

COYOTE AND THE HUMAN PEOPLE

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PREAMBLE

California's Coast Miwok Indians' stories speak of Coyote, floating in from somewhere in the west on his tule reed raft, and creating the wondrous things on earth, the trees, the plants, the Animal People and then the Human People.

Washington's Chief Seattle responded to the American President's offer to buy his tribe's land: "How can you buy or sell the sky? If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them?"

SYNOPSIS

Bear, weaving a great tapestry, a picture of his home, the earth, announces that he will tell a story about his neighbors, foolish creatures who think it all belongs to them.

He introduces Coyote the Trickster, a young Miwok Indian girl, a Vaquero and a Yankee girl, the creatures who will enact this tale.

The implacable three have caught Coyote in their traps and lassos, each claiming HE'S MINE!

The battle for ownership is pursued until Coyote escapes from their snares. One by one the three realize their folly... "Who can own the clouds," "Who can own the rain."

With Bear's admonishing, they join in the finale describing the tapestry of life: "So intricate the pattern, its mysteries beyond us, all connected in a wondrous design."

Once again, Coyote escapes, gliding off in his tule reed boat, as he had entered.

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

COYOTE, Tenor

BEAR, Bass Baritone

MIWOK, Mezzo Soprano

VAQUERO, Baritone

YANKEE, Soprano

MARIONETTES: Cat, Rooster, & Hummingbird

INSTRUMENTATION

1 Flute, 1 Oboe, 2 Clarinets, 1 Bassoon, 1 Horn, 1 Trumpet, 1 Trombone, 1 Percussion, String Quintet