

## Nicole Mitchell's Black Earth Ensemble

### Ensemble members:

NAME	INSTRUMENT
Nicole Mitchell	Flutes, vocals
David Boykin	Saxophones
David Young	Trumpet, vocals
Tomeka Reid	Cello
Justin Dillard	Piano
Mankwe Ndosi or Ugochi	Vocals
Josh Abrams	Bass
Arveeayl Ra	Percussion
Marcus Evans	Drumset
Jeff Parker	Guitar

**Title of the commissioned work:** Xenogenesis Suite: A Tribute to Octavia Butler

### Composer's Statement:

Described as "dense, dramatic and daring" (Howard Mandel, JazzHouse.org), Xenogenesis Suite: A Tribute to Octavia Butler highlights a journey into otherworldly experiences inspired by the award-winning author, and Afro-Futurist, Octavia Butler. In Dawn, (the first novel of Butler's Xenogenesis Trilogy) the extra-terrestrial "Oankali" rescue the earth from the destruction of nuclear war and the surviving humans meet their fate to live among these intelligent, benevolent, yet paternalistic aliens. Xenogenesis Suite, an evening length work, evokes an experience into the horrific, yet fascinating unknown. Xenogenesis Suite brings together diverse audiences interested in science fiction, original music and African American culture. The music performance has also been expanded into a multi-arts work including video by Floyd Web and solo dance by Margaret Morris. Xenogenesis Suite is ideal in a concert hall setting, and members of Black Earth Ensemble can engage audiences with a post-performance discussion on the work.

"With its churning rhythms, high-intensity blowing and sharp ear for colors, Mitchell's Xenogenesis Suite is quintessentially AACM music with a twist. She takes care of the ancient roots -- much of this music has a haunted, ritual quality that feels very African in its inspiration -- while pointing the way to the musical future midwifed by the AACM for the past 40 years". --John Chacona, Signal to Noise

**Length of the work:**

55 minutes

**Recording:**

Xenogenesis Suite: A Tribute to Octavia Butler, Firehouse 12

### Stated Technical Requirements:

2 vocal mics (one for vocalist, one for flute), direct input for cello, standard mic'ing for horns, percussion and drumset, music stands needed for all instrumentalists.

### Contact Information:

Composer: Nicole M. Mitchell  
Booking contact person: Nicole Mitchell  
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