



**SOUND  
STREAMS**

Lawrence Cherney,  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

NEW DIRECTIONS IN MUSIC

2015/2016  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

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Cover: Sheila Jaffe, Timothy Ying, Michael Bridge and David Hetherington in *Squeezebox*. Photo by Trevor Haldenby.

This page: James MacMillan and Choir 21 in *The Music of James MacMillan*. Photo by Trevor Haldenby.

**Lawrence Cherney**  
Artistic Director



**Ben Dietschi**  
Executive Director



**Bernard Schiff**  
President



**Daniel Weinzwieg**  
Vice President



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### BEYOND BOUNDARIES

Soundstreams' 33rd season exemplified our signature aims: breaking down barriers between cultures, aesthetics, genres and periods; expanding and developing inclusive audiences; and giving voice to the many faces of music by living Canadian and international composers. The season was accentuated by ambitious partnerships with two mainstays of the Toronto cultural scene.

We partnered with Canadian Stage to present the opera *Julie* by Belgian composer Philippe Boesmans, the first opera ever offered in that company's 29-year history. We also partnered with Toronto's iconic Massey Hall to produce Steve Reich's unforgettable sold-out 80th birthday celebration. An array of educational and outreach events invigorated Reich's visit, including a mentorship at Soundstreams annual Emerging Composers Workshop. These partnerships increased our annual audience by a remarkable 71% over the previous season, reaching 4,460 patrons from Toronto and surrounding communities.

We launched our new Ear Candy series to create immersive and intimate experiences in alternate spaces like the Drake Hotel Underground and The Theatre Centre Incubator. Ear Candy was an instant success, selling out and attracting a significantly broader age demographic to our work, including those who may not be drawn to more conventional proscenium venues.

At the same time, our Salon 21 series offered a staggering 11 events in both the Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art and in the Toronto Public Library system, demonstrating our continuing commitment to offer free programming throughout the City of Toronto. Now in its seventh season, our Salon 21 series brings artists and curious music lovers of all ages together in an engaging blend of performance, participation, and interviews.

### TRANSITIONS IN LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

This was also a year of growth and transition in governance and leadership for Soundstreams. Long-time Board Member and President Bernard Schiff resigned after 33 years of dedicated service. His energy, passion and unwavering dedication to Soundstreams will be sorely missed. Vice-president Daniel Weinzwieg, who himself brings a wealth of experience in building successful arts organizations through his company Searchlight, has succeeded Bernard as President. Daniel has made it a priority to build and enlarge the Board in response to exciting new Soundstreams initiatives on the national and international stage.

Photo: The full ensemble of *Steve Reich at 80* in Massey Hall. Photo by Trevor Haldenby.



Administrative leadership has undergone a transition as well. With four years of experience in various capacities at Soundstreams under his belt, Ben Dietschi was appointed Executive Director after a national search.

Ben's long-term vision for sustainable growth insists upon an intersectional approach to artistic and organizational planning, identifying opportunities stemming from our programming to maximize our visibility, impact, and revenue. In effect, to look ahead and do more with less.

This approach has already resulted in some additional core funding from the public sector, increases from major gifts supporters, and new earned revenues from touring and co-production activities.

## THE WAY FORWARD

With our 35th season and Canada's 150th on the horizon, 2015-16 injected a sense of renewal and focus to the organization. We are shaping our future in step with Canada's ever-diversifying cultural landscape.

Intercultural collaborations now form the foundation of our programming, as we are enriched by the wealth of stories that define Canadians and our place in the world.

To that effect, beginning in 2016-17 we plan to present one signature project yearly, crafted to be of deep resonance, larger scale, and lasting legacy. Designed to tour, these projects will appear on stages across Canada and abroad.

To our audiences, supporters, and artists: thank you for making Soundstreams a part of your cultural lives. We look forward to a milestone year together and a bright and innovative future for Canadian music.

## CONCERT SEASON

The 2015/16 season featured a sold-out birthday bash for one of the world's most influential composers, a passionate opera, accordion virtuosos, and one of today's most celebrated sopranos singing The Beatles.



### ADRIANNE PIECZONKA: BEYOND THE ARIA

SEPTEMBER 29, 2015  
KOERNER HALL

The season opened with Adrienne Pieczonka, one of opera's most lauded sopranos exploring an eclectic range of 20th-century repertoire, including George Crumb's *Ancient Voices of Children*, a haunting sonic exploration of poems by Federico García Lorca that she first performed with Soundstreams in 1987. Mezzo-soprano Krisztina Szabó joined Pieczonka and a chamber orchestra for this electric concert reimagining the possibilities of voice and percussion, which also featured a world premiere by Analia Llugdar, selections from Crumb's *American Songbook*, and Luciano Berio's; *Beatles Songs*.

BMO 

BMO SoundWave Tickets: Thanks to support from BMO, each concert in the 2015/16 season offered \$22 tickets were available for patrons 35 and under via our SoundWave program.



## **JULIE**

**NOVEMBER 17-29, 2015**

**BLUMA APPEL THEATRE, ST. LAWRENCE CENTRE FOR THE ARTS**

In this innovative inaugural collaboration, Soundstreams and Canadian Stage presented the North American premiere of the acclaimed chamber-opera adaptation of August Strindberg's play. Canadian Stage Artistic & General Director Matthew Jocelyn directed this landmark tragedy of social and sexual transgression, brilliantly captured by Belgium's Philippe Boesmans, one of the pre-eminent opera composers of our time. The opera featured music direction by Vancouver-based Leslie Dala and an all-star Canadian cast comprised of Lucia Cervoni, Clarence Frazer, and Sharleen Joynt.

## **SQUEEZEBOX**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

**TRINITY-ST PAUL'S CENTRE**

Acclaimed Canadian accordionist Joe Macerollo joined wunderkind Michael Bridge, Argentinian bandoneón virtuoso Héctor del Curto, and Korean saenghwang virtuoso gamin in an intercultural celebration of classic and contemporary "squeezebox" music accompanied by a small chamber ensemble. The program included tangos and works by Canadians R. Murray Schafer, Marjan Mozetich, and Alexina Louie, and a world premiere by Canadian composer Anna Pidgorna.



## THE MUSIC OF JAMES MACMILLAN

**MARCH 8, 2016**  
**TRINITY-ST PAUL'S CENTRE**

Soundstreams welcomed Scottish composer and conductor Sir James MacMillan to Toronto for this choral concert. Emotionally potent, rhythmically thrilling, and richly reflective of its creator's Catholic faith, Celtic cultural roots, and outspoken political conscience, MacMillan's choral music has won international critical and popular acclaim.

In this choral concert, MacMillan himself conducted Choir 21 and the Virtuoso String Orchestra in a program of Canadian works, selected motets by J.S. Bach, and his own 1993 cantata *Seven Last Words from the Cross*. Combining dramatic narrative with spiritual meditation, this spellbinding sequence of seven adagio movements, inspired by the four gospel accounts of the Crucifixion, is justly regarded as one of his masterpieces.



## STEVE REICH AT 80

**APRIL 14, 2016**  
**MASSEY HALL**

Soundstreams closed the season on a high note, with a sold-out concert at iconic Massey Hall celebrating Pulitzer Prize-Winning composer Steve Reich. Hailed by *The New York Times* as "our greatest living composer," Steve Reich turned 80 in 2016. In devising a whole new way of thinking about music, the father of minimalism has had a profound impact on contemporary work, influencing artists as diverse as Radiohead, John Adams, and Bang on a Can. Having showcased many of Reich's compositions over the years, among them the 2010 world premiere of *Mallet Quartet*, Soundstreams welcomed this musical legend to the stage for a birthday bash with special guests, featuring *Clapping Music*, the iconic *Music for 18 Musicians*, and *Tehillim*. The concert was presented in partnership with The Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall.



## EAR CANDY

### ELECTRIC MESSIAH, DECEMBER 7-8, 2015, THE DRAKE UNDERGROUND

In 2015-16, Soundstreams launched a new series dedicated to musical exploration and discovery in the undergrounds of Toronto's hottest venues. 2015-16 featured two events: *Electric Messiah*, a stripped-down electro-improv version of Handel's holiday classic featured vocalist Christine Duncan, composer/sound poet Gabriel Dharmoo, electronic whiz Doug Van Noort, and the Electroacoustic Orchestra of York University. *Electric Counterpoint*, a journey through musical minimalism featured the talents of three local artists: Owen Pallett collaborator Matt Smith, a.k.a. Prince Nifty (guitar and electronics), Brandon Valdivia a.k.a. Mas Aya (percussion and electronics), Germaine Liu (percussion) and Daniel Morphy (percussion).



### ELECTRIC COUNTERPOINT, MARCH 19, 2016, THE THEATRE CENTRE INCUBATOR

The series invited curious music lovers of all ages to throw off the expectations of the formal concert hall experience and engage with new projects, artists, and presentation formats.

All photos on these pages by Trevor Haldenby, except images for *Julie* by Cylla Von Tiedemann and *Ear Candy: Electric Messiah* by Claire Harvie. *Adrienne Pieczonka: Beyond the Aria*: Adrienne Pieczonka and ensemble; *Julie*: Lucia Cervoni as Julie and Clarence Frazer as Jean; *Squeezebox*: Michael Bridge; *The Music of James MacMillan*: James MacMillan; *Steve Reich at 80*: Russell Hartenberger and Steve Reich; *Ear Candy: Electric Counterpoint*: Brandon Valdivia a.k.a. 'Mas Aya'; *Ear Candy: Electric Messiah*: Jeremy Dutcher, Christine Duncan, Carla Huhtanen, and Gabriel Dharmoo.

## OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

# In 2015-16, nearly 1,400 people ignited their curiosity by engaging with Soundstreams' audience enhancement and artist training programs.

### SALON 21

In the sixth year of our Salon 21 series, we continued to offer dynamic free programming to encourage the discovery and exploration of art and culture through hands-on learning environments. The series is offered free of charge, bringing the public together with artists in a vibrant exchange of ideas. In 2015-16, we placed an increased focus on participatory elements, which saw our attendees on their feet clapping, singing, and sharing the experience of music making together. We also continued our partnership with the Toronto Public Library to bring Salon 21 to several neighborhoods outside of the downtown core such as Victoria Village and Scarborough. 1,128 curious music lovers attended Salon 21 events in 2015-16.

### PRE-CONCERT CHATS

Each main stage concert was accompanied by an opportunity for our audiences to attend intimate composer and performer interviews hosted by Artistic Director Lawrence Cherney. These popular talks provided insights to deepen the audience experience, and offered a candid glimpse of the performers and composers featured on each program. This season, we hosted David Jaeger and poet Beatriz Hausner, among other notable artists.

### EMERGING COMPOSER WORKSHOP

The fourth annual Emerging Composer Workshop welcomed six talented composers from Canada, USA, and Australia under the tutelage of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Steve Reich and Canadian composer Peter Hatch. Working with globally recognized figures offered unforgettable mentorship experiences. The fourteen-day workshop included a variety of seminars, lessons, rehearsals and networking events that culminated in a performance of the participants' works at the Alliance Française de Toronto.

**"Having the luxury to eat, sleep, and breathe music for two weeks was a rare and incredibly welcome luxury."** –Colin Labadie, 2016 ECW participant

### SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

Soundstreams expressed our commitment to bringing the music of Canadian composers into the lives of youth with our SoundMakers classroom workshops. This year, students from Gordon A. Brown Middle School used the SoundMakers.ca platform to learn about Soundstreams commissioned composers, where they downloaded and remixed works into silent film soundtracks. Weaving new Canadian music into the school curriculum was a success, and we plan to continue this initiative in future years.



Artistic Director Lawrence Cherney, and visiting mentor Steve Reich with participants of the Emerging Composer Workshop.



Michelle Colton and Alejandro Céspedes  
Salon 21: *Clapping Music* at the Parkdale Library

## SOUNDMAKERS & LIVESTREAMING

In 2015/16, Soundstreams continued its commitment to connect with audiences around the world through concert livestreaming and our SoundMakers website.

### DIGITAL STRATEGY

In 2015-16, Soundstreams offered all main stage concerts to listeners around the world through our online video channels. Listeners from countries as far away as Ukraine, Russia, and India enjoyed our concerts along with listeners right here at home. These multi-camera, high-definition videos gave lasting life and legacy to the unforgettable moments that unfolded on our stages at each of our newly-minted thematic concert programs. Soundstreams' digital dissemination strategy remains an important means to support our commitment to creating a lasting legacy for the music of Canadian performers.

### SOUNDMAKERS

Launched in April 2013, SoundMakers is an innovative website and iPad app that gives users the opportunity to experience and engage with works commissioned by Soundstreams over our 30+ year history. These works are available for on-demand streaming, and users can download free samples to create their own unique compositions. Over the past concert season, more than 51,433 users visited the site and streamed music on SoundCloud more than 25,000 times. In addition to Canada, SoundMakers is engaging users from countries around the world including Ukraine, Russia, the Philippines, India, and the United States.

Our third annual SoundMakers Composer in Residence was Emilie LeBel. In collaboration with community arts company Jumblies Theatre, we evolved the concept for this residency by creating a hybrid of online and face-to-face learning and creation opportunities. Over the course of an eight-month period Emilie worked with community members to create a new choral work, which wove personal stories and reflections into a full-length score that premiered on June 30, 2016 in Soundstreams' Salon 21 series.

SoundMakers was  
created with support from:



Photos: Final performance of *Take this Card* Emilie LeBel's collaboration with Jumblies' Theatre.



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Balance Sheets as at August 31, 2016, and August 31, 2015

	August 31 2016	August 31 2015
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current:		
Cash	\$123,369	\$152,135
Amounts receivable:		
Grants receivable	\$72,402	12,106
Other	\$35,250	\$22,979
Harmonized sales tax recoverable	\$4,794	\$2,691
Prepaid expenses	\$27,423	\$16,733
	<b>\$263,238</b>	<b>\$206,644</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$30,574	\$39,791
Loan payable	\$75,000	—
Deferred revenues	\$228,119	\$237,435
	<b>\$333,693</b>	<b>\$277,226</b>
<b>NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)</b>		
Deficit	\$(70,455)	\$(70,582)
	<b>\$263,238</b>	<b>\$206,644</b>

### Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets for years ended August 31, 2016 and August 31, 2015

	2016	2015
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Government grants	\$472,081	\$428,263
Private sector funding	\$414,416	\$369,245
Box office, performance fees and other earned revenues	\$142,142	\$88,995
	<b>\$1,028,639</b>	<b>\$886,503</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Artistic	\$419,909	\$294,431
Administrative	\$191,785	\$163,940
Production	\$124,510	\$110,260
Marketing and publicity	\$292,308	\$297,813
	<b>\$1,028,512</b>	<b>\$866,444</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	\$127	\$20,059
<b>DEFICIT</b> , beginning of year	<b>\$(70,582)</b>	<b>\$(90,641)</b>
<b>DEFICIT</b> , end of year	<b>\$(70,455)</b>	<b>\$(70,582)</b>

## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

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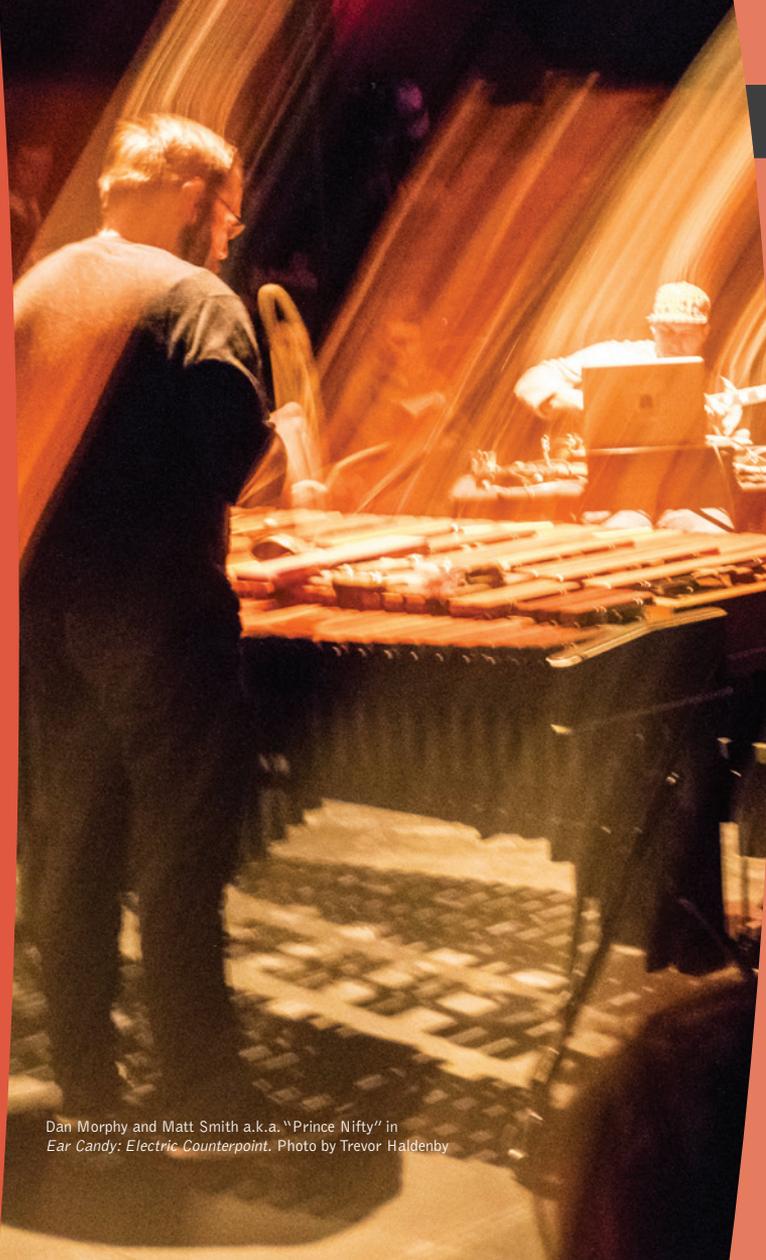
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Dan Morphy and Matt Smith a.k.a. "Prince Nifty" in  
*Ear Candy: Electric Counterpoint*. Photo by Trevor Haldenby

Image: In Massey Hall for *Steve Reich at 80*.  
Photo by Trevor Halenby



## **SOUNDSTREAMS**

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[soundstreams.ca](http://soundstreams.ca)

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