

Music by Josh Charney  
Monday May 22, 2017 – UCSD Experimental Theater

*Water Round #1*

Flute: Michael Matsuno

*Bula Matari* | **Breaker of Rocks**

Scene 1                      Our Words Provide the Light  
Scene 3                      Three Birds: The Hiding Bird, The Dancing Bird, The Snake Bird  
Scene 5                      We Are Both Leaders

Directed by Will Detlefsen  
Lighting Design by Joel Britt

The Mahdi                      Barbara Byers  
Emin Pasha                      Hesam Abedini  
Henry Stanley                      Andrew Gallop  
Birds                              Mo Rodvanich

Piano                              Siu Hei Lee  
Keyboard                              Tobin Chodos  
Bass                                Kyle Motl

Historical Overview:

In February of 1887, British explorer Henry Morton Stanley left the island of Zanzibar with 700-some-odd men to embark on the Emin Pasha Relief Expedition, an expedition that would require the traversing of thousands of miles of African terrain, take over two years to complete, and ultimately cost the lives of hundreds of men, both African and European. At this point in his life, Stanley was famous for his explorations of Africa, and specifically, his finding of David Livingstone, a Scottish doctor and missionary who had been isolated in north western Tanzania. Now under contract with Belgian King Leopold II, a forty-six-year-old Stanley would begin what would be his last major adventure to rescue the Egyptian appointed Pasha, Emin Hakim, from Mahdist forces in Equatoria - modern day South Sudan. The Mahdist forces were an army of mostly Sudanese Muslims who had risen under the leadership of Muhammad Ahmad, the self-proclaimed Mahdi, to take back Sudan from Egyptian rule. In 1885, the Mahdi and his army had claimed a significant victory by taking the capital city Khartoum and killing the Governor General of Sudan, Englishman Charles Gordon. This came as a major blow to Egypt, Britain, and Emin Pasha who had personally been appointed by Gordon. That same year, Emin Pasha withdrew south to Lake Albert to avoid an attack and await relief, though Stanley would not reach the lake for another three years.