Cloud Cult with the Minnesota Orchestra

Sarah Hicks, conductor
Shannon Frid-Rubin, violin | Jeremy Harvey, drums | Connie Minowa, painter
Craig Minowa, singer, songwriter and guitar | Shawn Neary, bass, banjo and trombone
Sarah Perbix, keyboard, French horn and trumpet | Scott West, painter
Daniel Zamzow, cello and mandola

Live at Orchestra Hall

Friday, March 20, 2020, 8 pm | Orchestra Hall
Saturday, March 21, 2020, 8 pm | Orchestra Hall

Tonight’s program will be announced from the stage. There will be one intermission.

Cloud Cult began as Craig Minowa’s solo studio project, and over the course of ten studio albums the band has grown with an evolving lineup of musicians. Cloud Cult’s philosophical lyrics and hybrid orchestral rock sound have brought the band accolades from *The New York Times*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Pitchfork* and National Public Radio. The band has had several albums at the top of the North American college radio charts, but has declined major record label deals in favor of staying independent. The common thread through Cloud Cult’s music and films is their uplifting message, continual celebration of life, love and catharsis through music. The band has toured consistently throughout their career, and their shows feature live painters onstage, a longstanding tradition for the group.

Cloud Cult’s industry-leading environmental practices led to *Rolling Stone* ranking the band in the Top 10 greenest bands. In 1999 Cloud Cult’s founder Craig Minowa and his wife Connie Minowa formed Earthology, a not-for-profit organization focused on providing individuals, schools and businesses tools for environmental sustainability. Craig Minowa created the Earthology Records branch to help green the music industry, and he co-developed the first 100% post-consumer recycled CD packaging in the U.S. market. The band began zero net greenhouse practices for tours long before it was trendy, and their merchandise is made of 100% post-consumer recycled or certified organic materials. On top of that, Cloud Cult has planted several thousand trees to absorb the band’s CO2 output, their studio is powered by solar energy and built partially from reclaimed wood and recycled plastic, and they donate heavily to projects that build wind turbines as revenue generators on Native American reservations. More: cloudcult.com.

Conductor Sarah Hicks, the Minnesota Orchestra’s principal conductor of Live at Orchestra Hall, has led a broad range of programs since joining the Orchestra as assistant conductor in 2006. During the 2019-20 season, she conducts the Orchestra in numerous programs including a tribute to Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald featuring Capathia Jenkins and Tony DeSare; Sam and Sarah concerts; and live performances of movie scores in the Movies and Music series including *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* and *It’s a Wonderful Life*. Away from Orchestra Hall, she recently conducted performances of Disney Pixar’s *Coco* at the Hollywood Bowl as well as the orchestra in ABC’s live televised production of Disney’s *The Little Mermaid*. More: minnesotaorchestra.org.