

MUSIC OF THE RAINBOW NATION

A TRIBUTE TO NELSON
MANDELA'S DREAM



**SOUND
STREAMS**

Lawrence Cherney,
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

NEW DIRECTIONS IN MUSIC



**2016/2017
CONCERT SERIES**

Making
the arts
accessible.



BMO Financial Group is proud to sponsor **Soundstreams** and the **SoundWave Ticket Program.**

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Nearly three years ago Soundstreams invited South Africa's Nelson Mandela University Choir to Toronto as the lynchpin in a North American tour. The march of history has intervened – students at South African universities became embroiled in protests, strikes and civil unrest around rising fees, forcing the cancellation of that tour.

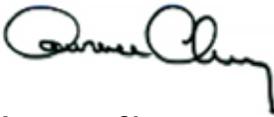
Nelson Mandela's legacy and his concept of the "Rainbow Nation" are more important now than ever. This concert strives to be a musical tribute to inclusion, to crossing barriers of all kinds between peoples, genres and cultures.

Many of tonight's performers sang for and with Mandela, others grew up inspired by the long shadow he cast. It includes notable Canadian and South African composers Brian Tate, Kevin Volans and the world premiere of Gabriel Dharmoo's *Futile Spells*. The Dharmoo was originally commissioned for the Mandela choir, but will receive its world premiere with the spirited Nathaniel Dett Chorale, which we have nicknamed "The Rainbow Chorus." International composers as diverse as Haitian-

American Sydney Guillaume and Kurt Weill are also featured.

The performers come to us from America, Canada and South Africa. Our two extraordinary actors, Kim Sanssoucie and Batsile Ramasodi, have come directly from Johannesburg for this performance, plus we welcome for the first time on our stage South African-Canadian singer Lorraine Klaasen, and American bass-baritone Justin Hopkins.

Mandela's dream of an inclusive society is only partially realized – in South Africa, Canada and everywhere else – but it is one we must cherish and hold dear as we strive to make a better world. Thank you for sharing this dream tonight with us.



Lawrence Cherney

ABOUT SOUNDSTREAMS

Soundstreams is one of the world's leading contemporary music companies, and the largest global presenter of new Canadian music. Artistic Director Lawrence Cherney and Executive Director Ben Dietschi are committed to showcasing the work of living and international composers with a focus on innovative thematic and experiential programming.

Soundstreams maintains its commitment to the larger community with Salon 21, a free series offering performances contextualized through engaging discussion at The Gardiner Museum, as well as composer training activities, the SoundWave program, which promotes accessible tickets to those 35 and under, and the creation of digital performance spaces.

PROGRAM NOTES

BY DAVID JAEGER

Lawrence Cherney, Soundstreams' Artistic Director, visited South Africa one year ago, and his experiences there affected him deeply. He decided to create a concert program that would reflect the multifaceted music and culture of this diverse and fascinating nation. Archbishop Desmond Tutu referred to post-apartheid South Africans as "The Rainbow People of God," and President Nelson Mandela further elaborated on the notion when he said; "Each of us is as intimately attached to the soil of this beautiful country as are the famous jacaranda trees of Pretoria and the mimosa trees of the bushveld – a rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world."

In keeping with the theme of African inspired diversity, tonight's concert is a mix of words and music expressing several artistic styles and approaches, all focusing on the Rainbow Nation and Nelson Mandela's dream. It's a rich blend of contemporary compositions, choral music, songs from the stage, and South African township music, linked with the wisdom of Mandela and Tutu.

South African township music evolved in the poor, racially segregated townships in the early part of the 20th Century. Township music is itself a designation that embraces several musical genres, but many of these genres, such as marabi, kwela and mbaqanga, combine jazz and indigenous traditional musics. During the apartheid era these styles were considered a rebellious music, associated with an impoverished working class. Lorraine Klaasen, daughter of the famed South African jazz singer, Thandie Klaasen, toured with her mother from an early age, eventually accompanying her on stage. She presents a selection of songs in the marabi and mbaqanga styles.

Rhythm is a key ingredient in the music of South African born composer Kevin Volans, and percussion instruments form an important element of his sonic palette. In 2014 he wrote *Abhaya* for Hamiruge, the percussion ensemble at Louisiana State University. It's a high energy piece for four percussionists who play 24 instruments, mostly drums, but notably, also a few xylophone bars. A note in the score states, "This is a virtuoso piece: the tempo marks are to be as strictly observed as possible." Not surprisingly,

the tempi are mostly fast. The title, *Abhaya* is the Sanskrit word for fearlessness.

Vancouver based composer Brian Tate says of his choral and percussion composition, *Africa*, "The work combines excerpts from the Latin texts of *O Vos Omnes* (*O all ye that pass by*) and *De Profundis* (*Out of the depths*), with the words of a traditional church song... *Wakeh Woya Woya* (*We are moving forward*). While the Latin texts give voice to collective sorrow and yearning, the Ghanaian text is one of inspiration, a commitment to move forward and never give up."

Another composition for choir and percussion is *Mama Afrika*, by the Haitian American composer, singer and conductor, Sydney Guillaume. The Kokopelli Choir Association of Edmonton commissioned the work in 2007. The Creole text, by the composer's father, Gabriel Guillaume, is an impassioned cry for redemption for the people of both Africa and Haiti.

Kurt Weill's last work for the musical stage was his 1949 collaboration with Maxwell Anderson, *Lost in the Stars: a Musical Tragedy*, based on the 1948 novel by Alan Paton, *Cry, the Beloved Country*. Tonight we'll hear three of the most memorable songs sung by bass-baritone sensation Justin Hopkins with The Rainbow Chorus: a 16-voice choir including members of Toronto's Nathaniel Dett Chorale.

Soundstreams commissioned Canadian composer and vocalist, Gabriel Dharmoo, to create a new work for the anticipated visit by the Nelson Mandela University Choir. The unfortunate cancellation of their tour provided an opportunity for The Rainbow Chorus to give the premiere. Dharmoo says; "This new piece focuses on magical, supernatural or ritualistic spells that might have belonged to ancient populations. But if these civilizations could not save themselves from extinction, can one place trust in their belief systems?"

Soundstreams invites you to enjoy the experience of the music and the magic that comes to us tonight from The Rainbow Nation.

MUSIC OF THE RAINBOW NATION

A Tribute to Nelson Mandela's Dream



Dedicated to the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University Choir

Wednesday, November 23rd, 2016 at 8p.m.
Koerner Hall, TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning, 273 Bloor St. West

PERFORMERS

Lorraine Klaasen, vocals & band: Noel Mpiaza Balu, drums, Mongezi Ntaka, guitar, André Whiteman, bass
Justin Hopkins, bass-baritone

Jeff McLeod, piano

Percussion Ensemble: Alejandro Céspedes, Michelle Colton, Daniel Morphy & Ryan Scott
Batsile Ramasodi & Kim Sanssoucie, actors

The Rainbow Chorus: The Nathaniel Dett Chorale
Brainerd Blyden-Taylor, conductor; David Fallis, guest conductor

Justine Owen, soprano	Faith Amour, alto	Nick Gough, tenor	Wade Bray, bass
Alison Ryan, soprano	Margaret Bardos, alto	Mark Rainey, tenor	Tom Lillington, bass
Karen Scovell, soprano	Ali Garrison, alto	Will Reid, tenor	Jeff McLeod, bass
Tahirih Vejdani, soprano	Laurel Tubman, alto	Paul Williamson, tenor	Chris Peterson, bass

Batsile Ramasodi & Kim Sanssoucie will perform dramatizations at various points in the program.

PROGRAM

Traditional *Click Song*
Jolinkomo
Pata Pata
Lorraine Klaasen, vocals & band

Kevin Volans *Abhaya* (2014)
(b. 1949) Alejandro Céspedes, percussion;
Michelle Colton, percussion;
Daniel Morphy, percussion;
Ryan Scott, percussion

Sydney Guillaume *Mama Afrika* (2007)
(b. 1982) The Rainbow Chorus
Brainerd Blyden-Taylor, conductor

Brian Tate *Africa* (2009)
(b. 1954) The Rainbow Chorus
Brainerd Blyden-Taylor, conductor

Kurt Weill *Lost in the Stars: A Musical*
(1900-50) *Tragedy* (1949)
I. Lost in the Stars
II. Thousands of Miles
III. Little Gray House
Justin Hopkins, bass-baritone;
Jeff McLeod, piano;
The Rainbow Chorus
David Fallis, conductor

Gabriel Dharmoo *Futile Spells* (2016)
(b. 1981) World premiere *
The Rainbow Chorus
David Fallis, conductor

Traditional *Babalazi*
Unomeva
Khawuleza
Lorraine Klaasen, vocals & band

INTERMISSION

* Commissioned with support from the Canada Council for the Arts.

BIOGRAPHIES



Brainerd Blyden-Taylor

CONDUCTOR

Blyden-Taylor is the Founder, Artistic Director and Conductor of The Nathaniel Dett Chorale, Canada's first professional chamber choir dedicated to the creation and performance of Afrocentric music of all styles. Born in Trinidad & Tobago, Blyden-Taylor immigrated to Canada in 1973. He founded The Chorale in 1998, in response to a musical void in Canada; There had never before been a professional ensemble dedicated to the dissemination of Afrocentric choral music.

Blyden-Taylor has conducted several university, youth and concert choirs, most notably completing a 25-year tenure with The Orpheus Choir of Toronto. In addition, he works frequently as a guest conductor, having appeared with organizations such as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Nova Scotia, Hannaford Street Silver Band, Nova Scotia Youth Choir and more.

In addition to his work with the Nathaniel Dett Chorale, Blyden-Taylor has maintained the position of Music Director at St. Timothy's Anglican Church, North Toronto.



The Nathaniel Dett Chorale

THE RAINBOW CHORUS

The Rainbow Chorus is comprised of 16 members of the Nathaniel Dett Chorale, Canada's first professional choral group dedicated to Afrocentric music of all styles, including classical, spiritual, gospel, jazz, folk and blues.

In 1998, founder Brainerd Blyden-Taylor named The Chorale after internationally-renowned African-Canadian composer R. Nathaniel Dett (1882-1943), who performed at prestigious concert halls such as Carnegie Hall and Boston Symphony Hall. Dett was dedicated to the cause of Black music. Blyden-Taylor established The Chorale to draw attention not only to Dett's legacy but also to the wealth of Afrocentric choral music, and to be a professional choral group where persons of African heritage could see themselves represented in the majority.

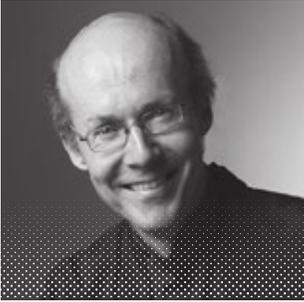
The Nathaniel Dett Chorale's vision is to be a premier performer of Afrocentric composers, and a touchstone for the education of audiences regarding the full spectrum of Afrocentric choral music. The Chorale's mission is to build bridges of understanding, appreciation, and acceptance between communities of people through music.



Gabriel Dharmoo

COMPOSER

Gabriel Dharmoo's musical practice encompasses composition, vocal improvisation and research. His works have been performed in Canada, the U.S.A., Europe, Australia, Singapore and South Africa. He was awarded the SOCAN Jan V. Matejcek Award (2016), the Fernand-Lindsay Prix d'Europe composition prize (2011), the Canada Council for the Arts, the Robert Fleming Prize (2011), as well as 6 prizes from the SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers. His work as a singer and interdisciplinary artist led to his performative solo *Imaginary Anthropologies*, winner of Best International Production at the Amsterdam Fringe Festival (2015) and the Contra Guys Award for Outstanding New Performance at the SummerWorks Performance Festival (2016). He is currently enrolled in Concordia University's PhD "Individualized Program" with Sandeep Bhagwati (Music), Noah Drew (Theatre) and David Howes (Anthropology of the Senses).



David Fallis

CONDUCTOR

David Fallis is a Canadian conductor and music director renowned for his work in both early and contemporary music. He has conducted at the Royal Opera House in Versailles, the Luminato Festival, the Glimmerglass Festival, the Singapore Festival, Festival Vancouver, Houston Grand Opera, the Seoul Arts Centre, Cleveland Opera, Wolftrap Theater, Utah Opera, and in major opera houses in Japan

As Music Director of Toronto's Opera Atelier he has led critically-acclaimed productions of major operas by Mozart, Handel, Lully and Monteverdi in Toronto, France, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and the United States. As Artistic Director of the Toronto Consort, Canada's leading ensemble specializing in the music of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, he has toured extensively in Canada, the US and Europe, and has led the ensemble in their numerous recordings. He directs Choir 21, a vocal ensemble specializing in contemporary choral music. He has great success with major works of Murray Schafer, and has led premieres of works by leading Canadian composers, including James Rolfe, Christos Hatzis and Christopher Butterfield.



Sydney Guillaume

COMPOSER

Sydney Guillaume's compositions are known to be intricate, challenging and yet highly spirited. His compositions continually enthral choirs everywhere and have been performed around the world.

Since 2013 he has been the conductor of Imbroglia Sextet, a group of musicians from Haiti, Spain, Bolivia and the United States. His latest activities as conductor include an "all-Guillaume" concert in New York City's Lincoln Center, and a concert with the Imbroglia Sextet at Carnegie Hall.

Sydney Guillaume graduated from the University of Miami in 2004 where his works were performed by the Miami University Chorale conducted by Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe. Originally from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, he is currently residing in Portland, Oregon, working as a full-time composer, conductor and clinician.



Justin Hopkins

BASS-BARITONE

Bass-baritone Justin Hopkins is a young performer in increasing demand nationally and internationally. He has been featured in theaters such as Carnegie Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall (London), and Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie (Brussels). A versatile artist, Hopkins has performed operatic roles ranging from Mozart to Philip Glass, as well as concert repertoire including Britten's *War Requiem* and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. He has performed under the distinguished batons of conductors such as Keith Lockhart, Charles Dutoit, and Valery Gergiev with orchestras including the Philadelphia Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Boston Pops, and Verbier Festival Orchestra. He took 2nd place in the 2012 Lotte Lenya Competition.

BIOGRAPHIES CONTINUED



Lorraine Klaasen

VOCALS & BAND

Born to the legendary South African Jazz singer Thandie Klaasen and raised in Soweto, Lorraine Klaasen was influenced by South Africa's musical giants of the 1950's and 1960's, such as Miriam Makeba, Dolly Rathebe, Dorothy Masuka, Sophie Mgcina and Busi Mhlongo who frequented her mother's home.

In 2008, Lorraine Klaasen released the highly charged album *Africa Calling* working with South African record producer Mongezi Chris Ntaka, and featuring bassist Bakhiti Khumalo. Her CD *A Tribute To Miriam Makeba*, which won her the 2013 Juno Award for World Music Album of the Year, is a tribute to the legendary songstress.

Lorraine Klaasen's new and most ambitious CD, *Nouvelle Journée*, is also co-produced by Mongezi; it showcases some of the musical styles that Klaasen has not yet recorded in her long musical career. On this album she sings in the Tsonga, Sotho, isiZulu and Xhosa languages, as well as in English and French.



Batsile Ramasodi

ACTOR

Ramasodi attained a degree in Drama from the Tshwane University of technology (TUT) in 2004. He has appeared in plays at the South African State Theatre, The Joburg Theatre, The National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, SA-UK season in Camden, London, as well as Festival of the Fringe in Edinburgh, Scotland.



Kim Sanssoucie

ACTOR

Performing artist, writer, arts education projects manager and vibrant creative; Sanssoucie graduated with her Bachelor of Arts degree in Drama and Performance; Media and Communications from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa. Kim wrote and starred in her most successful stage play to date, *The Dirt Road*. She is focused on writing new stage plays that she hopes to show locally as well as internationally, and is interested in developing and re-energizing the theatre culture in South Africa.



Ryan Scott & Ensemble

PERCUSSION

Critically acclaimed Canadian percussionist Ryan Scott has been hailed as: "Fierce and delicate ... a chameleon-like virtuoso who triumphs over the varied colouristic demands and technical challenges" (Gramophone). As a marimba and multi-percussion soloist he is in constant demand, performing extensively in Europe, Japan, North America and the UK. He has appeared as guest soloist with the Esprit Orchestra, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, The Hyogo Performing Arts Centre Orchestra, and more. Scott leads the percussion quartet tonight, which includes Alejandro Céspedes and Michelle Colton, both active Toronto educators and musicians, as well as Daniel Morphy, an avid orchestral and chamber musician. The group has performed together for Soundstreams before.



Brian Tate

COMPOSER

Brian Tate is an award-winning composer, as well as an accomplished and versatile musician, choir director, and educator.

Tate received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of British Columbia, and went on to further music studies in London, England, and Toronto. His love for music of many kinds has led to a diverse career that includes orchestral and choral conducting and performing, musical theatre, and composing music for film, television, stage, and the concert hall. He has twice received Vancouver's Jessie Richardson Award for original theatre music, and his choral music is performed worldwide.

In 2010, Brian founded and is currently the music director of Vancouver's vibrant, 100-voice City Soul Choir. He is known internationally for his lively choir workshops and for exhilarating and inspiring choral compositions and arrangements.



Kevin Volans

COMPOSER

Kevin Volans was born in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, and studied with Karlheinz Stockhausen in Cologne. He now is an Irish citizen.

In 1979 after research trips to South Africa, he began a series of pieces based on African composition techniques, which occupied him for the next 10 years.

After a productive collaboration with the Kronos quartet in the 1980s his work, principally in the field of chamber and orchestral music, has been regularly performed worldwide.

In 1997 the BBC Music Magazine listed him as one of the 50 most important living composers and he was described by the Village Voice as "one of the most original and unpredictable voices on the planet".



Kurt Weill

COMPOSER

Kurt Weill (1900-1950) began his career in the early 1920's, after a musical childhood and several years of study in Berlin. By the time his first opera, *The Protagonist (Georg Kaiser)*, was performed in April 1926, he was an established young German composer. But he had already decided to devote himself to the musical theater, and his works with Bertolt Brecht soon made him famous all over Europe. He fled the new Nazi leadership in March 1933 and continued his indefatigable efforts, first in Paris (1933-35), then in the U.S. until his death. Certain common threads tie together his career: a concern for social justice, an aggressive pursuit of highly-regarded playwrights and lyricists as collaborators, and the ability to adapt to audience tastes no matter where he found himself.

SUPPORTER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Soundstreams gratefully acknowledges our public and private supporters.

Government



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



FUNDED BY
THE CITY OF
TORONTO

Corporate



Foundations



**METCALF
FOUNDATION**

THE MARY-MARGARET WEBB FOUNDATION
THE KOERNER FOUNDATION
THE CATHERINE AND MAXWELL MEIGHEN FOUNDATION
THE HAL JACKMAN FOUNDATION
ONTARIO ARTS FOUNDATION
MACLEAN FOUNDATION
LLOYD CARR-HARRIS FOUNDATION

Special thanks to Peter Moss.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Soundstreams donors play a vital role in every aspect of our work.

We are deeply grateful for your generous support.

For more information about the benefits of joining the Premiere or Friends Circles, please call 416-504-1282 (option 3) or email development@soundstreams.ca.

Creator's Fund

James Baillie, Q.C.
Lawrence & Linda
Cherney
Philip Cowperthwaite
& Susan Hunter
Ben Dietschi
Vern & Frieda Heinrichs
Michael & Sonja
Koerner
John McKellar
Roger Moore
Hy & Judy Sarick
Bernard & Gissa Schiff
Lawrence & Donna
Smith
Phil & Eli Taylor
Stanley H. Witkin

Premiere Circle \$8,000+

Anonymous (2)
James Baillie, Q.C.
Lawrence & Linda
Cherney
Philip Cowperthwaite
& Susan Hunter
Michael and Sonja
Koerner
John McKellar
Roger Moore
Bernard & Gissa Schiff
Lawrence & Donna
Smith
Grace Westcott
& Peter Grant

\$5,000 - \$7,999

Hy & Judy Sarick
Phil & Eli Taylor

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Helen Burstyn
Ben Dietschi
Margaret Grotenthaler
David Hetherington
Katherine Smalley
Daniel Weinzweig
& Nancy Nightingale
Stanley H. Witkin

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Elisabeth Bihl
& Frank Delling
Paul Caston
Erica Cherney
Denton Creighton
Janne Duncan
Julia & Robert Foster
Randall Howard & Judy
McMullan
Michael & Linda
Hutcheon
Ellen Karp & Bill
Johnston
John Lawson
Chris Lorway
& John Austin
Rob Bell
& Diane Walker
Norman Woo
Susan Worthington

Friends Circle \$500 - \$999

David Fallis
Jeff Leibel
Murray Marchant
& Susan Baumann
Kathleen McMorrow
Ulrich Menzefricke

Karen Rice
Paul Schabas
In Memory of
Aino Teder
Robert Tomas
Jeffery Barnes
& Marcia Zuker

\$100 - \$249

Evelyn Aimis
Robert Aitken
Sarah Baumann
& Jonathan Welmers
John Beckwith
Pierre Bussieres
Michael Cherney
Adrienne Clarkson
Austin Clarkson
Susan De Rosa
Barbara Doherty
Eric Domville
Jill Eisen
Bruce Elder
David Fisher
Paul Frehner
Margaret Genovese
Elaine Gold
Sheila Goulet
Catherine Graham
John Higgins
Claire Hopkinson
Al & Doris Jantzi
Matthew Jocelyn
Ruth Manchee Kenins
Clement Kent
Paula Knopf
Sheila Lathe
Marta McCarthy
& Randy Smith
Leslie McIntosh
Daphne Mitchell
Joan Montgomery-Rose

David Mott
Phillip Nimmons
James & Louisa O'Reilly
Toshi Oikawa
Margaret Procter
Dr. & Mrs. W.T. Purves
Lola Rasminsky
& Bob Presner
Colleen Renihan
David Saunders
Pauline & Mendl
Schwartz
Ryan Scott
& Sanya Eng
Richard Shallhorn
Sandra Shaul
Edward Tait
Halla Thorsteinsdottir
Penelope Tyndale
Jessica Whitford
& Paul Castillo
Morden Yolles
Joyce Zemans



Proud to support SoundMakers.

We are working together with Soundstreams
to make a difference in our communities.

