SOUNDSTREAMS

LAWRENCE CHERNEY, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

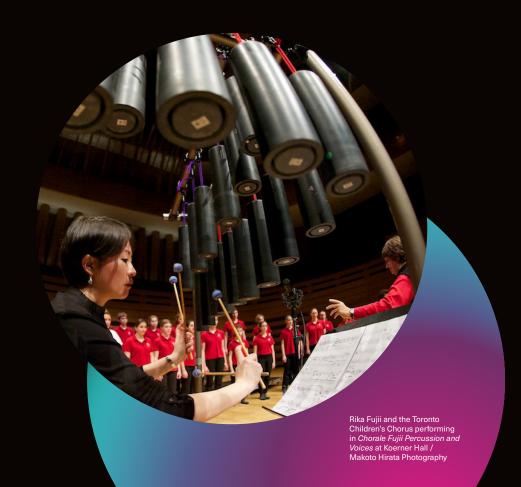


SEASON SEASON

SOUND STREAMS 24/25

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Transformative New Music for Chamber Ensemble, Choir & Opera



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.



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 quests, 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.



Vancouver Chamber Choir

February 27, 2025 7:30pm Christ Church Deer Park

ARTISTS:

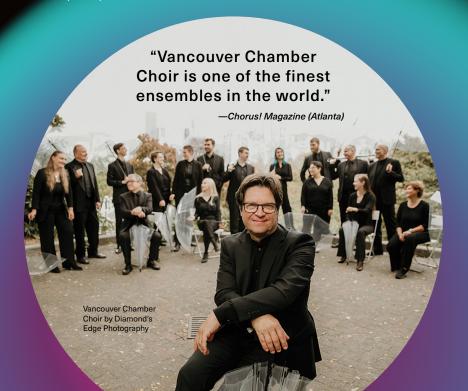
Vancouver Chamber Choir Kari Turunen, Music Director

"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.





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 Romanticera 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 McKevitt. Livingston writes deeply felt songs of love and loss, and they chime perfectly with McKevitt'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:

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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. Vist soundstreams.ca for further details throughout the 24/25 season.

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



SOUNDSTREAMS 2024/25 SEASON

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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.

Choose three, four, or five concerts and choose your seating level

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