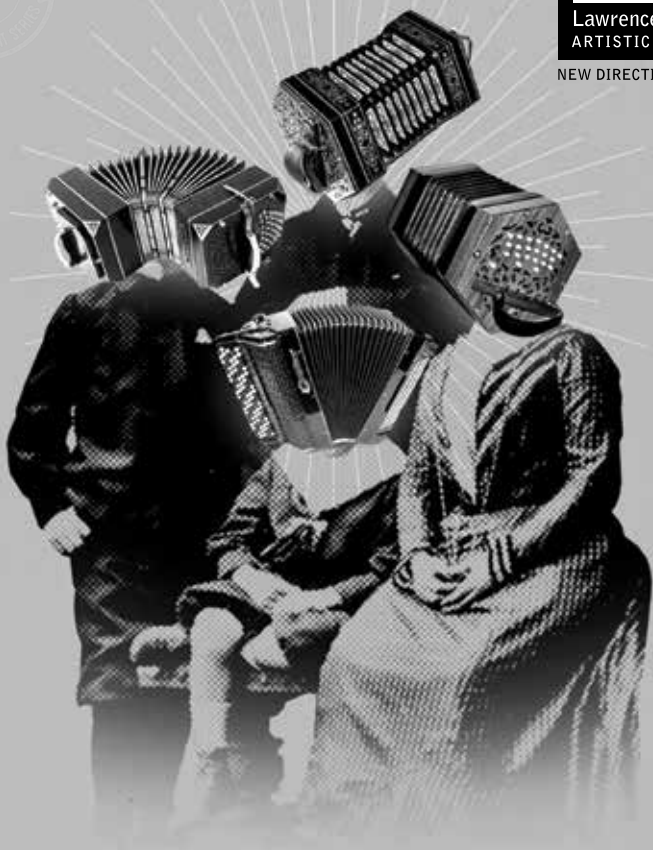


# 2015/2016 CONCERT SERIES



NEW DIRECTIONS IN MUSIC



# SQUEEZEBOX



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## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

It was the accordion in Kurt Weill's *The Threepenny Opera* that hooked me on this chameleon of an instrument. Its very sound conjures up such an aching nostalgia—bittersweet and decadent—that one could feel and smell the Berlin cabarets. It simply gets under your skin.

From giddy hysteria to the depths of depression, the accordion family plumbs the full spectrum of human emotion. An instrument that is at home on the street corner as well as in the concert hall, it occupies a unique place in cultures around the globe.

Two extraordinary Canadian pioneers, Joseph Macerollo and Joseph Petric, lifted the accordion from novelty status to full-fledged concert instrument, contributing to the creation and performance of new works on a monumental scale. We are delighted to have Joseph Macerollo and his protégé Michael Bridge with us tonight, playing definitive Canadian works by R. Murray Schafer, Alexina Louie, and Marjan Mozetich.

The accordion developed in Europe in the 1770s, a descendent of the Chinese sheng, but powered by bellows instead of the breath. Virtuoso performer gamin's instrument, the Korean saenghwang, is also descended from the sheng. She performs Korean composer Taejong Park and a world premiere by Canadian Anna Pidgorna. The bandoneón, used in popular and religious music, evolved in the 1880s and was brought to Argentina in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There, in the streets, it gave birth to the sensational *tango* and *milonga* genres, performed tonight in a return visit by legendary Argentinian bandoneón player Héctor del Curto.

Lawrence Cherney, Artistic Director

## ABOUT SOUNDSTREAMS

Soundstreams is one of the world's leading contemporary music companies, and the biggest global presenter of new Canadian music. Under the direction of Artistic Director Lawrence Cherney, the company showcases the work of Canadian and international composers, with a focus on innovative thematic and experiential programming that provides context and contributes to the rich legacy of Canadian music at home and around the world.

In collaboration with the finest Canadian and international artists, Soundstreams presents two concert series in Toronto as well as national and international tours. Soundstreams also serves the community through our free Salon 21 series at The Gardiner Museum, composer training activities, SoundWave program for music lovers age 35 and under, and digital performance space, including concert recordings, SoundMakers website, and video content.

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## SQUEEZEBOX

Michael Bridge, accordion  
Héctor del Curto, bandoneón  
gamin, saenghwang  
Joseph Macerollo, accordion



Wednesday, February 10, at 8:00 pm  
Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, 427 Bloor Street West

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### PROGRAM

R. Murray Schafer  
(b. 1933, Canada)

*La Testa d'Adriane* (1978)  
Joseph Macerollo, accordion  
Carla Huhtanen, soprano

Taejong Park  
(b. 1967, Korea)

*Duologue* (2008)  
gamin, saenghwang  
Ryan Scott, marimba

Marjan Mozetich  
(b. 1948, Italy)

*Dance of the Blind* (1980)  
Michael Bridge, accordion  
Timothy Ying, violin  
Sheila Jaffe, violin  
David Hetherington, cello

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### INTERMISSION

Anna Pidgorna  
(b. 1985, Ukraine)

*On the Courtship Displays of Birds of Paradise\** (2016)  
**World premiere**  
Michael Bridge, accordion  
gamin, saenghwang

Alexina Louie  
(b. 1949, Canada)

*Refuge* (1981)  
Joseph Macerollo, accordion  
Erica Goodman, harp  
Beverly Johnston, vibraphone

Quique Sinesi  
(b. 1960, Argentina)

*Milonga para Hermeto* (2007)  
Héctor del Curto, bandoneón  
Tania Gill, piano

Astor Piazzolla  
(1921 – 1992, Argentina)

*Revirado* (1963)  
Héctor del Curto, bandoneón  
Tania Gill, piano  
Timothy Ying, violin

*\*Anna Pidgorna's world premiere is generously supported by The Koerner Foundation.*

# PROGRAM NOTE

By David Jaeger

Soundstreams Artistic Director Lawrence Cherney told me recently that one of his favourite ways to feed his creativity when he designs concert programs is by thinking of “families of instruments in all their varieties.” Examples of the results in previous season have included *Mass Brass* (2011) and *Piano Ecstasy* (2013). And so tonight in *Squeezebox* we have music for fixed-reed instruments, including various accordions, the bandoneón, and the saenghwang, used in combination with contrasting musical partners and combined with one another.

Joseph Macerollo, Canada’s leading concert accordionist, has commissioned and/or premiered hundreds of new works for the accordion, written by Canadian and international composers. Macerollo’s work with R. Murray Schafer led to several Schafer works featuring the free bass accordion, including a concerto for accordion and orchestra, and tonight’s offering, *La Testa d’Adriane*.

Schafer’s large-scale theatre piece *The Greatest Show* is, in his words, “an immense outdoor theatrical and musical extravaganza in the form of a town fair or carnival.” Of the 100 individual pieces within this assembled work, *La Testa d’Adriane* (1978) was one of the first to be written. The setting of this piece evokes a circus, and the barker happens to play the accordion. The set was created by designer James Colbeck.

Macerollo was also one of the three musicians for whom Alexina Louie composed *Refuge* (1981), for accordion, harp and percussion. CBC Radio Music commissioned this work for broadcast on my Radio Two series, *Two New Hours*. Macerollo was joined by harpist Erica Goodman and percussionist Beverly Johnson for that premiere, as in tonight. Louie’s *Refuge* and Schafer’s *La Testa d’Adriane* are, in the words of Macerollo, “not only significant for their composers but also are important works for the history of the accordion.”

Macerollo’s student at the University of Toronto, Michael Bridge, is featured in another historically important composition, Marjan Mozetich’s *Dance of the Blind* (1980) for accordion and string trio. This was Mozetich’s first composition in the tonal, accessible style that he’s now known for. Mozetich had become

skeptical of 1970s modernism and was searching for a change. The opportunity for that new direction arrived when CBC Radio Music and I agreed to commission *Dance of the Blind* for broadcast on *Two New Hours*. He never looked back!

The oldest instrument on tonight’s program is the saenghwang, an ancient Korean mouth organ with 17 reed pipes. Tonight we will hear the artist known as gamin play it in two duets: *Duologue* (2008) for saenghwang and marimba by the young Korean composer Taejong Park, and the world premiere of *On the Courtship Displays of Birds of Paradise* for saenghwang and accordion, a Soundstreams commission by the young Canadian composer, Anna Pigdorna.

Pigdorna told me she has long been fascinated by birds, and has included them as sources for her music. In the case of *On the Courtship Displays of Birds of Paradise*, she notes that the male birds of paradise tend to be more stationary than their female counterparts, who busy themselves moving about, checking out the males. Accordingly, in her three-movement composition she has ascribed male behaviour (both in music and choreography) to the accordionist (Michael Bridge) and female behaviour to the player of the saenghwang (gamin). Pigdorna’s first two movements mimic the calls and movements of the black sickbill and the Parotia species, respectively. For her third movement, she decided to invent her own species, the Princess Marcia.

Argentine-American Héctor del Curto, founder of the Eternal Tango Orchestra in New York City, is one of the world’s most celebrated bandoneón soloists, having played tango music with Astor Piazzola and many other noted tango artists. His tango set concludes tonight’s *Squeezebox* experience.

*David Jaeger is a composer, producer and broadcaster based in Toronto. He was the creator & Executive Producer of the long-running CBC Radio Two contemporary music series, Two New Hours.*

For more information about *Squeezebox*, including artist biographies and Q&As, visit [soundstreams.ca/blog](http://soundstreams.ca/blog)

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