



Artist Biography

Nicholas Bardonnay, photographer & multimedia artist

Nicholas Bardonnay is a photographer, multimedia artist, and the Creative Director & CEO of Westwater Arts.

Founded in 1973, Westwater Arts has created multimedia experiences for more than one million classical music lovers. To date, over 200 U.S. and international orchestras have programmed their groundbreaking art form: symphonic photochoreography. Westwater Arts' visual repertoire is set to music by Dvořák, Mahler, Copland, Shostakovich and 22 other renowned composers.

Since joining Westwater Arts in 2009, Nicholas has photographed, produced, and performed over a dozen photochoreography pieces. Some recent projects have taken him to many of our beautiful national parks, Iceland, Mexico and the Czech Republic. His creative process begins with either a visual concept or a musical work, then he pairs one with the other. During concerts, Nicholas uses multiple digital projectors to fill a large panoramic screen with hundreds of tightly choreographed image transitions, which he live-cues from memory. He has worked on more than 120 concerts with orchestras in cities across the U.S. as well as Scotland, England, Singapore, Canada, Poland and Germany. When Nicholas is not traveling for concerts or photographing new "visual concertos," you can usually find him on the road in his vintage Airstream or planning his next big bike adventure.

For this special concert with the El Paso Symphony, Nicholas is presenting *Grand Canyon Country*, which is choreographed to Grofé's monumental *Grand Canyon Suite*. Originally co-commissioned by the orchestras of Tucson and Phoenix, the visual accompaniment has been performed for audiences across the U.S. and has toured in Germany and Poland. From river to rim, *Grand Canyon Country* showcases the stunning vistas, desert beauty, and surprising islands of life found in and around this unmistakable natural wonder.

Learn more about Nicholas and his collaborative art form at WestwaterArts.com.