

40
SOUND
STREAMS

ENCOUNTERS

BLURRED REALITIES

APRIL 13, 2023, 8 PM
HELICONIAN HALL

Soundstreams' 40th
Anniversary Concert Series

ABOUT SOUNDSTREAMS



Founded in 1982, Soundstreams is one of the world's leading contemporary music companies, and the largest global presenter of new Canadian music. Founding Artistic Director Lawrence Cherney and Executive Director Beth Brown are committed to showcasing the work of living composers with a focus on innovative thematic and experiential programming, and creating a lasting legacy for Canadian music.

Soundstreams serves a broad community of music lovers through their Main Stage series, as well as free outreach and education programs including *Encounters* performance/discussion series, *New Voices* mentorship program for aspiring curators, and *RBC Bridges* workshop for early career composers.

Since its inception, Soundstreams' curatorial platform has introduced audiences to over 170 works from some of the finest and most ground breaking composers of our age, from R. Murray Schafer to Nicole Lizée. Soundstreams has programmed hundreds of compelling productions including chamber music events, multi-choir spectacles, operas, music theatre works, and highly successful international festivals.

Soundstreams has brought nearly 1500 artists from across Canada and globally to perform on its Toronto-based series. These extensive cultural exchanges are making it possible for Soundstreams to tour and disseminate Canadian music on an international scale, including staged productions *Musik für das Ende*, *Two Odysseys: Pimootewin | Gállábártnit*, and *Hell's Fury, The Hollywood Songbook*.

Soundstreams productions and co-productions have received critical acclaim from *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Financial Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

SPECIAL THANKS

Stream of the Unconscious is commissioned with support from the Ontario Arts Council.
Encounters: Blurred Realities is supported by TD Bank Group.



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TD **READY**
COMMITMENT

ENCOUNTERS: BLURRED REALITIES PROGRAM & PERFORMERS

Keyan Emami, Maziar Heidari, and Saman Shahi,
guest curators/composers

Kotoka Suzuki, moderator (Q&A following the performance)

Program:

Keyan Emami	<i>Streams of the Unconscious*</i> (2023)
Maziar Heidari	for Percussion Quartet and Electric Guitar
Saman Shahi	

Performers:

Richard Burrows, percussion
Yang Chen, percussion
Jamie Drake, percussion
Tim Francom, percussion
Andrew Noseworthy, electric guitar

**commissioned with the generous assistance of the Ontario Arts Council*

Soundstreams wishes to acknowledge that this production is presented on the traditional land of the Wendat, Anishinabek, Haudenosaunee, and the Mississaugas of the Credit River First Nation. This land is the subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, and we encourage you to learn about your responsibilities to this treaty. Today, this meeting place is the home of many Indigenous people and Soundstreams is grateful to have the opportunity to collaborate and create alongside them.

PROGRAM NOTES

BY SAMAN SHAHI

Stream of the Unconscious is a 15 minute work for percussion quartet and electric guitar, exploring the blurred realities of the dream world, memory and personal identity.

This work was co-composed by Maziar Heidari, Saman Shahi and Keyan Emami—all members of ICOT (Iranian-Canadian Composers of Toronto)—and was commissioned by Soundstreams in 2021. It delves into the mind of a displaced person: the constant identity battle of a refugee, the constant daydreaming of an immigrant, and their efforts to negotiate the new meaning in the intersectionality of their lives.

The piece makes several references to music that was once heard by the composers in various stages of their lives. Some of this music may have been used by the Iranian State media as propaganda, while others may have been lullabies on the radio, or forbidden and underground revolutionary anthems.

The aim of the work was not to directly reference these melodies, but to act as a commentary about how they live and breathe as fragmented remains of memory and distant history in an immigrant's conscious or subconscious psyche. The piece also makes some use of free improvisation, rendering each performance of it somewhat different.

The creation of this work was made possible with a generous creation grant from the Ontario Arts Council.

PERFORMING ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES



Richard Burrows, percussion

Richard Burrows' extensive musical career has taken him throughout North America, Europe, Mexico, Australia, and Asia. Having earned two Master's degrees from the University of Toronto, Richard has honed his craft to create a unique approach in both education and performance. He has also shared the stage with Nebosja Jovan Zivkovic, She-e Wu, Evelyn Glennie, and NEXUS.

Closer to home, he plays regularly with numerous orchestras and choirs, and as a freelance percussionist has performed with ScrapArtsMusic, with famed bass clarinetist Kathryn Ladano in *Stealth*, with new music projects for InterArtsMatrix, and was as a member of the Toronto Raptors drumline. An avid educator, Richard gives masterclasses on improvisation, concert percussion and drumline throughout Ontario, and across Canada. He is also the artistic director of Open Ears Festival of Music and Sound, a festival dedicated to adventurous programming and transformative concerts.



Yang Chen, percussion

Yang (they/them) is just happy to be here with you, sharing music in this form. They are a percussionist with many side-hustles who prioritizes collaboration, personal growth, and joy. Yang is a grateful nexus of playful curiosity, cross disciplinary yearning, classical training, and loving relationships.

In 2022, a number of pinnacle projects for Yang came to fruition. The release of an animation and music installation at Array Space with @emergencies.collective, the debut album of their band @tigerbalme, and the release of their own debut collaborative visual album titled *longing for _*. They are an apprentice with @rawtaiko and program coordinator with @labyrinthontario. Yang is the subject of Lunchbox Dilemma, a CBC Gem docu-series featuring Asian-Canadians and their coming of age experiences.

Yang is a soft-hearted dream-headed Pisces who enjoys yelling and cooking, sometimes at the same time. You can learn more & connect at yangchen.ca or @yango.bongo.



Jamie Drake, percussion

Jamie Drake is a Toronto-based percussionist, drummer, composer and collaborator, whose musical interests span from environmental chamber music to Motown. He has premiered works by composers Christos Hatzis, John Luther Adams and Nicole Lizée and has performed with Esprit Orchestra, Kitchener Waterloo Symphony, Amici, NEXUS and many others.

As a member of TorQ Percussion Quartet, he has performed across North America and as a featured soloist with the Toronto Symphony, Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal and the Buffalo Philharmonic. He is percussionist for both the Hamilton Children's Choir and Toronto Children's Chorus, has worked as a percussion composer/consultant for CBC, and taught at Acadia University.

Active in musical theatre, Jamie has played percussion for Mirvish, Musical Stage Company, Soupepper, and Canadian Stage, and has played drums for singers including Ron Sexsmith, Jackie Richardson, Heather Bambrick and more. He received this Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Toronto. His solo percussion recording Night is available on Bandcamp.



Keyan Emami, curator/ composer

Keyan Emami is a Persian-Canadian composer of contemporary classical music. Keyan's music is known for its integration of repetition, improvisation and quotation. His works have been commissioned, performed, and recorded all over the world by many different organizations, festivals, and orchestras.

Founder and director of Key Music, Keyan has been awarded multiple grants, including grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, and Toronto Arts Council.

Keyan completed his doctorate in music composition at the University of Toronto in 2020. He holds a B.Eng. in Polymer Engineering, and a M.Mus. in Music Composition with first-degree honor, and was awarded the Best Master's Thesis Prize for his *Symphony in Three Movements*. His major studies have been with Christos Hatzis, Alexander Rapoport, and Norbert Palej. Keyan is the artistic director, co-founder, and one of the composers of ICOT.



Tim Francom, percussion

Tim Francom has enjoyed a diverse performing and teaching career. He joined the Windsor Symphony Orchestra in 2004 as Section Percussionist, and has performed with orchestras and ensembles across Ontario including the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, the Hamilton Philharmonic, and Tapestry New

Opera as well as numerous choirs, new music ensembles, and musical theatre productions.

Tim received a DMA from the University of Toronto in 2011, studying percussion with Russell Hartenberger, John Rudolph, and Beverly Johnston. His research focussed on North Indian tabla drumming, and he was privileged to study the instrument with Ustad Ilmas Hussain Khan in Lucknow, India. Tim teaches percussion lessons and classes at his own studio, at the Regent Park School of Music, and at the Oscar Peterson School of Music (formerly the Royal Conservatory School).



Maziar Heidari, curator/ composer

Canadian conductor, composer, educator and pianist Maziar Heidari led a flourishing musical career in Iran for over a decade before moving to Toronto in 2009. Maziar obtained a MMus in Conducting from the University of Toronto and has since held several conducting positions, including with Orchestra Toronto, Hart House Orchestra, and the University of Toronto

Symphony Orchestra. In 2017 alone, his work as Music Director of ICOT earned him an RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrant award and a position as a juror for the JUNO Awards.

An active freelance educator for students of all levels, Maziar founded Heidari Music School, works as a member of the college of examiners for the Royal Conservatory of Music, and is a member of several music teacher associations. Maziar is an associate composer with the Canadian Music Centre and a professional member of SOCAN.



Andrew Noseworthy, guitarist

Andrew Noseworthy (he/him/his) is a multidisciplinary artist whose music reflects upon the acceptance/rejection of “locality,” while addressing ideas of post-regional spaces and questions of accessibility for the musical voices within them. His genre-fluid projects coalesce wide-ranging styles and distinct artistic practices, while building sustainable relationships through communal collaboration. Recent collaborators include The Metropolis Ensemble, The 21C Guitar Conference, Angie Moon Dance Theatre, Saman Shahi, India Gailey, Yang Chen, Tim Brady/Bradyworks, Phong Tran, Adam Cuthbért, SlowPitchSound, Greg Bruce, The St John’s International Sound Symposium, Bekah Simms, Tanea Hynes and Andrea Lodge. He is a member of the post-genre duo laydøwn (with Yaz Lancaster) and the Toronto-based contemporary ensemble Contaqt. With Aeryn Santillan, he is a co-founder of the experimental hardcore duo *this place is actually the worst* and independent digital label *people | places | records*. Andrew is currently a PhD candidate at Western University.



Saman Shahi, curator/ composer

Saman Shahi is JUNO-nominated composer, pianist, conductor and educator based in Toronto. His compositions have been performed around the globe and include orchestral works, operas, ballets, and many works for choral, vocal and chamber forces. Saman holds a master’s degree in composition from the University of Toronto, is an affiliate Member of the Canadian League of Composers, Associate Composer at the Canadian Music Centre as well as a SOCAN member. He is a Co-Founder and the Executive Director at ICOT, Music Director at the Peterborough Concert band, and a composer and teaching artist with the Canadian Opera Company. In 2020 Saman’s debut composition album *Breathing in the Shadows* was recorded and released by Leaf Music. All song cycles in this album have won awards both in Canada and the United States including a 2022 JUNO awards nomination. His second album, *Microlocking* was released by People|Places|Records in 2021.



Kotoka Suzuki, moderator

Kotoka Suzuki is a composer focusing on both instrumental and multimedia practices. She has produced several large-scale multimedia works, including spatial interactive audio-visual work for both concert and installation settings, often in collaboration with artists and scholars from other disciplines. Her work reflects on life, breath and wind, and often conceives of sounds as physical form to be manipulated through the sculptural practice of composition.

Suzuki's work has been featured internationally by performers such as Arditti Quartet, eighth blackbird, Pacifica Quartet, Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra (Germany), and Continuum, at numerous venues and festivals such as Ultraschall, ISCM World Music Days, ZKM Media Museum, Inventionen, The Stone, ICMC and MATA. Among the awards she has received include DAAD Berlin Artists in Residence Program(Germany), Bourges Prize in Multimedia, First Prize in Musica Nova (Czech Republic), Global Music Awards (Gold Medal), Robert Fleming Prize from Canada Council for the Arts, and Howard Foundation Fellowship.

She taught at the University of Chicago and Arizona State University, and currently an Associate Professor in Music & Culture at the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) with a graduate appointment at the Faculty of Music.

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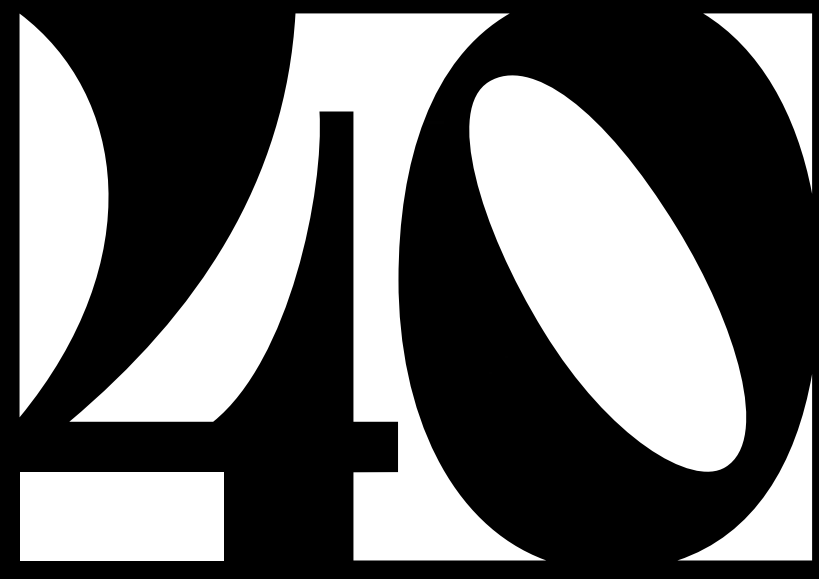
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