DAWN
GUTHRIE

composition
voice
cello

BIOGRAPHY

April Dawn Guthrie is a Los Angeles based composer/cellist/vocalist and Cherokee Nation citizen who grew up in Kansas City as the daughter of a 6th generation carpenter. She holds an MFA in Multi-Focus Cello Performance from the California Institute of the Arts and a double major BA in Cello Performance and Environmental Studies from Illinois Wesleyan University. Guthrie has recorded/performed with The Alan Parsons Project, Björk, Bonobo, Halsey, Guster, X Ambassadors, Angel Olsen, Amanda Palmer, and Fun. Her teaching, hand-doubling, and recording for television includes Young Sheldon, Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D., and Heroes. Guthrie's focus on contemporary music/performance art/improvisation has brought her to work directly with The Industry, WildUp, Louis Andriessen, Georges Aperghis, Joan LaBarbara, Vinny Golia, Wadada Leo Smith, and John Zorn.

Guthrie's recent compositions include *Wagon Burning Savage*, which is inspired by the social unrest in Mexico and the United States. She recently completed a composition fellowship at The Wyoming Festival, as well as a commission from the Dogstar Orchestra (May 2019) for her larger suite, *Our Founding Foremothers*, about influential women in American history; e.g. the first women to summit the Grand Tetons (*Grand Bitches of the Tetons*), Wilma Mankiller the first female Cherokee Nation Chief (*I Become the Buffalo*), and Robbie McBride and Beth Ward of Reno, Nevada who represent the women entrepreneurs that ran the divorce ranches of the mid 1900s (*The Whitney Reno Cure*, commissioned by the Reno Modern Brass Quintet for a November 2019 performance).



This year her composition and collaboration with Matthew Paul Olmos of *so go the ghosts of méxico, part three, a poet sings the daughter songs* was recognized for Best Original Music/Songs of 2019 by Theatre Jones. "Music is an integral part of Olmos' trilogy, and Guthrie's score somehow manages to ground the story while also giving flight to the characters."