

SOUNDSTREAMS



2024
SEASON

2023/24 SEASON

Message from the Artistic Director

Dear Music Lovers,

Soundstreams' 2023/24 season is a true musical odyssey; it speaks to compelling themes and stories that resonate with our time and place. These themes and stories, explored through the medium of music, are universal: they speak of love, loss, betrayal, redemption, and joy. Soundstreams' aim is to probe them in ways that make us hear our world anew.

One of the ways we do this is to re-imagine great works from the past: those whose cultural legacy has the breadth and depth to still speak to our time and place. These iconic works form part of shared cultural legacies that become reference points for newly commissioned works from some of the world's most gifted composers. Taken together, they have the power to fundamentally transform

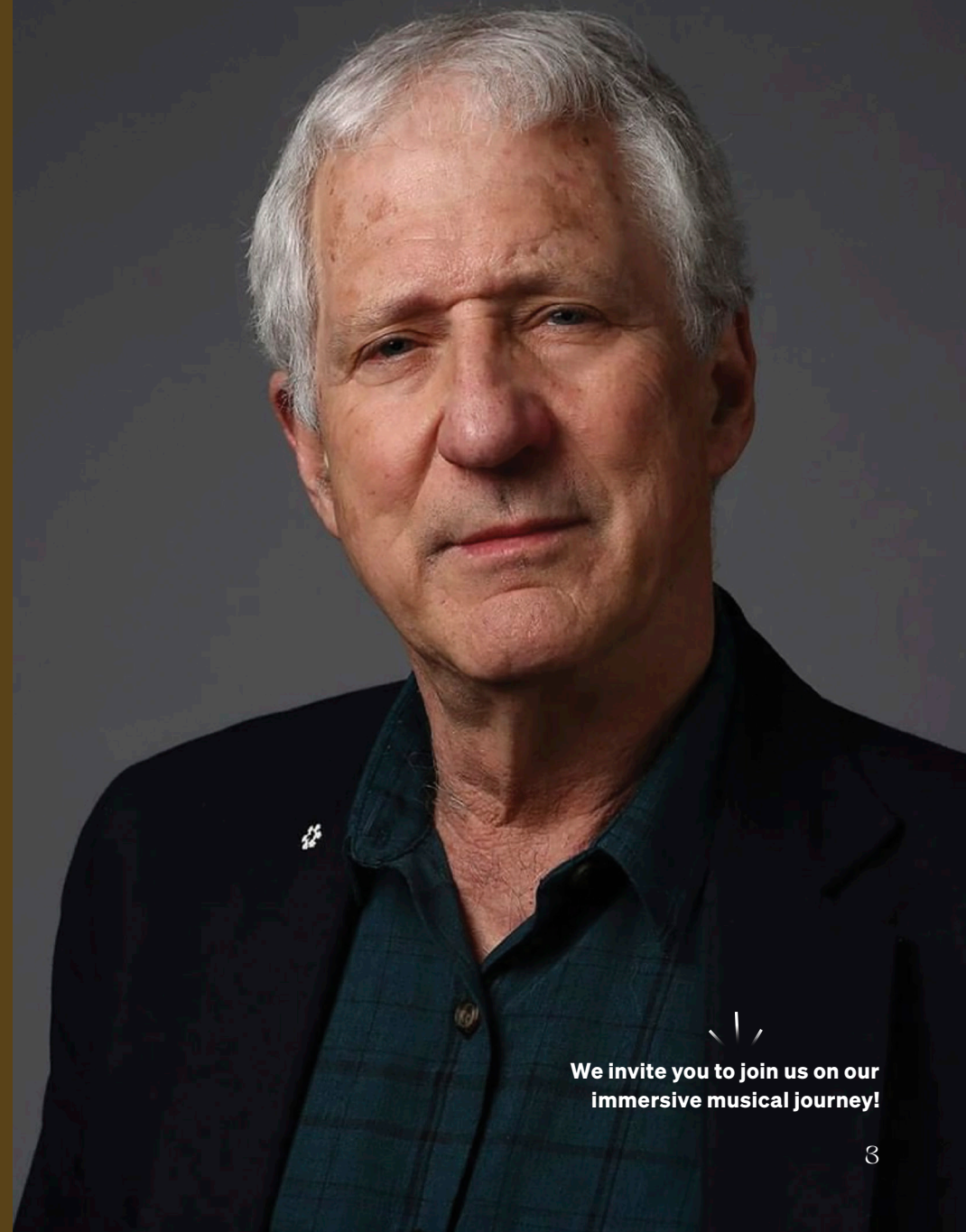
the ways in which we feel and experience the world in which we live.

Our '23/24 season offers the possibility of just such transformative experiences and the opportunity to indulge in a diverse offering of thought-provoking performances. These performances draw upon musical genres from the medieval to jazz, and in formats ranging from "in concert" to staged productions. We invite you to join us on the journey!

Warm Regards,



LAWRENCE CHERNEY,
Founding Artistic Director, Soundstreams



**We invite you to join us on our
immersive musical journey!**

MAINSTAGE

THE BRIGHT DIVIDE

Two probing yet immersive and contemplative works by Morton Feldman and Cecilia Livingston, inspired by the paintings of Mark Rothko, with staging by Tim Albery.

Rothko Chapel, by American composer **Morton Feldman**, was written for the opening of the actual Rothko Chapel in Houston, Texas, a non-denominational spiritual space containing 14 paintings by the iconic painter Mark Rothko. Feldman wrote, “Rothko’s imagery goes right to the edge of his canvas, and I wanted the same effect with the music.” His evocative score is a dialogue with Rothko’s paintings featuring a solo viola, punctuated by distant timpani and choir. It’s also an homage to the Rothko Chapel, created “to illuminate our shared humanity, inspiring actions towards treating all with dignity and respect.”

Responding both to Feldman’s piece and to Rothko’s art itself, *mark* will be a world premiere by Canadian composer **Cecilia Livingston** with text by **Duncan McFarlane**. *mark* offers a ritual of light and darkness: exploring this “Bright Divide,” the spiritual tensions in Rothko’s work, and the tensions between Rothko’s earlier bright colour fields and the sombre refinement of the Chapel paintings. Known for her powerful, dramatic creations for singers, Livingston contrasts soloist and ensemble, viola and voice, to evoke what Robert Hughes called the “breathing intensity” of Rothko’s paintings—a sense of awe and contemplation.

TD MUSIC HALL

NOV 10–11, 2023

REPERTOIRE

Morton Feldman

Rothko Chapel (1971)

Cecilia Livingston, music

Duncan McFarlane, text

mark (2023)

WORLD PREMIERE

ARTISTS

Tim Albery

Stage Director

David Fallis

Conductor/Music Director

Soundstreams Choir 21

Steven Dann

Solo Viola

Ryan Scott

Percussion

Gregory Oh

Celesta

Siobhán Sleath

Lighting Designer

Cameron Davis

Projections

mark commission funded by the



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MAINSTAGE

ELECTRIC MESSIAH



A compelling reimaging of Handel's *Messiah* for our own time and place, with music composed and improvised by an extraordinary cast of singers and instrumentalists, and musical shaping by Adam Scime. This iteration includes a new interpolation by composer Ian Cusson.

**THEATRE PASSE
MURAILLE**

DEC 14-17, 2023

ARTISTS

Chelsea Dab Hilke
Stage Director

Midori Marsh
Soprano

Rebecca Cuddy
Mezzo-Soprano

Elizabeth Shepherd
Vocals

Daniel Cabena
Counter-Tenor

Korin Thomas-Smith
Baritone

Amahl Arulanandam
Electric Cello

Joel Schwartz
Acoustic/Electric Guitar

Adam Scime
Synthesizer

Wesley Shen
Harpichord

Joel Visentin
Keyboards

This reboot of Handel's masterpiece mixes diverse influences and genres to deliver the unexpected. It features five extraordinary singers and a five-person instrumental ensemble offering musical styles ranging from jazz, blues, hip-hop, and gospel to classical. Whether you know Handel's *Messiah* or not, you'll love our *Electric Messiah*. It riffs on some of Handel's gorgeous arias and choruses, probing as it does compelling yet universal themes of love, loss, betrayal, joy, and redemption.

Returning to Soundstreams for the eighth time, Toronto's newest holiday tradition will make its first appearance at the historic Theatre Passe Muraille. Unlike some holiday classics that never change, *Electric Messiah* is never the same two years in a row! Guided and shaped by the masterful hand of composer and synth player **Adam Scime**, the performance is a truly collaborative effort between singers and instrumentalists.

MAINSTAGE

ESTONIAN PHILHARMONIC CHAMBER CHOIR

The world-renowned chamber choir returns to Toronto with music by legendary Estonian composer Arvo Pärt, Palestrina, and a world premiere by Estonian/Canadian composer Omar Daniel.

Led by its founder **Tõnu Kaljuste**, **The Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir**

(EPCC) is one of the world's foremost vocal ensembles, famous for their interpretations of music by their beloved countryman **Arvo Pärt**.

Their program includes Pärt favourites like *Magnificat*, *Nunc Dimittis*, *Dopo la Vittoria* and *Kanon Pokajanen*, as well as works by another great spiritualist of centuries past, **Palestrina**, including three selections from his *Offertorium*.

This evening of reverence and magic takes place in the majestic and acoustically superb setting of St. Paul's Basilica. The program includes the world premiere of a new work by Estonian/Canadian composer **Omar Daniel**, based on the sonnet *Antarktos* by H. P. Lovecraft.

Returning to Toronto for the sixth time since 2000 under the auspices of Soundstreams, EPCC concerts usually sell out. Don't miss your chance to experience this deeply fulfilling international collaboration!

**ST. PAUL'S
BASILICA**

FEB 3, 2024

REPERTOIRE

Arvo Pärt

Magnificat (1989)
Nunc Dimittis (2001)
Dopo la Vittoria
(1996, rev. 1998)
Kanon Pokajanen (1997)

Palestrina

Benedictus es Domine,
Ave Maria, *Laudate*
Dominum from
Offertorium (1593)

Omar Daniel

Antarktos Monodies (2023)
WORLD PREMIERE

ARTISTS

Tõnu Kaljuste
Conductor

**The Estonian
Philharmonic
Chamber Choir**

Antarktos Monodies
commission funded by

FOUNDATION
SO CAN
FOUNDATION

KEYED UP!

A mini-festival celebrating new music for piano, harpsichord, organ, and electronic keyboard!

**JANE MALLET
THEATRE**

APRIL 18–20, 2024

ARTISTS

Jean Paul Farahat

Paul Grabowsky

Russell Hartenberger

Rachael Kerr

Midori Koga

Gregory Oh

Wesley Shen

KEYED UP! #1

**VARIATIONS
ON GOLDBERG
VARIATIONS**

APRIL 18, 2024



KEYED UP! #2

**RBC BRIDGES:
Emerging Composers
Showcase**

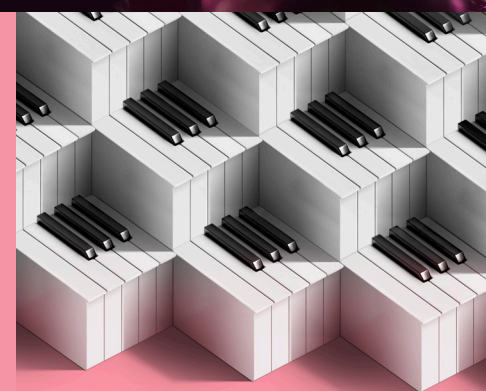
APRIL 19, 2024



KEYED UP! #3

**6 PIANOS
12 HANDS**

APRIL 20, 2024



KEYED UP! #1

VARIATIONS ON GOLDBERG VARIATIONS



A dazzling array of newly composed variations on J.S. Bach's *Goldberg Variations* by four extraordinary living composers, plus Australian composer/pianist Paul Grabowsky's jazz-inflected take on Bach's famous *Goldberg Aria*.

JANE MALLET
THEATRE

APR 18, 2024

REPERTOIRE

Paul Grabowsky

Improvisations on the Aria from Bach's Goldberg Variations (2021)

NORTH AMERICAN
PREMIERE

Taylor Brook

Dorothy Chang

Emily Doolittle

André Ristic

Four commissions for the Variations on Goldberg Variations (2023)

WORLD PREMIERE

Variations on Goldberg Variations

reflects on Bach's singular achievement through a contemporary lens. Four living Canadian composers each write seven to eight variations for a total of 30 new variations, each preceded by a rendition of the Bach original. The composers represent not only a diversity of aesthetics, but the newly-composed variations will alternate among piano, harpsichord, organ and electronic keyboard. J.S. would have loved it!

Australian composer and pianist **Paul Grabowsky** returns to Soundstreams with his boundary-breaking take on Bach's monumental work, creating his own jazz-inflected response to Bach's eternally beautiful theme. The Sydney Arts Guide had this to say about his 36 performances in Australia in 2021: "In this improvisation, jazz gesturing alternated with hand-crossing, complex filigree. Paul Grabowsky's playing was effectively reminiscent of Bach's ecstatic workings in his thirty variations."

KEYED UP! #2

RBC BRIDGES: Emerging Composers Showcase



Six short but brilliant new works for keyboards by Emerging Composers in our **RBC Bridges** program with mentorship by renowned composers **Paul Grabowsky** (Australia) and **André Ristic** (Canada), plus recent brilliant works for keyboards by resident professional performers in the program.

The RBC Bridges program offers audiences a chance to hear some of the world's most promising composers at an early career stage. An annual, week-long program offering free tuition and accommodation to six emerging composers, they work with celebrated mentors and a resident ensemble of seasoned professionals. Over the course of the week, each composer participates in rehearsals and workshops with the resident mentors and instrumentalists, culminating in the world premiere of their new works. The evening also offers a mini-recital of new works featuring each of the resident keyboard players in the program. Admission to RBC Bridges is free to the public.

**JANE MALLET
THEATRE**

APR 19, 2024

REPERTOIRE

**RBC Bridges
Emerging Composers**
Six new compositions (2024)

Ana Sokolovic
T. REX (2020)

John Paul Farahat, organ
NORTH AMERICAN
PREMIERE

Ann Southam
Glass Houses No. 5 (2015)
Gregory Oh, piano

Monica Pearce
toile de jouy (2018)
Wesley Shen, harpsichord

RBC Bridges supported by



Foundation

KEYED UP! #3

6 PIANOS 12 HANDS

Just imagine 6 grand pianos on stage! The program includes two legendary works for them: Steve Reich's *Six Pianos* and Terry Riley's *A Rainbow in Curved Air*, Plus works for multiple pianos by André Ristic, Ana Sokolović, and Julia Wolfe.

Steve Reich and Terry Riley have each had a profound influence on the way we listen to music. The term “minimalism” is often used to characterize their music, yet the music itself is anything but minimal, incorporating nuance and subtlety that is maximal in imagination and innovation.

Reich, described by the New Yorker as “the most original musical thinker of our time,” recognized early in his career the hypnotic power of multiple pianos, none exploited more spectacularly than in his *Six Pianos*. This seminal work is combined with a new arrangement for six pianos by André Ristic of Terry Riley's *A Rainbow in Curved Air*. And we feature a a reprise of Ristic's Soundstreams-commissioned work *Vivaldi Variations*.

The program is filled out with compelling works for two pianos by Ana Sokolović and Julia Wolfe.

JANE MALLETT
THEATRE

APR 20, 2024

REPERTOIRE

Steve Reich

Six Pianos (1973)

Terry Riley

Rainbow in Curved Air (1960)

André Ristic

Variations on Vivaldi (2021)

Ana Sokolović

Trois études (1990)

Julia Wolfe

my lips from speaking (1993)

TD ENCOUNTERS

WE WELCOME YOU TO ENJOY OUR FREE CONCERT SERIES

Smaller in scale than the Mainstage productions, TD Encounters are free shows that begin with an intimate live performance and end with a group discussion, giving audiences a chance to engage with musicians and their music in a relaxed atmosphere.

This program is supported by TD Bank Group through the TD Ready Commitment.



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SUBSCRIPTION PRICING FOR SOUNDSTREAMS 2023-24 SEASON (Not including taxes)

Subscription Order

SEATING LEVEL	A	B	C	Soundwaves*
5 Performance Subscription (SAVE 40%)	\$225	\$150	\$75	\$75
4 Performance Subscription (SAVE 30%)	\$210	\$140	\$70	\$70
3 Performance Subscription (SAVE 20%)	\$180	\$120	\$60	\$60

Soundstreams 2023/24 Season Performance Schedule

KEYED UP — APRIL 18-21, 2024

The Bright Divide (NOV 10-11)

Electric Messiah (DEC 14-17)

Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir (FEB 3)

• *Variations on Goldberg Variations* (APR 18)

• *RBC Bridges* (APR 19) *Free to all Subscribers

• *6 Pianos 12 Hands* (APR 20)

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*Soundwaves — Our discount program for Students, Frontline Workers, Arts Workers, and Under-employed. Soundwaves patrons are given best available seating at the time of booking.

SOUND STREAMS

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