

A Note From *Bill's Desk*

McCarter

Get a behind-the-scenes glimpse via Bill Lockwood, Director of Special Programming at McCarter, about how and why he brings phenomenal artists to our McCarter stages. This week, he spotlights Jeremy Dutcher, who will be on the Berlind stage on March 1, 2022.

December 2, 2021

Jeremy Dutcher

When was the last time McCarter presented an Indigenous artist? Has it ever? If you can't remember, it's not surprising. It was the American Indian Dance Company in 1992, so we are long overdue in acknowledging those who were here where we are today long before us (in McCarter's case, the Lenni-Lenape). This makes the Berlind concert by vocalist/pianist/activist/composer/musicologist Jeremy Dutcher on March 1 even more significant. And if you've never heard of him, that isn't so surprising either. Dutcher is a Canadian representing the heritage of Canada's Wolastoqiyik Nation and is himself a member of its Tobique First Nation in the province of New Brunswick; in Canada, he is a veritable superstar, one of that nation's cultural heroes, but he rarely ventures south to the USA, so we are lucky. For starters, he is a classically trained tenor, and could just as easily have had an operatic career. But his songs and piano compositions are true collaborations with the voices of his ancestors, incorporating not only classical influences but also his reverence for the traditional songs and language of his homeland and its tribes ("There are only about 100 Wolastoqey speakers left," he says). Dutcher's audience transcends all categories – woke, world music, BIPOC, Indigenous, LGBTQ2S; he is all over social media (Instagram, Facebook YouTube) and his videos are mesmerizing – they are unlike anything else you have ever heard, and there is no better word to describe them. Just listen and you will agree.

—William L. Lockwood, Jr.
Director of Special Programming

