



"The purest way to communicate the human condition is through the beauty of music"

My Favorite Song: Edward W. Hardy of 'The Woodsman'

Composer, violinist and violist Edward W. Hardy has composed gorgeous music to the critically acclaimed show 'The Woodsman,' L. Frank Baum's backstory of the Tin Woodman of Oz and how he lost his heart

May 13, 2016, Jenyl Brunner [Tweet](#)

My favorite Broadway song would have to be "The Music of the Night" from *Phantom of the Opera*. I absolutely love this musical! The way Norm Lewis sang to Sierra Boggess was beautiful and captivating. Andrew Lloyd Webber's music is passionate and poignant. This song depicts a longing to be loved.



Edward W. Hardy performs in 'The Woodsman' (Photo: Hunter Canning)

One look at Christine's face, the sound of her voice and the Phantom's heart is softened. He composes the most beautiful music to complement her voice and uplift her career. Like a secret language of the spirit, she begins to fall in love with his soul. He escapes the ugliness of his world through his music, in this story he is forced to face the harsh reality that he would never be accepted by her. She only used him, even if she never meant to. She never loved him — she was just obsessed and infatuated with his musical compositions and the darkness of him. He was to be pitied, and much more to be feared. Music is the language of love, but opening yourself up to love can also bring pain.

During my studies at SUNY Purchase, I worked closely with Dean Irby at the Conservatory of Theatre Arts, and with Jim McElwaine at the Conservatory of Music. I was cast in several theatrical productions. I loved the idea of physical acting and musical performance and am drawn to theater that emotes and tells a wonderful story while incorporating diversity in both their creative team and staff.

I was interested in finding a project that would give me the artistic freedom to use music as a narrative. I found it in *The Woodsman*, L. Frank Baum's back story of the Tin Man. The use of live violin music as a narrative to tell the story is what helps to make this tragic love story so special, so magical. I have made a great personal investment in the creation of all the original music. If you were blind and sitting in the audience listening to this mostly wordless play, you could follow along in the story without question. The purest way to communicate the human condition is through the beauty of music. You can't help but feel something for all of the characters, witches and tigers, and bears, oh my!



Edward W. Hardy with Norm Lewis



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 Combined puppetry and a haunting score tell the tragic story of how Tin Man lost his heart

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