

MEDIA RELEASE

Soundstreams unveils a historic 2020/21 Season

World Premieres by Canadians Paul Frehner, Robin Dann, Chan Ka Nin & Christopher Mayo, alongside music by Steve Reich, Huang Ruo, & Arvo Pärt
Guest Stars include Tõnu Kaljuste, Ars Nova Copenhagen, Nexus & SlowPitchSound
Partnerships with The Royal Conservatory's 21C Festival, Tapestry Opera, Drake Hotel, and more.

An international tour to Europe, including a prestigious stop at London's Southbank Centre



Photography by Dahlia Katz. Design by Wesstrong Group Inc.



“As the world grapples with forced separations of all kinds, celebrating what brings us together matters more than ever.”
-Lawrence Cherney, Artistic Director

TORONTO – April 1, 2020 Today [Soundstreams](#) unveiled its 2020/21 season, a historic journey that will celebrate major milestones and showcase rising talent. Artistic Director Lawrence Cherney has curated an impressive line up of composers and musicians that will take audiences on a voyage of sonic discovery. Subscriptions are now on sale at [Soundstreams.ca](#).

Highlights of the 2020/21 season include:

- [Steve Reich](#) live in Toronto for an 85th birthday celebration at Koerner Hall, with special guest stars Nexus (who happen to be turning 50) and TorQ Percussion Quartet.
- A performance as part of The Royal Conservatory’s 21C Festival of [Book of Mountains and Seas](#) by **Huang Ruo**, featuring the world-class sounds of **Ars Nova Copenhagen** and life-size puppetry from **Basil Twist**
- A continuation of Soundstreams’ Guest Curator series with songwriter, singer and musician **Robin Dann** in [Quiet Time](#)
- The world’s foremost interpreter of the music of Arvo Pärt, Tõnu Kaljuste, in [Choral Splendour](#)
- A co-production with Tapestry Opera for [Dragon’s Tale](#), a waterfront opera that will blend Eastern and Western traditions with music, opera, ritual, and sport.
- A virtuoso lineup of Toronto performers tackling works of **Claude Vivier** in [Shiraz](#)
- The return of last year’s sold-out [Electric Messiah](#) at the Drake underground
- *Encounters*, a free performance and discussion series
- A tour to Europe, including headlining a Claude Vivier festival at London’s prestigious **Southbank Centre**.

From Artistic Director **Lawrence Cherney**: *“Next season is all about human connection through storytelling. As the world grapples with forced separations of all kinds, celebrating what brings us together matters more than ever. We honour the world’s two most performed living composers, Steve Reich and Arvo Part. And we explore shared Canadian narratives that reflect our relationship to diverse cultural traditions and themes that range from betrayal and exile to the power of love and redemption.”*

From Executive Director **Menon Dwarka**: “Canada continues to lead the world in almost every sector, and the arts are no exception. See and hear the future in our 2020/21 season!”



2020/21 Season at a Glance

[Choral Splendour: The Music of Pärt & Frehner](#)

October 24, 2020 at 8pm

Jeanne Lamont Hall, Trinity-St. Paul's Centre

Tõnu Kaljuste, conductor
Jacqueline Woodley, soprano
Andrea Ludwig, mezzo-soprano
Asitha Tennekoon, tenor
Justin Welsh, baritone
Chamber Choir & Orchestra

Arvo Pärt, *Stabat Mater*

Paul Frehner, *LEX* (commissioned by Soundstreams)

Tõnu Korvits, *Labyrinth*

Arvo Pärt's longtime collaborator, Tõnu Kaljuste, is considered to be the greatest living

interpreter of his music. He conducts Pärt's sparse yet passionate *Stabat Mater* in the beautiful and intimate Jeanne Lamont Hall, the perfect venue for choral and orchestral concerts. We couple this work with Paul Frehner's *LEX*, a monumental world premiere that sets to music religious, poetic, and even scientific text – including Newton's laws of gravity!

[Quiet Time](#)

Saturday November 21, 2020 at 8pm

Temerty Theatre, The Royal Conservatory

Robin Dann, guest curator
Allison Cameron, composer & performer
Matthew Pencer, composer & performer

Claude Debussy once said "Music is the silence between the notes. The music is not in the notes, but in the silence in between." Songwriter, singer & musician Robin Dann guest curates an evening of music and performance inspired by the quietest sounds in the world around us. Robin's recent trip to the Arctic Circle plays a major role in this show, and only strengthened her certainty that magic lies in quiet. We invite you let the multifaceted power of small sounds wash over you - after all, silence is golden.

[Electric Messiah at the Drake Underground](#)

December 8–10, 2020 at 8pm

Drake Underground

These performances are an annual tradition for many concert-goers – make this your year!



Never the same two seasons in a row, this immersive reimagining of Handel's masterpiece contemporizes universal themes like love, betrayal, and redemption. Featuring a feast of musical styles ranging from jazz to soul/hip-hop, *Electric Messiah* "will reconnect you to the music of the holiday season in a way that is surprising, fresh, and above all, fun" (blogTO). **Don't delay – shows sell out!**

[Book of Mountains and Seas](#)

Part of The Royal Conservatory's 21C Music Festival

Friday January 22, 2021 at 8pm
Koerner Hall, The Royal Conservatory

Huang Ruo, music & text
Basil Twist, direction & design
Paul Hillier, music director
Ars Nova Copenhagen, vocal ensemble
Ryan Scott and Michelle Colton, percussion

Book of Mountains and Seas by Huang Ruo (described by The New York Times as "one of the world's leading young composers."), a work for 12 singers, percussion – **and the magic of**

Basil Twists' life-size puppets – takes mythological stories from an ancient Chinese compilation of early myths first transcribed in the 4th century BCE. The music comes alive with the world-class sounds of vocal ensemble Ars Nova Copenhagen.

Commissioned and produced by Ars Nova Copenhagen, Beth Morrison Projects, Soundstreams, Internationale Koorbiennale, Virginia Tech, and Linda & Stuart Nelson.

[Steve Reich Live!](#)

Saturday April 10, 2021 at 8pm
Koerner Hall, The Royal Conservatory

Steve Reich, composer
Nexus and TorQ Percussion Quartet, percussion

Select Works:

Drumming
Music for Mallet Instruments, Voices, and Organ

Soundstreams welcomes Steve Reich to Toronto for an 85th-birthday celebration, his fourth appearance with us! He has a special connection with our city through the legendary Nexus, who are turning 50 years young. Plus, his seminal work *Drumming* was written 50 years ago. Also featuring rising stars TorQ Percussion Quartet, this is Soundstreams' not-to-be-missed event of the season – his 80th birthday concert sold out!



[Shiraz](#)

May 4 & 5, 2021 at 8pm
Temerty Theatre, The Royal Conservatory

David Fallis, conductor
Carla Huhtanen, Lindsay McIntyre, Vania Chan, Robin Dann, Owen McCausland, Keith Lam & Alex Samaras, vocal ensemble
Ryan Scott, percussion
Gregory Oh, piano
New work by **Christopher Mayo**

Claude Vivier's travels to Bali and the Iranian city of Shiraz in the 1970's was for him an initiation into mysticism and poetry. Upon his return to Canada, he captured his experiences through two brilliant works: *Shiraz* for solo piano, and the Balinese influenced *Cinq chansons pour percussion*. These travels led to an intensely personal voyage; *Love Songs*, for seven singers runs the gamut from childhood songs and nursery rhymes to the deepest contemplation of our place in the universe. Couple this with an homage to Claude Vivier by Christopher Mayo, and you have an evening of pure magic.

[Dragon's Tale*](#)

A co-production with Tapestry Opera
June 17–20, 2021
An outdoor experience on Toronto's beautiful waterfront!

Chan Ka Nin, composer
Mark Brownwell, librettist
Michael Hidetoshi Mori, director
David Fallis, music director

Don't miss this waterfront opera blending Eastern and Western traditions with music, opera, ritual, and sport. Stay tuned for more details!

**early access to this show only available to early bird subscribers*

For subscription:

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About Soundstreams

A world leader among contemporary music companies, Soundstreams is the foremost global presenter of new Canadian music. Lawrence Cherney, Artistic Director and Menon Dwarka, Executive Director are committed to showcasing the work of living and international composers with a focus on innovative thematic and experiential programming. Soundstreams also serves a broad community of music lovers through free outreach and educational programs. They include *Encounter*, a free monthly discovery series featuring performances, discussions, and audience participation; *RBC Bridges*, helping talented contemporary composers worldwide launch their careers; *SoundWave* provides accessible tickets to young adults; and *SoundMakers* provides interactive learning experiences online and in the classroom.



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