

2014/2015
ANNUAL REPORT



**SOUND
STREAMS**

Lawrence Cherney,
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

NEW DIRECTIONS IN MUSIC



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Cover: Claire Chase and Tony Arnold in *The Whisper Opera*. Photo by Armen Elliot.

This page: The ensemble from *Encuentros*: Serouj Kradjian, Maria Mulata, Grisha Goryachev, Fabio Zanon, Héctor Del Curto, Sarah Thawer. Photo by Trevor Haldenby.

FRESH NEW SOUNDS, VENUES, AND MUSICAL EXPERIENCES

Lawrence Cherney
Artistic Director



Soundstreams' 2014/15 season explored a gamut of musical eras, genres, and cultural traditions. New ventures included late-night concerts in intimate venues, the expansion of our Salon 21 series, and a commitment to immersive audience experiences in our main-stage series at Koerner Hall and Trinity-St. Paul's Centre. Emboldened in particular by the dynamic audience reaction to our sold-out run of David Lang's *The Whisper Opera*, we pledged anew to provoke thoughtful discussion through innovative musical performances and events.

Susan Worthington
Executive Director



This year our main-stage series featured an experimental fantasia on Vivaldi's beloved *Four Seasons*, a time-folding pairing of *Vespers* old and new, Lang's opera of intimate whispers, a commemoration of towering composer Sir John Tavener, and culminated in an irresistible fusion of Latin styles.

The company continues to look for ways to extend our reach and deepen our community impact. Our popular free Salon 21 performance and education series at The Gardiner Museum expanded to engage outlying Toronto neighbourhoods thanks to a new partnership with the Toronto Public Library.

Bernie Schiff
President



The Soundstreams Emerging Composer Workshop hosted two internationally-renowned mentor composers: Kaija Saariaho (Finland) and Jean-Baptiste Barrière (France). Such distinguished visiting composers have greatly enhanced the visibility of this program to the point where we received the largest number of applications with the greatest geographic diversity in the history of the project.

This season, we welcomed Susan Worthington as Executive Director and the company moved its offices in summer 2014 to a new location in the heart of Toronto's creative Queen West district. Management continues to exercise fiscal diligence, as we successfully meet the targets of our deficit reduction plan, while continuing to offer a full suite of performance and outreach programs. This diversity of offerings is a point of pride and an ongoing priority for Soundstreams as we work to deepen our cultural resonance and artistic identity.

Daniel Weinzwieg
Vice President



To all of you who have made Soundstreams a part of your cultural or philanthropic life, we offer a heartfelt thank you for helping to make possible our unique contribution to Canada's cultural landscape. It is our challenge and our hope that we can continue to expand your musical horizons in ways that are both compelling and rewarding.

CONCERT SEASON

The 2014/15 season featured reinventions of masterpieces like Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* and Monteverdi's *Vespers*, the Canadian premiere of an intimate opera by David Lang, a choral celebration of spirituality, and a colourful afternoon of Latin sounds.

SEPTEMBER 29, 2014



THE SEASONS

This season-opening concert at Koerner Hall featured virtuoso violinist Daniel Hope, performing the Toronto premiere of Max Richter's reimagining of Vivaldi's beloved *Four Seasons*. The theme of weather continued with the world premiere of Canadian Paul Frehner's *Mojave Dreaming*, as well as *Dream in White on White* by American composer John Luther Adams.

NOVEMBER 25, 2014



VESPERS

Ancient met modern in this evening exploring Claudio Monteverdi's monumental Renaissance masterpiece *Vespro della Beata Vergine* and Gilles Tremblay's *Les Vêpres de la Vierge*, commissioned to celebrate the 850th anniversary of France's Notre-Dame de Sylvania Abbey in 1986. Soprano Shannon Mercer joined Choir 21, chamber orchestra, and conductor David Fallis at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre for this choral celebration of universal spirituality.

All photos on these pages by Trevor Haldenby, except images for *The Whisper Opera* and late night concerts by Armen Elliot. *The Seasons*: Daniel Hope; *Vespers*: David Fallis and Choir 21; *The Whisper Opera*: Tony Arnold; *Song for Athene*: Patricia Rozario and Choir 21; *Encuentros*: Sarah Thawer, María Mulata; Late night concerts: International Contemporary Ensemble

FEB 26 - MAR 1, 2015



THE WHISPER OPERA

Words & Music: David Lang

Sold-out crowds joined us for the Canadian premiere of an opera so intimate that only 52 people could attend each performance. Pulitzer Prize-winning composer David Lang's *The Whisper Opera* was created using a libretto compiled from Google responses, and was performed at The Theatre Centre by New York's International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), and soprano Tony Arnold.

APRIL 16, 2015



SONG FOR ATHENE

British soprano Patricia Rozario headlined an evening at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre celebrating the work of the late Sir John Tavener. His iconic piece *Song for Athene*, notable for being performed at the funeral of Princess Diana, was performed by Rozario, Choir 21, and the Toronto Children's Chorus. Works by Tavener's late compatriot Jonathan Harvey and Canadian Christos Hatzis were also explored.

MAY 24, 2015



ENCUENTROS

Co-produced with The Royal Conservatory of Music as part of the 21C Music Festival, this afternoon celebrated a fusion of Latin music styles and rhythms. An all-star international roster of musicians joined us at Koerner Hall, including acclaimed guitar virtuosos Grisha Goryachev and Fabio Zanon. The lineup also featured Argentinian bandoneon player Héctor Del Curto, Colombian singer María Mulata, and pianist and composer Serouj Kradjian.



LATE NIGHT CONCERTS

Two original late night concerts were presented, in addition to our five regular concerts. On February 28, following a performance of *The Whisper Opera*, the International Contemporary Ensemble presented an intimate concert of chamber music at The Theatre Centre. During the Emerging Composer Workshop, our visiting mentors Kaija Saariaho and Jean-Baptiste Barrière presented selections of their work at the Théâtre de l'Alliance Française, on May 19.

BMO 
\$20
TICKETS

At each concert in the 2014/15 season (excluding *The Whisper Opera* and our late-night concerts) at least 100 tickets were available for \$20 thanks to the generous support of BMO.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH INITIATIVES

Soundstreams' artist and audience development programs reach beyond the concert hall to educate and inspire music lovers of all ages.

SALON 21

Salon 21 generates intimate encounters between musical creators, performers, and audiences of all ages. The program has evolved into a dynamic series of free events featuring performances, interviews, demonstrations, and interactive participation. As our flagship outreach program, Salon 21 builds current and future audiences for Canadian music. In an effort to reach new audiences this year, we forged a pilot partnership with Toronto Public Libraries to offer three Salons in diverse neighbourhoods across Toronto.

Over the course of eleven events, we demystified iconic works, instruments, and styles, in a modern context. Highlights included new interpretations of Vivaldi's iconic *Four Seasons*, exploring the kinship between medieval and modern music, delving into unexpected personalities of the accordion, unpacking Indo-Latin percussion traditions, and examining the oddities of how human hearing interprets music.

PRE-CONCERT CHATS

Over 300 people attended nine pre- and post-concert chats. Hosted by Artistic Director Lawrence Cherney, these talks offer audiences insights from the composers and performers featured on our program, as well as guest experts, in an ongoing effort to illuminate our music for audiences.

This season we hosted Canadian composers Paul Frehner and Christos Hatzis, conductor David Fallis (Toronto Consort), artists from the International Contemporary Ensemble, opera directors Jim Findlay, and Joel Ivany (Against the Grain Theatre), and industry innovators Eric Alper (eOne Canada), Monica Pearce (The Music Gallery), and Rachel Khrem (Opera Five).

EMERGING COMPOSER WORKSHOP

In May 2015, six outstanding composers convened in Toronto for the workshop's third year. The program has grown significantly, now pairing top emerging talent from Canada and around the world with some of the world's most lauded composers. We received a record number of applications, up 30% from 2014, and two new institutional partners joined us: The Royal Conservatory of Music and the Alliance Française de Toronto.

This year two international leaders in contemporary composition served as our visiting mentors: Kaija Saariaho (Finland) and Jean-Baptiste Barrière (France). The class was a diverse mix hailing from Spain, Latvia, Austria, and Canada. Over the course of the ten-day intensive, they engaged in seminars, workshops, rehearsals, and networking events culminating in a concert as a part of The Royal Conservatory of Music's 21C Music Festival. Soundstreams takes care to create a holistic learning environment that seeks to build all aspects of these composers' careers.

SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

Soundstreams continues to collaborate with educators to offer exceptional learning opportunities that bring young creators into our world. In a semester-long partnership with Gordon A. Brown Public School, 50 students used SoundMakers samples to create soundtracks for student-produced short films. The silent film medium encouraged students to explore and parse music as an emotional and narrative language. The results of this pilot program were promising; students used the samples in ways we could not have imagined, deeply engaging with the music, and creating impressive, fully-scored short films.





SOUNDMAKERS & LIVESTREAMING

Soundstreams continued its commitment to connect with audiences around the world through concert Livestreaming and our SoundMakers website.

LIVESTREAMING

This season Soundstreams continued to livestream every main stage concert (excluding *The Whisper Opera*), while also maintaining our online community of concert viewers through social media. More than 4,500 audience members viewed our concerts online, of which over 80% were new viewers, from countries around the world, including the United States, Mexico, Brazil, the United Kingdom, and the Philippines.

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.

Our second SoundMakers Composer in Residence was Aaron Gervais, a Canadian who now resides in San Francisco, CA. Aaron spent six months composing and blogging about his new work for vocals and electronics, which he premiered at a dedicated Salon 21 on March 20, 2015.

Over the past concert season, more than 107,000 users visited the site, and streamed music on SoundCloud more than 44,000 times. In addition to Canada, SoundMakers is engaging users from countries around the world including Ukraine, Russia, Philippines, India, and the United States.

SoundMakers is made possible through the support of:



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Balance Sheets as at August 31, 2015 and August 31, 2014

	August 31 2015	August 31 2014
ASSETS		
Current:		
Cash	\$152,135	\$65,196
Amounts receivable:		
Government grants	\$12,106	16,700
GST/HST recoverable	\$2,691	\$20,724
Box office and other	\$22,979	-
Prepaid expenses	\$16,733	\$23,095
	\$206,644	\$125,715
LIABILITIES		
Current:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$39,791	\$63,393
Deferred revenues	\$237,435	\$152,963
	\$277,226	\$216,356
NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)		
Deficit	\$(70,582)	\$(90,641)
	\$206,644	\$125,715

Statements of Operations and Changes in Net Assets for years ended August 31, 2015 and August 31, 2014

	2015	2014
REVENUES		
Government grants	\$428,263	\$552,850
Private sector funding	\$369,245	\$425,667
Box office, performance fees and other earned revenues	\$88,995	\$175,645
	\$886,503	\$1,154,162
EXPENSES		
Artistic	\$294,431	\$385,656
Administrative	\$163,940	\$239,593
Production	\$110,260	\$167,060
Marketing and publicity	\$297,813	\$337,771
	\$866,444	\$1,130,080
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$20,059	\$24,082
DEFICIT, beginning of year	\$(90,641)	\$(114,723)
DEFICIT, end of year	\$(70,582)	\$(90,641)

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

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Guests at the 2015 Soundstreams Gala, February 2015. Photos by Sean Howard.

The Virtuoso String Orchestra in *The Seasons*.
Photo by Trevor Haldenby.



SOUNDSTREAMS

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