

## **Michael Jones Background and Experience**

Michael Jones is widely recognized leadership educator, keynote speaker, thought leader, pianist composer, writer and storyteller. His most recent book *The Soul of Place; Re-imagining Leadership Through Nature Art and Community* is the third in a series of books on Re-imagining Leadership. Others in the series include; *Artful Leadership; Awakening the Commons of the Imagination* and *Creating an Imaginative Life; Following the Songlines of the Heart*.

Michael has presented his ideas on the soul of place and the leader's work as placemakers in a variety of national and international forums including; The Tamarack Institute for Community Engagement, The International Leadership Association, The Creative Education Foundation, The Authentic Leadership in Action Community, Banff Centre Leadership Development, Innovation Groups Transforming Local Government and many others. His work has been described as "... intelligent, open, genuine and transformational".

Michael has also brought his vision into communities and organizations as a convener and curator of conversations on place and placemaking including; The Search for Common Ground- Canadian Tire Group of Companies, The Power of Place; The Canadian Index for Well Being, Connecting for Our Future; with Quaker Foods and PepsiCo. Global Nutrition Group, Connecting for Change with The Dalai Lama Peace Summit and Centre for Peace and Education, Re-visioning Our Future with The Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Centre and Healthy Aging: Innovating Together with the health care community in Atlantic Canada.

He has also been a consultant with The Fetzer Institute series of dialogues on Leading for Transformation, co-chair of The Mariposa Roundtable on rediscovering a community's story of place and creator of an annual series of forums on recovering the soul of place and creative placemaking which have brought together artists, social innovators, designers, community builders and leaders in change management to share their stories and create new frameworks for leaders engaged in the soul of placemaking.

Michael is also a thought leader with the Tamarack Institute and has also been a thought leader with The MIT Dialogue Project and Dialogos Inc., a leadership faculty with the Executive MBA and Senior Leadership Programs at The Center for Leadership and Transformation, School of Business University of Texas, San Antonio; and a Senior Fellow with the MacGregor Burns Academy of Leadership.

The thread that brings all of Michael's diverse activities in place and placemaking together is music. The work of placemaking needs to draw from art and beauty in order to engage all the senses. As a pianist and composer Michael integrates music to animate the space in all of his speaking, community engagement and conferences. He is also a

Juno nominated (Canadian Grammy) pianist and composer whose catalogue of original piano compositions including *Pianoscapes*, *Touch* and *After the Rain* are each a celebration of place and have served as benchmarks for contemporary instrumental music and attracted an audience of millions worldwide. Michael has also appeared on over twenty compilations and thematic collections and performed concerts in diverse settings including the Setagaya Art Museum in Tokyo Japan, Harvard University, The Seoul Art Center in Korea and The International Piano Festival in Montreal, Canada.

Michael brings a unique sensibility to the subject of leadership. Whether it is a conference keynote, a community conversation, a regional project or a leadership seminar, the common thread in his music and teaching is that place and place making are the foundation for building healthy communities and organizations and a vibrant society. Simply put, leaders who create cultures that are place- based engage the imagination and an active imagination is our greatest asset in creating a story of possibility and unlimited potential for the future.

Michael holds a BA in Music and Psychology from Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B, and an MA in Adult Learning from the University of Toronto. He lives with his partner Judy, an educator and fine artist, in a lakeside community north of Toronto, Canada.

His websites are [www.thesoulofplace.com](http://www.thesoulofplace.com) and <http://www.pianoscapes.com>