

# SOUNDSTREAMS

LAWRENCE CHERNEY, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



# 24/25

SEASON

# SOUND STREAMS

## 24/25

### Transformative New Music for Chamber Ensemble, Choir & Opera

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Rika Fujii and the Toronto  
Children's Chorus performing  
in *Chorale Fujii Percussion and  
Voices* at Koerner Hall /  
Makoto Hirata Photography

# In Search of Regeneration



Today's world is fraught with uncertainty and instability, often leaving us feeling we have no place to turn for inspiration and guidance. The arts—live music in particular—can offer us genuine hope for regeneration through its unique capacity for communal experience. And when that experience is transformative, it can play a vital role helping us to reimagine the world in which we live.

If we could seek spiritual guidance from some entity beyond ourselves, what would we ask for? **Tarik O'Regan's** *The Spring* (from "The Colloquy of the Ancients"), performed by the illustrious **Vancouver Chamber Choir**, follows two aged Irish warrior-heroes as they travel across Ireland in search of faith. **"Invocations"** explores our yearning for spiritual connection through various traditions including: the "nign", a wordless and improvised prayer dating back to medieval Hasidic Judaism; and German Romanticism. **"Letters to God"**, featuring Japan's legendary **Fujii Percussion** and two resplendent choirs, explores this quest for spiritual guidance in **Akira Miyoshi's** setting of some astonishing questions asked by children, and in **R. Murray Schafer's** hypnotic *17 Haiku*.

The program **"with you and without you"** asks important questions about the vulnerability of human relationships through the lens of the love song. It features provocative works by **Ana Sokolović**, **Oliver Knussen** and **Tansy Davies**, all richly illuminated by a virtuoso chamber orchestra and soprano **Danika Lorèn**.

The season closes with the stage premiere of the opera **"Garden of Vanished Pleasures"**, devised and directed by **Tim Albery**. It's the life story of the late great British film-maker, author and queer rights activist **Derek Jarman**. In the last years of his life, Jarman created the most gorgeous garden imaginable on a bed of shale on the south coast of England, the very symbol of humanity's eternal search for redemption and regeneration.

This is a season for all seasons. Please join us in that search for regeneration!

**Lawrence Cherney**

**Founding Artistic Director**

Cover Photo by Cylla von Tiedemann with artists Alex Samaras with Soundstreams Choir 21 (vocals), Ryan Scott (percussion) / Lawrence Cherney photo by Dahlia Katz.



“...Haruka Fujii  
unleashed a  
barrage of virtuosic  
drumming”

—The Australian

Haruka Fujii by Moanalani  
Jeffrey Photography

# Letters to God

October 24, 2024  
7:30pm  
Trinity-St. Paul's Centre

## ARTISTS:

Fujii Percussion  
Soundstreams Choir 21  
The Canadian Children's  
Opera Company  
Gregory Oh, piano  
Ryan Scott, percussion

*Letters to God* is a spiritual exploration of the musical threads connecting Canadian and Japanese culture. It features Japan's legendary Fujii Percussion (mother Mutsuko Fujii, and daughters Haruka and Rika), Soundstreams Choir 21, The Canadian Children's Opera Company, Gregory Oh (piano), and Ryan Scott (percussion).

**Akira Miyoshi's** *Letters to God* brings to life a collection of letters written by children, notable for their refreshing directness, unexpected humour, and startling clarity of thought; **R. Murray Schafer's** evocative *17 Haiku* is a theatrical composition that sets Japanese poems to music that evokes the singing of birds, crickets, streams, the tolling of a bell, or fireworks at a festival. The program features other evocative works: *Seasons* by **Toru Takemitsu**, *river woman* by **Melody McKiver**, and *Pulau Dewata* by **Claude Vivier**.



# Invocations

Gryphon Trio & Friends

**December 5, 2024**

**7:30pm**

**Jane Mallett Theatre  
St. Lawrence Centre  
for the Arts**

**ARTISTS:**

Lara St. John, violin

Aviva Chernick, vocals

Gryphon Trio

Co-presented with  
Music Toronto with  
support from the  
Azrieli Foundation

Invocations are calls for help, but they can also be appeals for inspiration and spiritual guidance. Violin virtuoso Lara St. John, soulful singer Aviva Chernick and other guests, join the celebrated Gryphon Trio in a rich musical offering that will resonate with each of us during those vulnerable moments when we, too, seek to invoke something beyond ourselves. One such invocation is the “nign”, a wordless and originally improvised prayer stemming from Hasidic Judaism in the 18th century, and is the inspiration for several works in the program: **Avner Dorman**’s *Nigunim*, recipient of The Azrieli Prize for Jewish Music; a world premiere by **James Rolfe**, *Narrow Bridge*; and **Aaron Copland**’s classic *Vitebsk*. The program opens with **Vivian Fung**’s impassioned *Prayer*, inspired by Hildegard von Bingen, paired with **Amy Beach**’s spiritual plea *Invocation*. It closes with **Robert Schumann**’s epic and soul-searching *Piano Quintet in E-flat, Op. 44*.



Lara St. John  
is “something of  
a phenomenon”

—*The Strad* (UK)

Lara St. John by  
Ron Wasserman

# Vancouver Chamber Choir

February 27, 2025

7:30pm

Christ Church Deer Park

ARTISTS:

Vancouver Chamber Choir

Kari Turunen, Music Director

"Tarik O'Regan leads a generation of new choral composers...At its very best, the music enters previously unheard sound worlds, with astonishing effect."

—Philadelphia Inquirer

For over 50 years, the Vancouver Chamber Choir has dazzled global audiences with top-tier live performances and recordings, receiving acclaim for tours and workshops across Europe, Asia, and North America. The Choir makes a rare Toronto appearance, for the first time with their new music director Kari Turunen. The program features music by visiting composer **Tarik O'Regan**, including his *The Spring* (from "The Colloquy of the Ancients"), which follows two aged Irish warrior-heroes, inexplicably still alive as they travel across Ireland in search of faith.

This concert will also include the world premieres of six short new works by participants in Soundstreams' **RBC Bridges Emerging Composer Showcase**, who will be mentored by Tarik O'Regan in the days leading up to this concert.

"Vancouver Chamber Choir is one of the finest ensembles in the world."

—Chorus! Magazine (Atlanta)



Vancouver Chamber  
Choir by Diamond's  
Edge Photography



Danika Lorèn

# with you and without you

**March 22, 2025**

**7:30pm**

**Jane Mallett Theatre  
St. Lawrence Centre  
for the Arts**

**ARTISTS:**

**Danika Lorèn, soprano  
Ensemble Soundstreams**

Curated by Brad Cherwin, winner of  
Soundstreams' 2024/25 New Voices  
Curator Mentorship Program.

All songs are inherently derived from the love song. This program examines the tragic nature of song and understands all love songs as songs of loss. The virtuoso chamber orchestra Ensemble Soundstreams is joined by the brilliant soprano Danika Lorèn. It features powerful juxtapositions: purely instrumental pieces by **Fanny Mendelssohn**, **Oliver Knussen** and **Matthew Ricketts**; works for voice and ensemble by **Tansy Davies** and **Shawn Jaeger**; rich Romantic-era consonance and striking contemporary dissonance; and the intimacy of the love song in a work by **Ana Sokolović**. These seemingly opposing concepts are the musical personification of two lovers, challenging audience perceptions of contemporary repertoire by featuring works that are deeply romantic and powerfully expressive.

**"Brad Cherwin leads Toronto's  
chamber music innovators"**

—Ludwig Van Toronto



# Garden of Vanished Pleasures

April 25 – 27, 2025

Marilyn and Charles Baillie  
Theatre, Canadian Stage

## ARTISTS:

Tim Albery, director

Hyejin Kwon, music director & piano

Mireille Asselin, soprano

Danika Lorèn, soprano

Daniel Cabena, counter-tenor

Brenna Hardy-Kavanagh, viola

Amahl Arulanandam, cello



*Garden of Vanished Pleasures* is consummate opera, an emotional journey inspired by the life and work of English filmmaker and queer rights activist **Derek Jarman**, making its world premiere in the theatre. Conceived and devised by U.K./Canadian director **Tim Albery**, *Garden of Vanished Pleasures* blends the works of two brilliant composers: **Cecilia Livingston** and **Donna McKeivitt**. Livingston writes deeply felt songs of love and loss, and they chime perfectly with McKeivitt's heart-aching songs that use texts drawn from Jarman's own journals. The texts cover a wide range of expressions, from longing and loss to anger over society's inequities—universal themes which continue to resonate for our time. A finalist for Opera America's 2022 Award for Excellence in Digital Opera, the illustrious cast includes stars from the world of opera: sopranos Mireille Asselin and Danika Lorèn, and counter-tenor Daniel Cabena.

"... *Garden of Vanished Pleasures* is a subtle burn, with muted colours and Albery's signature stark aesthetic, but it unquestionably draws you in".

—Schmopera

"Albery and company have raised a masterpiece".

—Opera Going Toronto

Daniel Cabena by  
Cameron Davis







Soundstreams Presents:

# TD ENCOUNTERS

## WE WELCOME YOU TO ENJOY OUR FREE CONCERT SERIES:

Soundstreams TD Encounters is a series of free events hosted in venues across the city. Always offering something different, these events are equal parts performance, artist discussion, and Q&A, and give audiences the opportunity to engage with artists and their work in an intimate and relaxed setting. Visit [soundstreams.ca](https://soundstreams.ca) for further details throughout the 24/25 season.

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



Photo: Soundstreams TD Encounters: *Women's Voices as Cultural Keepers*  
Artists from L to R: Xin Wang, Natalya Gennadi, Kristine Dandavino

# SOUNDSTREAMS 2024/25 SEASON

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Soundstreams also offers a special discounted program for Students, Frontline Workers, Arts Workers, and Under-employed. Soundwaves patrons are given best available seating at the time of booking.

## SOUNDSTREAMS 2024/25 SEASON PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Letters to God

OCT 24

Invocations

DEC 5

Vancouver Chamber Choir

FEB 27

with you and without you

MAR 22

Garden of Vanished Pleasures

APR 25-27

*preview on April 24, for purchase  
when single tickets are available.*

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Gryphon Trio  
by Shane Grey

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Back Cover Photos: Top L to R: Mutsuko Fujii as supplied by artist / Aviva Chernick by Carlos Garate / Vancouver Chamber Ensemble by Diamond's Edge Photography / Danika Lorén as supplied by artist / *Garden of Vanished Pleasures*: photo still from video by Cameron Davis, photo by Claire Harvie, Artist Mireille Asselin / Brochure Design: Wesstrong Group Inc.



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[soundstreams.ca](http://soundstreams.ca)