



Soundstreams presents

## ***ELECTRIC MESSIAH***

Part of the Ear Candy series

December 7 and 8, 2015 at 8:00 pm, Drake Hotel Underground

**Handel goes Underground: A stripped down, surround-sound electro-improv *Messiah* for today's Toronto.**

**Tuesday, November 3 // Toronto** – Soundstreams presents the first concert from our newest series dedicated to musical exploration, Ear Candy. ***Electric Messiah***, running December 7 and 8 at the **Drake Hotel Underground**, is a new holiday tradition that takes Handel's masterpiece apart and puts it back together again, reconnecting Toronto audiences to the music of the season in a way that is surprising, fresh, and fun.

"This type of *Messiah* has never been done in Toronto before," says **Kyle Brenders**, Ear Candy curator and Soundstreams Artistic Associate. "Musically, we're hoping the feel will be something like a mashup of Handel, Bjork, and Kubrick's *2001 Space Odyssey*—but you'll have to come to find out! We'll also celebrate *Messiah* as a community experience, and are excited to push audience immersion further outside of a conventional concert hall."

Composed in three weeks in the late summer of 1741, *Messiah* was originally written for modest vocals and instrumentation, only later becoming the huge annual spectacle we are familiar with today. Stripping Handel's music back down to its barest essentials, *Electric Messiah* enables four singers, accompanied by guitar and electronics, to explore a selection of the work's most popular movements through the lens of their own unique styles and cultural backgrounds. Featuring South Indian sound poet **Gabriel Dharmoo**, improvisation specialist and minister's daughter **Christine Duncan**, Finnish-Canadian opera singer **Carla Huhtanen**, and Maliseet musician **Jeremy Dutcher**, *Electric Messiah* celebrates a truly Torontonians array of contemporary music talents. As a narrative through line, turntable artist **SlowPitch Sound** will also weave his magic throughout, mixing in *Messiah* old and new in humorous and poignant response to the other performers.

Staged in the intimate, cabaret-style Underground of Toronto's iconic **Drake Hotel**, in collaboration with dramaturg **Ashlie Corcoran** (*The Ugly One*, Tarragon Theatre and Theatre Smash, *The Gay Heritage Project*, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre) and lighting designer **Patrick Lavender** (*It Comes in Waves*, bluemouth inc and Necessary Angel Theatre Company), *Electric Messiah* is an interactive, surround-sound experience that will never be the same twice.

Ear Candy is supported by *NOW Magazine* and Sovereign State.

### ***Electric Messiah***

**December 7 and 8, 2015 at 8:00 pm**

Drake Hotel Underground, 1150 Queen Street West

Featuring:

Gabriel Dharmoo, vocals; Christine Duncan, vocals; Jeremy Dutcher, vocals; Carla Huhtanen, vocals; John Gzowski, guitar; Doug Van Nort, electronics; Electroacoustic Orchestra of York University; SlowPitch Sound, resident DJ.



In collaboration with curator Kyle Brenders, dramaturg Ashlie Corcoran, and lighting designer Patrick Lavender.

**Tickets** are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door (\$25 if you buy both Ear Candy concerts together), and are available at [soundstreams.ca](http://soundstreams.ca).

**Make a night of it:** audience members receive a 15% discount on dining at the Drake before the show (food only) with an *Electric Messiah* ticket.

## **EAR CANDY: UP NEXT**

### ***Electric Counterpoint***

**March 19, 2016 at 8:00 pm**

The Theatre Centre Incubator, 1115 Queen Street West

Featuring: Matt Smith aka Prince Nifty; Brandon Valdivia aka Mas Aya; and Dan Morphy. Resident DJ, SlowPitch Sound.

Soundstreams also offers a [Mainstage Concert Series](#), as well as [Salon 21](#), a free performance and discussion series at the Gardiner Museum.

## **ABOUT SOUNDSTREAMS**

Led by Artistic Director Lawrence Cherney and Executive Director Susan Worthington, Soundstreams showcases the work of living Canadian and international composers with a focus on innovative thematic and experiential programming. In collaboration with the finest Canadian and international artists, Soundstreams presents an annual concert series in Toronto as well as national and international tours. Soundstreams also serve the larger community through our free Salon 21 series at The Gardiner Museum, composer training activities, SoundWave program for music lovers under age 35, and digital performance space, including concert livestreams, SoundMakers website, and video content.

## **SOUNDSTREAMS SUPPORTERS**

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