# 46th Annual Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition

for the performance of Canadian and contemporary music

# **VOICE**

April 21 - 23, 2023

Hosted at the School of Music Brandon University Brandon, Manitoba, Canada



# 46th Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition Non-profit charity organization BN#118892165MC0001

# Voice — April 21-23, 2023

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# 2023 ECKHARDT-GRAMATTÉ NATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION PROGRAMME Friday, April 21st, 2023

11:00 am - 1:00 pm
(Rm. 1-20 Kinsmen Rehearsal Hall)
"Conversation on Sustainable Futures"
Terri Hron, Executive Director, Canadian New Music Network

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm PUBLIC PRESENTATION (Rm. 1-57 R.D. Bell Hall)

Public Presentation, Q&A. All welcome: "Breath for Piano and Voice and Interactive Piano Works" By Dr. Keith Hamel, Chair, 2023 E-Gré Commissioned Composer, Composition Division, Professor, Composition, Director, Computer Music Studio, UBC

> 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm PUBLIC PRESENTATION (Rm. 1-57 R.D. Bell Hall)

"Process in Music / Music as Process: What concepts do composer's use to create their music?" By Dr. Laurie Radford, commissioned composer of the 1998 E-Gré Piano, Professor, University of Calgary, alumnus Brandon University BMus 1982

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm PUBLIC PRESENTATION (Rm. 1-57 R.D. Bell Hall)

Public Presentation & Q&A: The Canadian Music Centre: By Glenn Hodgins, President & CEO CMC

# Friday, April 21, 2023 GALA CONCERT 7:30pm, Lorne Watson Recital Hall

(See further for full program and concert notes)

**Featuring:** Métis mezzo soprano Rebecca Buddy, baritone Hugh Russell and pianist & musical director Lyric Opera Chicago, Craig Terry

# Saturday, April 22nd, 2023: FINAL RECITALS

Lorne Watson Recital Hall (Competitor order determined through drawing of lots. See further for finalists information and program)

#### **BLOCK ONE**

10:00 am FIRST COMPETITOR 11:30 am SECOND COMPETITOR

#### **BLOCK TWO**

2:00 pm THIRD COMPETITOR 3:30 pm FOURTH COMPETITOR

#### **BLOCK THREE**

6:30 pm FIFTH COMPETITOR 8:00 pm SIXTH COMPETITOR

# Sunday, April 23rd, 2023

9:30 am- 11:30 am PUBLIC MASTERCLASSES (Rm. 1-20 Rebecca Cuddy, 1-26 Craig Terry, 1-57 Hugh Russell)

12:00 pm AWARDS CEREMONY (Lorne Watson Recital Hall)



# **Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition**

The Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition for the performance of Canadian and contemporary music was founded by composer, pianist, and violinist S. C. (Sonia) Eckhardt-Gramatté who spent the last twenty-one years of her life in Manitoba. It fulfills her lifelong vision of creating a means by which the music of contemporary composers could make its presence felt by young musicians on the threshold of their careers. The E-Gré National Music Competition has been held annually since 1976 at Brandon University.

Consacré en particulier à la performance d'oeuvres musicales canadiennes et contemporaines, le Concours Eckhardt-Gramatté est dédié à la mémoire de S.C. (Sonia) Eckhardt-Gramatté, composatrice, pianiste et violiniste, ayant passé les vingt et unes dernières années de sa vie au Manitoba. Ce concours réalise le rêve de toute sa vie, soit d'introduire la musique des compositeurs contemporains aux jeunes interprètes au début de leur carrière. Étable en 1976, ce concours national annuel a lieu à l'Université de Brandon.

# 2024 47th Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition (Strings)

The 47th Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition will be held in Brandon, MB on May 10-12, 2024. It is open to string players born between January 1, 1989 and January 1, 2006. Competitors must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents. Competition rules are available at http://e-gre.ca or by emailing eckhardt@brandonu.ca. Online applications and supporting materials are to be received no later than December 31, 2023. The 2024 E-Gré Competition is excited to partner with the Canadian University Music Society's annual conference in 2024.

#### ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S WELCOME



On behalf of the board, members, and staff, I extend my warmest welcome to the 46th Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition (E-Gré) 2023 in Voice. The annual E-Gré Competition, which began in 1976, was the vision of composer, pianist and violinist S. C. Eckhardt-Gramatté. It is unique in its devotion to the performance

excellence of 20th- and 21st-century music and to the commissioning of over 40 new works by Canadian composers. We'd like to dedicate this year's E-Gré competition to Jocelyn Morlock, who was the 2008 E-Gré Voice Commissioned Composer of test piece *Involuntary Love Songs* and a Brandon University alumna. We are deeply saddened by the loss and will always remember Jocelyn's beautiful music, unique voice, gentle brilliance, generosity of spirit and kindness to all.

The E-Gré discovers and promotes excellent emerging Canadian performing musicians between the ages of 18-35 who inspire and communicate effectively with their audience, show great career potential and have a keen interest in Canadian and contemporary repertoire composed after ca. 1950. Performances reflect the competitor's imagination, intellectual, and emotional understanding of musical scores in addition to technical virtuosity. Flexibility of repertoire in all rounds gives each competitor the opportunity to showcase their own approach to innovative, balanced, and effective programming.

We are thrilled to welcome six of Canada's top vocalists as the selected finalists to compete, with their pianists at Brandon University's School of Music: **Katy Clark**, London ON; **Sydney Clarke**, Oshawa ON; **Rebecca Gray**, Toronto, ON; **Claire Latosinsky**, Toronto, ON; **Sara Schabas**, Montréal, QC; and **McKenzie Warriner**, Toronto, ON. We are excited and inspired by your dedication and exceptional achievements and thank you for sharing your artistry and performance with all of us!

We thank our esteemed E-Gré 2023 preliminary and final jurors for their expertise in the selection process of the excellent Canadian emerging artists and for promoting the performance of Canadian music. We are also honoured and grateful to poet **Olive Senior** and composer **Keith Hamel** for the 2023 E-Gré Commissioned work *Breath* for voice and piano. Contemporary art and new music

help us to understand ourselves and our world. It moves us emotionally, provokes curiosity and even outrage, breaks barriers and pushes us all to act for positive change. It is a particularly exciting and enlightening process for the audience to experience the premiere of the new E-Gré commissioned work performed six times in one day by six different artists. The piece and the musical language of the composer and poet become increasingly familiar to the listener, yet at the same time, it becomes clear how each performer can reimagine a musical work to become a distinctly different and personal experience.

We thank Brandon University, City of Brandon, Canada Council for the Arts, Manitoba Arts Council, SOCAN, Q Country 91.5, 94.7 Star FM & Westman Communications Group and all the enthusiastic listeners, local businesses, private donors, and many dedicated volunteers without whom the E-Gré would not be possible. We look forward to sharing the E-Gré Competition's celebration of excellence in Canadian musicians and music with you all.

With my gratitude and congratulations to all the 2023 E-Gré finalists,

Megumi Masaki Artistic Director, Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition



### A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF MUSIC



On behalf of Brandon University's students, staff, and faculty, I would like to welcome all of you to the 2023 Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition in Voice and thank you for joining us from across Canada for this wonderful event.

Brandon University's School of Music has developed a deep and rich connection with the

competition and its participants, having hosted it since 1976. Many of Canada's most celebrated international performers have performed in Western Manitoba through the Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition, including James Ehnes, Jon Kimura Parker, Ben Heppner, Gwen Hoebig, Eckhardt-Gramatté Conservatory of Music Director Everett Hopfner, and BU School of Music Professor of Violin, Kerry DuWors. Our School and the community that it serves, is further enriched each year as a stop on the annual national tour; last year's winner David Potvin thrilled a packed Lorne Watson Recital Hall, receiving a joyous standing ovation. The Competition has also proven to be an important showcase for Canada's finest contemporary composers and professional performers. This year, as we mourn her recent passing, we also reflect on our great fortune at having hosted the brilliant Jocelyn Morlock as part of this competition's rich legacy. Thinking about these rich connections, it is inspiring to watch this annual event grow and change in ways that reflect and challenge us as a community.

The last three years have underscored that the creation and performance of new musical work is vital to our society. It is, therefore, equally important to recognize the contributions of the many volunteers, the Board of Directors, our wonderful new Administrator Dianna Neufeld, President Melanie Sucha, and our indefatigable and extraordinary Artistic Director Megumi Masaki. The ongoing success and resonance of this Competition is a reflection of the skill, dedication, and vision of these outstanding people. Gratitude must also be expressed to the continued generosity of our donors and funders, including of course the Manitoba Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts. Through their support, the Competition continues to provide these extraordinary young musicians with an opportunity for artistic growth, invaluable experience, and national exposure. Finally, heartfelt thanks to all of you for engaging with and supporting these brilliant performers.

Sincerely, Greg Gatien, Dean



#### MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Welcome to Brandon! On behalf of Brandon City Council and the more than 50,000 residents of our fabulous city, we are extremely honoured to continue to host the annual Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition at Brandon University.

It is the 46<sup>th</sup> edition of the competition, and we are excited that you will be announcing your finalists for your competition in VOICE this year. Brandon is home to a large community of people who celebrate music and the arts and the E-Gré Competition is a long standing hallmark that highlights musical talent from performers from near

and far. Congratulations to the organizers, adjudicators, volunteers, sponsors and of course the performers themselves for continuing to showcase world class music performance and composition.

I am proud that the Mayor's Office has been a longtime patron of this event and we all look forward to its return before crowds of spectators at Brandon University.

Warm regards and thank you to all involved and best wishes to each of the performers during this competition and your musical endeavors for years to come.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fawcett Mayor

City of BRANDON

# THE 2022 WINNER'S TOUR

# DAVID POTVIN, winner of the 2022 Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition



"This competition has been a wonderful opportunity to share my passion for Canadian music. I am thrilled and honoured to have won the 45th Eckhardt-Grammaté Competition. It is without a doubt the highlight of my career so far. I am also grateful for the opportunities that the organizers of this competition give to pianists such as myself to perform."

David Potvin. 2022 E-Gré Winner

Montréal based pianist **David Potvin** has received various performance awards, including prizes at the 2018 Shean and 2017 Stepping Stone competitions. In 2020 he received his Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Toronto, where he studied with acclaimed pedagogue Marietta Orlov and won the DMA recital competition.

David maintains an interest in a variety of repertoire. Recently, he organized a recital in collaboration with the Canadian Music Centre celebrating the works of Quebec composer Jacques Hétu. His 2021 recital with violinist Martin Beaver included the world premiere of Stewart Grant's Violin Sonata. Currently, he is collaborating with composer Edward Enman on a recording of the composer's four- hand piano pieces.

A passionate music educator, David teaches piano in both of Canada's official languages and is a member of the Royal Conservatory of Music's college of examiners. In his spare time, he enjoys watching soccer, cooking, and exploring Montréal.

# PRELIMINARY JURORS

The preliminary stage of the competition requires competitors to submit recordings of thirty-minute recitals. The preliminary jurors independently assess each competitor's anonymous performances. Finalists are chosen on the basis of the jurors' rankings.

# CHRISTINA RAPHAËLLE HALDANE



Christina Raphaëlle Haldane's career spans the UK, Europe, Asia and North America, and she is based in Canada's Atlantic provinces. She has interpreted many lead opera roles, having performed for opera houses such as The Finnish National Opera, The Royal Opera Covent Garden, Scottish Opera and Musica Viva Hong Kong. Her specialism is performing Handel's Heroines, Comedic Bel Canto roles and Contemporary opera. Christina enjoys performing and curating recital and chamber music concerts, and she is often invited to perform with leading orchestras. Her exploration of contemporary music has led to

many collaborations with composers, and she continues to bring their vocal works to life. Christina is a bilingual English and French speaker with Acadian heritage, and she is proud to be a citizen of Canada and Great Britain.

Christina strongly believes in mentoring the next generation of talented young singers, and has an international profile as a vocal educator, adjudicator, and clinician. She is the head of the Atlantic division of Canada's national opera training program COSA and is the co-president of the Canadian Atlantic Provinces National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) chapter. Christina is also on the voice faculty at two summer voice programs, BIIMA – Breno Italy International Music Academy and Musique sur mer en Acadie, New Brunswick. She was on the Voice Faculty at Dalhousie's Fountain School of Performing Arts from 2019, and joined the team at Mount Allison's Department of Music in July, 2022, where she continues to combine her love of performing with teaching.

For her formal training Christina enjoyed a broad international vocal education. Christina received a BMus from the University of Toronto, spent a year at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, was awarded a PDVT and an MMus from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, and a DMA from the University of Toronto.

Christina lives in Moncton, New Brunswick, with her partner Patrice and their two diva dog Pomeranians, Wally and Sissi.

#### SARAH HALL



An Assistant Professor of Music at Brandon University, Sarah Hall teaches voice, diction, vocal chamber music, and vocal pedagogy. Sarah is a founding member of Polycoro, a chamber ensemble comprised of 8 + adventuresome vocalists dedicated to performing seldom heard contemporary works and rediscovered early music in unique venues. She has worked with many distinguished musicians throughout her career, including Julianne Baird, Paolo Carignani, Janet Galvàn, John Harbison, Ellen Hargis, David Hoose, Gian Carlo Menotti,

Stephen Mercurio, Meredith Monk, Donald Nally, Paul O'Dette, Alice Parker, Daniel Pinkham, Jean-Yves Thibeaudet, and Constantina Tsolainou, to name a few. Recent solo appearances include Messiah with Canzona and the Winnipeg Symphony, Oleska Lozowchuk's Waters of Rest at the Winnipeg New Music Festival, and the world premiere of Ken Nichols' Letters from Home at the Clear Lake Chamber Music Festival.

An active researcher and presenter on the conference circuit, Sarah's current interests include performance-analysis explorations in post-tonal French music with theorist, Gretta Sayers, as well as ongoing studies of how yoga and meditation contribute to overall vocal wellness. Her long time study and practice of Classical, Ashtanga, and Hatha Yoga inform her work in the teaching studio, where she strives to help students find more well-coordinated, responsive awareness of breath, physical alignment, and mind. She is a Certified YogaVoice® Teacher and is currently working on her RYT-200 certification. Sarah is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and the Canadian Network for Musicians' Health and Wellness.

Sarah holds Master's Degrees in Vocal Pedagogy and Musicology from the New England Conservatory of Music (Boston), and a Bachelor's Degree in Voice Performance from West Chester University of Pennsylvania.

#### PATRICIA O'CALLAGHAN



Soprano Patricia O'Callaghan is something of a wandering minstrel, with six solo albums and many interesting collaborations along the way. A speaker of French, Spanish, and German, her early recordings focused on European cabaret, but one of Patricia's unique talents is the ability to

blend a variety of languages and musical genres seamlessly in her concerts, and to completely embody whatever style she is singing at any given moment.

"This Toronto soprano can sing a 100-year-old German tune so lustily that you almost don't need a translation to know that someone's about to get his throat cut or get laid or both" (*National Post*).

"O'Callaghan sings her diverse material as if it was always meant to go side-by-side and by the end of the evening, it's easy to believe" (*Chart Attack*).

Patricia has recently become faculty at The Dan School of Drama and Music at **Queen's University**, and at **The Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity's** Evolution: Classical program.

Her latest album, called **Dark Butterflies**, with music by David Braid, and with the Prague Epoque Orchestra, will be released this spring.

# **2023 FINAL ROUND JURORS**

#### REBECCA CUDDY



Métis multi-disciplinary artist and mezzosoprano Rebecca Cuddy is acknowledged as 'the next generation who are going to do incredible things' (The Whole Note 2019). She is one of the recipients of the Dora Award for Outstanding Ensemble Work in Soundstreams' Two Odysseys; Pimootewin and Gállábártnit and the inaugural winner of the Rose-Ellen Nichols Award in the Performing Arts. This season, Rebecca debuted at Pacific Opera Victoria for Braunfels' Die Vögel, and, in concert, made several appearances including with Soundstreams (premiere - Frehner's *L.E.X.*), the New Orford String Quartet, the Toronto Consort, as well as a performance with members of the TSO and Yo Yo Ma in

support of Toronto's CAMH Centre. In 2020-21, she appeared in multiple digital releases including her Canadian Opera Company debut in *Voices of Mountains*, singing the titular role in OperaQ's *Medusa's Children*, Soundstreams' *Garden of Vanished Pleasures*, as well as Encounters: Indigenous Voices and Shatter with Toronto Concert Orchestra. Rebecca was the 2021 Indigenous Artist in Residence at the National Theatre School of Canada, where she studied directing, playwriting, acting and design. During the summer of 2022 she took part in Stratford Festival's Langham Directors' Workshop.

#### **HUGH RUSSELL**



Baritone Hugh Russell has performed with The Philadelphia Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Pittsburgh Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Houston Symphony, National Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Milwaukee Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Israel Philharmonic, Danish Radio Symphony, Toronto Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, Orchestre Métropolitain (Montréal), Cincinnati Symphony, and Kansas City Symphony, among many others.

He has been honored to work with many eminent conductors, including Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Jaap van Zweden, Charles Dutoit, Leonard Slatkin, Manfred Honeck, Edo de Waart, Kent Nagano, Donald Runnicles, Steuart Bedford, Giancarlo Guerrero, Christopher Allen, Michael Christie, Hans Graf, Carlos Miguel Prieto, and Rossen Milanov.

Operatically, he has been featured in productions at Los Angeles Opera, New York City Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Atlanta Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Arizona Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Vancouver Opera, Calgary Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Manitoba Opera, the Wexford Festival, and Angers-Nantes Opera.

Hugh has been featured in recital at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, and in many appearances with the New York Festival of Song. As a pianist, he has been featured in performance with Stephanie Blythe at a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Seattle Opera, and has also been featured in performance with Christine Brewer for Illinois Humanities.

#### CRAIG TERRY



Grammy Award winning pianist and arranger Craig Terry enjoys an international career regularly performing with the world's leading singers and instrumentalists. Currently Craig serves as Music Director of The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago after having served for eleven

seasons at Lyric as Assistant Conductor. Previously, he served as Assistant Conductor at the Metropolitan Opera after joining its Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.

Craig has performed with such esteemed vocalists as Jamie Barton, Stephanie Blythe, Christine Brewer, Janai Brugger, Lawrence Brownlee, Nicole Cabell, Sasha Cooke, Eric Cutler, Danielle de Niese, Joyce DiDonato, Giuseppe Filianoti, Renée Fleming, Christine Goerke, Susan Graham, Denyce Graves, Bryan Hymel, Brian Jagde, Joseph Kaiser, Quinn Kelsey, Kate Lindsey, Amanda Majeski, Ana María Martínez, Eric Owens, Ailyn Perez, Nicholas Phan, Susanna Phillips, Luca Pisaroni, Patricia Racette, Hugh Russell, Bo Skovhus, Garrett Sorenson, Heidi Stober, Christian Van Horn, Amber Wagner, Laura Wilde, and Catherine Wyn-Rogers. He has collaborated as a chamber musician with members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the Lyric Opera of Chicago Orchestra, the Gewandhaus Orchester, and the Pro Arte String Quartet.

Craig's 2022-23 recital performance schedule includes more than forty concerts in North America, Europe, and Asia with artists including Katherine Beck, Ben Bliss, Christine Brewer, J'Nai Bridges, Lawrence Brownlee, Andriana Chuchman, Joyce DiDonato, Christine Goerke, Will Liverman, Ana María Martínez, Whitney Morrison, Richard Ollarsaba, Susanna Phillips, David Portillo, Patricia Racette, Hugh Russell, and Laura Wilde.

He is Artistic Director of "Beyond the Aria," a highly acclaimed recital series now in its ninth sold-out season, presented by the Harris Theater in collaboration with the Ryan Opera Center and Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Craig's discography includes five recently released recordings: "Diva on Detour" with Patricia Racette, "As Long As There Are Songs" with Stephanie Blythe, "Chanson d'Avril" with Nicole Cabell, and "French Horn Recital from 24 Preludes, Op. 11 - Alexander Scriabin" with Lyric Opera principal horn Jonathan Boen. His latest recording project with Joyce DiDonato, "Songplay," released by Warner Classics, received the 2020 Grammy award for Best Classical Solo Vocal Album.

He has appeared on numerous television, radio, and streaming programs, including multiple appearances on both "Live from Lincoln Center" and "Great Performances" for PBS, as well as on many programs broadcast on NBC, ABC, and CBS. In May 2021, he was the pianist for the Metropolitan Opera's "Wagnerian Stars Live in Concert," transmitted from the Hessisches Staatstheater in Wiesbaden, Germany. Craig hails from Tullahoma, Tennessee, received a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from Tennessee Technological University, continued his studies at Florida State University, and received a Masters of Music in Collaborative Piano Performance from the Manhattan School of Music, where he was a student of renowned pianist Warren Jones.



# GLEN HODGINS, President & CEO of the Canadian Music Centre, Jury Chair



Glenn Hodgins is the President and CEO of the Canadian Music Centre (CMC) which serves as the catalyst that connects you to the ever world of musical creation in Canada. It serves the composers working in specialized music, connectors that perform, teach and study the works of Canadian composers, and it strives to build audiences for this music. It has offices across Canada, publishes and distributes the music of Canadian

Composers physically and reference libraries that exist to allow people to discover, listen and perform Canadian Music. He oversees the 30-year old recording label Centrediscs, devoted exclusively to the recording of works by Canadian composers.

He served on the CMC board from 2011 - 2013 and contributed to the development of the strategic plan launched in 2013. He then became the President and CEO and has been engaged in the implementation of that plan and its renewal throughout his tenure.

Previously, he was the Executive Director of the Ottawa Chamber Music Society: curators of the major chamber music festival Ottawa Chamberfest. Prior to that, he worked at the Ontario Arts Council as a Program Officer for seven years and at Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir as Director of Operations, Touring and Finance, for 12 years.

He served as a member of the Finance Committee for the International Society for the Performing Arts from, 2000 – 2014. While in Ottawa he served as a member of the City of Ottawa's Arts and Heritage Plan Renewal Steering Committee

He has life-long experience through Camp Wanapitei as a wilderness canoeist and expedition leader in remote regions of northern Canada. He served on its board for 18 years, including its Treasurer and Chair for a number of years.

# 2023 COMMISSIONED COMPOSER

#### KEITH HAMEL



Keith Hamel is a Professor of Composition and an Associate Researcher at the Institute for Computing, Information and Cognitive Systems (ICICS) at UBC in Vancouver, Canada. He has written both acoustic and electroacoustic music and has been awarded many prizes in both media. His works have been performed by many of the finest soloists and ensembles both in Canada and abroad. He has received commissions from IRCAM (Paris), the Ensemble Intercontemporain, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Windsor Symphony Orchestra, Vancouver New Music Ensemble, the Elektra Women's Choir, musica intima,

New Music Concerts (Toronto), Hammerhead Consort, Standing Wave, Hard Rubber Orchestra, as well as from outstanding performers such as flutist Robert Cram, bassoonist Jesse Read, clarinetists Jean-Guy Boisvert and François Houle, saxophonists Julia Nolan and Jeremy Brown, trombonists Jeremy Berkman and Benny Sluchin, and pianists Douglas Finch, Megumi Masaki, Corey Hamm, Anna Levy and Jane Hayes. Many of his recent compositions focus on interaction between live performers, computer-controlled audio and responsive video.

#### **OLIVE SENIOR**



Olive Senior is the award-winning author of 18 books of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and children's literature and other published work. Her many awards include Canada's Writers Trust Matt Cohen Award for Lifetime Achievement, the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, the Commonwealth Writers Prize, an honorary doctorate from the University of the West Indies and the Gold Medal of the Institute of Jamaica. Her work has been taught internationally and is widely translated. Olive Senior is from Jamaica and lives in Toronto, Canada, but returns frequently to the Caribbean which remains central

to her work.

# E-GRÉ 2023 COMMISSIONED WORK

# Breath (2022) - Keith Hamel

# Pandemic Poems - First Wave (2021) - Olive Senior

Breath is a setting of 3 poems by Olive Senior and is intended to be performed as a single work. The sound of audible breath (inhales and exhales) is a feature of the work and, when indicated in the score, the singer should make the breath sounds audible to the listener without them being too exaggerated. The exact duration of the audible breaths is somewhat flexible; the singer can take some liberties with the duration, dynamic level and quality of the breath sounds, but each should capture the character that is indicated in the score.

# T is for Time Wasting

#### OPENING TIME

Waste time	Spend time	Save time	
While away time	Devote time to	Seize time	
Pass Time	Ahead of time	Make time	
Mark time	In good time	Keep time	
At whatever time	In no time	Measure time	
Lose time	On time	Timetable	
Endless time All the time Over time At one time Timeless Lifetime	For a time Another time In time The nick of time At that time Time Out	Time Sensitive Time of one's life Time honoured Time consuming Time worn Time expired	

CLOSING TIME

# L is for Less

There's no vaccine for Mother Earth. The cure is more of a withdrawal:

Less

toxicity

Less

extraction

Less

plundering

Less

consumption

A poisoned earth is squeezing us to death

Ease up.

Nature is sending out an S. O. S.

The only cure:

Less is more.

# B is for Breathe

It takes one's breath away: a man dying during a pandemic that takes away one's breath, no ventilator but one brave spectator, recording

his last breath, his need please

somebody

taking the knee on the neck from men who from birth breathed in tainted air, imbibed a foul history, burning crosses

still smoldering

I can't breathe

like the hot breath of anger consuming the cities we have breathed this before this white heat this burning sensation in the throats of The numerous ones held down and

mama mama I can't

Come on, George Floyd, breathe in the timeless rhythm of Mother Earth waiting for you, for all her lost children, for justice

I'm through
I'm through

Poems are taken from Pandemic Poems – First Wave © 2021 Oliver Senior and are used with her permission.

# THE GALA CONCERT

Friday, April 21, 2023 - Lorne Watson Recital Hall - 7:30 pm

# Rebecca Cuddy, Hugh Russell and Craig Terry

News, News John Adams/Alice Goodman

(Nixon in China)

Am I in your light? John Adams/Peter Sellars

(Doctor Atomic)

Sing Me at Midnight John Greer

(Wilfred Owen)

How do I Love Thee

Three Rompers

Anthem for Doomed Youth

Maundy Thursday

Song of Songs

Parting Cecilia Livingston

(Janey Lew)

Lullabies Cecilia Livingston

(Walter de la Mare)

Snow Silver

Mercy Cecilia Livingston

(Duncan McFarlane)

**PAUSE** 

# American Folk Set (Traditional) Steven Mark Kohn

The Bachelor's Lay
Down, Down, Down
The Old Woman's Courtship
The Ocean Burial
California

# From

"Li Keur, Riel's Heart of the North" Neil Weisensel/Suzanne Steele

Beneath the Endless Azure Sky You Come and Go Mending of Violence

From
"Souvenirs, Op. 28 Samuel Barber
(Ballet Suite for Four-Hands Piano)

Pas de deux Galop

> Rebecca Cuddy, Mezzo-Soprano Hugh Russell, Baritone Craig Terry, Piano

# GALA CONCERT - PROGRAM NOTES

John Adams and Peter Sellers 2005 operatic work *Doctor Atomic* focuses on the days and hours leading up to the first test of the Trinity atom bomb on July 16, 1945. In Am I in your light? Kitty Oppenheimer sings to her husband, oblivious and buried in the study of his documents.

Adams and Sellars' opera explores the characters and personalities of figures who were involved in the historical incident, the texts coming mostly from declassified government documents, rather than a re-enactment of the events themselves.

Canadian composer Cecilia Livingston specializes in music for voice. She is composer-in-residence at the Canadian Opera Company (2022-) and was composer-in-residence at Glyndebourne Opera (2019-2022). Her music is driven by melody, mixing styles from minimalism to The American Songbook to create work that is lyrical and unsettling.

Parting (2012) is a love story told through ambiguous language, with text by Janey Lew. A song in three parts, the beginning evokes a smoky jazz standard that leads into the singer's contemplation of the 'speck of dust' and ultimately into an inevitable parting and a prayer for mending.

Lullabies (2011, arr. 2020) Livingston wrote two lullabies, Snow and Silver with texts by Walter de la Mare exploring winter themes. Inspired by these poems, which Livingston first encountered as a small child, the pieces have a quiet intimacy and a darkness that speaks to the power of winter nights.

Mercy (2015, arr. 2020) A striking piece of vicious rage, this piece imagines a woman putting herself and her words between a mob and its victim. When she too is cornered by the crowd, surrounded, she turns on them. Duncan McFarlane created this unforgiving text, set to aslow dance, a sort of tango of tension between the woman and her attackers.

Rebecca Cuddy is pleased to present selections from *Li keur, Riel's Heart of the North* by Canadian librettist and composers team Dr.Suzanne M. Steele, Neil Weisensel and Alex Kusturok.

Dr. Suzanne M. Steele is an award-winning poet, installation artist, librettist, and scholar. She is Métis (Gaudry and Fayant) with roots that extend back to the first families (French and Anishinaabe). Her work has been broadcast over BBC World Service, CBC, NPR and presented, studied and performed internationally.

Winnipeg-based Neil Weisensel is a veteran opera composer, his background is white settler with French/German ancestry. He is one of the most frequently-performed and prolific opera composers in Canada. Weisensel's seven other operas (Gisela in her Bathtub, City Workers in Love, The Bachelor Farmers of the Apocalypse, Merry Christmas Stephen Leacock, The Master's Stroke, Secret Service, and Stickboy) have seen over 200 total performances across Canada and the US.

Métis fiddler and composer, Alex Kusturok, is an award winning fiddler, and knowledge keeper of Métis fiddle music. He has toured internationally, notably accompanying Métis elders, along with Brianna Lizotte, to Rome in 2022 to engage in Truth and Reconciliation with Pope Francis.

Li Keur, Riel's Heart of the North, (2019 arr. 2023), is a new dramatic musical work by Métis librettist and scholar Dr. Suzanne Steele and composers Neil Weisensel, and champion Métis fiddler, Alex Kusturok. A first for Canadian and world stages, the work is written in Heritage-Michif, French-Michif, Anishinaabemowin along with English and French. Li Keur, Riel's Heart of the North explores a little-known chapter in Louis Riel's life and focuses on the beauty and love of the homeland and of its people, the heart of the north, with a focus on the central role that women have played at the heart of this continent.

Beneath the endless azure sky... A young Métisse dreams of her freedom, falling in love and having grand adventures. She refuses to stifle who she is for anyone.

Come and Go. Josette la belle Métisse pleads with Riel to include her in his plans. Riel is protective and wishes to keep her safe. She tells him she has enough courage for the both of them.

*Mending of Violence Aria*. Marie Serpente, an Anishinaabe healer, ponders 'what strange mending is the violence of men' as she sews closed the wounds of bleeding men after a brutal boxing match.

Language keepers for this work are Madame Vera de Montigny of Brandon, Manitoba ('Heritage' Michif); Drs. June Bruce, Lorraine Coutu and Agathe Chartrand of St Laurent, MB (French Michif); Mesdames Donna Beach and Debra Beach Ducharme of Animo-ziibiing [Lake Manitoba First Nation] (Anishinaabemowin); Monsieur Jules Chartrand, of St Laurent, MB (French Michif), and the late Monsieur Francis Fontaine, our French expert.

# 2023 FINALISTS (in alphabetical order)

# KATY CLARK



Katy Clark has performed as a soloist across North America with groups including the Amici Chamber Ensemble, the Kitchener-Waterloo and Windsor Symphonies, Michigan Opera Theatre, and the Elora, Indian River, and Stratford Summer Music Festivals. She is a member of the Elora Singers and of Opus8, and has sung with the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir, and the Canadian Opera Company Chorus. Katy was the 2019 winner of the Jim and Charlotte Norcop Prize in Song. and was a recipient of the 2017/18 Rebanks Family Fellowship and International Performance Residency. She holds a DMA from the University of Toronto, where her research focused on the operas of John Beckwith. Katy teaches Singing and Voice Pedagogy at McMaster University, and operates a private teaching studio in London, Ontario. In addition to her work as a performer

and teacher, Katy is the founder and artistic producer of the London-based opera company Village Opera.

### FINAL RECITAL

The Princess of the Stars (1981) "Aria of the Princess"

R. Murray Schafer (1933 - 2021) \*

Six Songs (2001)

James Rolfe (1967 - ) \*

- 1. I heard vou
- 2. Not heaving from my ribb'd breast only
- 3. O you whom I often and silently come
- 4. Trickle drops
- 5. One hour to madness and joy
- 6. A clear midnight

Breath (2022) Keith Hamel (1956 - )\*

Amore (2005) Jocelyn Morlock (1969 - 2023) \*

Kalypso (2015) Cecilia Livingston (1984 - ) \*

Stripsody (1966) Cathy Berberian (1925 - 1983) \*

Ruby Throated Moment (1999) Emily Doolittle (1972 - ) \*

# SYDNEY CLARKE



Clarke is a soprano who performs "all-guns blazing" (Opera Canada). She is a graduate of the University of Manitoba's Desautel Faculty of Music under the tutelage of Tracy Dahl (CM), and is a graduate of the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music (GGS) in Toronto. An interpreter in multiple vocal genres, Sydney recently performed the role of PHOEBE in Dry Cold Productions' musical production of A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder. She debuted the role of JILL BANFORD in the premiere of Roan Shankaruk's opera The Fox with the University of Manitoba, and has performed roles including HELENA in A Midsummer Night's Dream, DONNA ANNA in Don Giovanni, and ELETTRA in Idomeneo. She is also a winner of the 2020 Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg's McLellan

Competition. Sydney is currently based in Oshawa, Ontario, continuing to perform and teach voice.

# FINAL RECITAL

Tanzer Lieder (2004)

1. Sur une étoile

2. Stimmen

4. Wishing Well

5. Last Song

Banford's Aria (2021) From "The Fox"

How to get Heat Without Fire (2005)

2. Saying Goodbye

3 The Pockethook

4. How to Get Heat Without Fire

Breath (2022)

Emily's aria (2005)

From "Our Town"

The Madness of Queen Charlotte (2017)

Love, Love, Love (1975)

Ana Sokolović (1968 - ) \*

Roan Shankaruk (1996 - ) \*

Tom Cipullo (1956 - )

Keith Hamel (1956 - ) \*

Ned Rorem (1923 - 2022)

Alice Ping Yee Ho (1960 - ) \*

John Weinzweig (1913 - 2006) \*

# **REBECCA GRAY**



Rebecca Gray is a soprano, composer and improviser passionate about performing and creating fresh, complex and inclusive new works. As a soprano, she has performed with Pacific Opera Victoria, Esprit Orchestra, Tapestry Opera, Opera Q, and is a member of FAWN chamber creative. She loves contributing to Canada's queer opera scene as a performer and composer, and has presented interdisciplinary work at the Atlantic Music

Festival, the Banff Centre, Westben Centre and Chateau La Napoule in France. She participated in the Canadian League of Composer's PIVOT mentorship program, and participated in Soundstreams' Young Composer Workshop in 2021. Together with her sister Rachel, she won the Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes and will compose Raccoon Opera, a fable of the housing crisis, for 2023.

#### FINAL RECITAL

WTF Jane Eyre (2019) Rebecca Gray (1994 - ) \*

Madame Bovary: the eternal monotony Rebecca Gray (1994 - ) \* of passion (2020)

In the Gatineau Woods (2023)

John Gordon Armstrong (1952 - ) \*
Small Flies

Small Files
As a friend, alone
Water, Paper, Stone

Sequenza (1965) Luciano Berio (1925 - 2003)

IX. Einmal, noch möchte ich mit dir Udo Zimmerman (1943 - ) durch unsre Wälder laufen (1987)

*Breath (2022) Keith Hamel (1956 - ) \** 

*Stripsody (1966) Cathy Berberian (1925 - 1983)* 

# **CLAIRE LATOSINSKY**



Claire Latosinsky is a performer-researcher who loves to tell new stories about and through music. A 2022 graduate of the Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance at the University of Toronto, where she studied with Wendy Nielsen, Claire also holds an English major from that institution. Claire is an alumna of Songfest (2019) and Evolution: Classical at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity (2022). She also spent a semester studying voice at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland (2020). Performance credits include Mozart's Exsultate, Jubilate with the London Community Orchestra (2015), a recital entitled "Notes to Belonging," which explored nationalism in art song (2022), and as soprano soloist in the premiere of Evan Tanovich's *Missa* 

Errollyn Wallen (1958 - )

Solemnis in D (2023). Claire is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Musicology at U of T, supported by a Canadian Graduate Scholarship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

## FINAL RECITAL

5. Offerings

About Here (1999)

North "The Seven Mountains" (2001) Errollyn Wallen (1958 - ) Les Chansons du Coeur (1978) Jean Coulthard (1908 - 2000) \* Four Domestics (I -IV) (2013 - 2014) Nathan Friedman (1989 - ) \* Breath (2022) Keith Hamel (1956 - ) \* Vier Lieder / Dört Sarki, Op. 37 (2011) Fazil Say (1970 - ) IV. Der Panther Ilk Sarkilar, Op. 5 / Op.4 (1994, rev. 2013) Fazil Say (1970 - ) V. Sardunyaya Ağit IX. Memleketim Where There's a Wall (2018) Ian Cusson (1981 - ) \* 1. Invasion 2. Bird Song 3. Grief Poem 4. Where There's a Wall

# SARA SCHABAS



Born and raised in Tkarón:to (Toronto), Sara Schabas (she/her) recently performed as a soloist with Vancouver Opera, Pacific Opera Victoria, Dayton Opera, Manitoba Opera, and Tapestry Opera, Vienna's Concentus Musicus, the Dayton Philharmonic, Thirteen Strings Ottawa and Oakville Masterworks, and as a recitalist in the COC Amphitheatre and Zürich Opera House's Spiegelsaal. She has received awards from the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, the Hnatyshyn

Foundation, and the IRCPA. In 2020, she was nominated for a Dora Award for her work as Anne Frank in Cecilia Livingston's Singing Only Softly. Sara is a current member of Barbara Hannigan's Equilibrium Young Artists, and holds degrees from the University of Toronto and Roosevelt University with additional studies at Vienna's Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst. She is currently pursuing doctoral studies at McGill University researching Emmy Heim, a singer who helped bring a legacy of new music to Canada.

# FINAL RECITAL

Hymnen an die Nacht (1975)

Ophelia Sings (2012)

I. How should I your true love know

II. Tomorrow is Saint Valentine's Day

III. They bore him bare-faced on the bier

The Bond (2019)

(Poems of Miriam Waddington)

What happened in Auschwitz (2012) (From "Another Sunrise")

Breath (2022)

Singing Only Softly (2019)

1: Every night I Think of the Things

3: Peter – Dream,

6: A Summary List of Death Fears

9: I'm Awake

Dodo, mon tout petit (2020) (From "Louis Riel")

Claude Vivier (1948 - 1983) \*

Wolfgang Rihm (1952 - )

Amy Brandon (1980 - ) \*

Jake Heggie (1961 - )

Keith Hamel (1956 - ) \*

Cecilia Livingston (1984 - ) \*

Ian Cusson (1981 - ) \*

# McKENZIE WARRINER



McKenzie Warriner is a Saskatchewan-born soprano bringing music and text to life in works ranging from Baroque oratorio to the cutting-edge. In the 22/23 season, McKenzie returned to her home province to sing *Messiah* with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra and is honoured to be a Yulanda M. Faris Young Artist with Vancouver Opera. She is also excited to perform at the 2023 Aldeburgh Festival premiering new works as a Britten Pears Young Artist. Recent credits include Le portrait de Manon (Vancouver Opera), Abigail Richardson-Schulte's Alligator Pie (Regina Symphony Orchestra), The Shop Girl (COSA Canada), and Der Schauspieldirektor (Eastman Opera Theatre). Passionate about contemporary music, McKenzie co-founded Slow Rise Music in 2021, a Toronto concert series devoted to creating bold new vocal works. McKenzie earned her Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of

Music and her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Manitoba.

# FINAL RECITAL

Ma Belle, Si Tu Voulais (1997)

Philippe Leroux (1959 - ) \*

Études for a Dying Race (2019)

I. Zeus

II Athena

III. Hades

IV. Hera

Tristan Zaba (1995 - ) \*

Powder Her Face (1995)

"Fancy" Aria with Wedding (Scene 3)

Thomas Adès (1971 - )

Leino - laulut (2008)

I. Sua katselen

II. Svdän

IV Iltarukous

Kaija Saariaho (1952 - ).

Peroration (1996)

*Brian Elias (1948 - )* 

The Idlers (2016)

Danika Lorèn (1980 - ) \*

*Breath* (2022)

Keith Hamel (1956 - ) \*

Ash Roses (1994)

Derek Holman (1931 - 2019) \*

III. Sweet Breath at Night

# 2023 COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS (in alphabetical order)

# Megan Dufrat (Sydney Clarke)



Having recently completed her Master of Music in Collaborative Piano at the Desautels Faculty of Music with Dr. Laura Loewen and Dr. Judy Kehler-Siebert, Megan Dufrat is a collaborative pianist and teacher based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Megan has represented Manitoba at the CFMTA National Piano Competition, was the inaugural recipient of the Dorothy Lother Award for her work as a collaborative pianist and has been a prize winner in the Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg annual scholarship auditions. In addition to her work as choral, vocal and instrumental collaborator, Megan is a vocal coach and

collaborative pianist at the Desautels Faculty of Music. A passionate music educator, Megan has studied Suzuki Piano Pedagogy and has presented her research on introducing young pianists to collaborative piano and the role of culture and community in arts education at numerous conferences throughout North America. Megan is currently completing a degree in Psychology.

# **Charmaine Fopoussi (Katy Clark)**



Charmaine Fopoussi is in demand as a vocal coach, accompanist, and chamber musician. She holds a M.Mus in Collaborative Piano from Western University where she had the privilege of studying with Dr. John Hess as well as a B.Mus in Piano Performance from Wilfrid Laurier University where she studied with Boyd McDonald, a life-long mentor. She has performed with numerous artists and organizations, including Guy Few, Penderecki String Quartet, Bethany Horst, WLU Orchestra, Menno Singers, Guelph Youth Singers, Stratford Concert Choir,

UWOpera, McGill Opera, NUMUS, INNERchamber. She is currently a busy vocal coach at Western University in London, Ontario.

# **Danielle Guina (McKenzie Warriner)**



Canadian collaborative pianist, Danielle Guina, received her Master of Music degree in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music at the Eastman School of Music under the direction of Dr. Jean Barr. Active in vocal and instrumental areas, Danielle has performed in concert and in festivals internationally in Canada, Italy, and the United States. She is a co-founder of the trumpet and piano duo Power of Two, and also works closely with soprano, McKenzie Warriner, to create diverse and representative concert programs of works by Canadian, BIPOC, and LGBTQ+ composers. Danielle is a staff pianist at Brandon University, and is a teacher of

piano, voice, theory, and history, at the Eckhardt-Gramatté Conservatory of Music. She has worked with composers Jake Heggie, David McIntyre, and Diego Vega, as well as participated in masterclasses with renowned artists Margo Garrett, Lydia Brown, Alan Louis Smith, Malcolm Martineau, Graham Johnson, Kevin Murphy, Alexandra Nguyen, Andrew Harley, Hila Plitmann, Nicole Cabell, Murray McLachlan, Andrei Pisarev, Douglas Finch, Futaba Niekawa, the Cecilia String Quartet and more.

# Perri Lo (Sara Schabas/Rebecca Gray)



Perri Lo is a pianist and vocal coach, working in opera, chamber music, and dance. She has worked with local west coast companies, including Pacific Opera Victoria (Die Vögel, 2023), Vancouver Opera, Re:Naissance Opera, Sound the Alarm Music/Theatre, and Burnaby Lyric Opera - both in traditional and contemporary repertoire. Perri also works as the company pianist for Ballet BC and Arts Umbrella Dance Company. As an active performer and strong advocate for community engagement, Perri curates and performs in the monthly Opera Pub series in Vancouver, hosted by Against the Grain Theatre. When she is not performing with singers

and instrumentalists, Perri serves as B.C.'s Provincial Coordinator for Opera InReach, an artists' collective providing accessible opera education and mentorship for youths across Canada.

# **Futian Yao (Claire Latosinsky)**



A four-time national winner of the Canadian Music Competition and a recent graduate of the University of Toronto's Bachelor of Music program, Futian completed her undergraduate studies in both Piano Performance and Psychology. Outside of music, Futian is an avid lover of biking and photography. She is also a longtime volunteer in the music therapy program at the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital and is extremely passionate about using music as a way to improve the mental and physical wellbeing of children. Futian is continuing her studies at UofT in the Master of Music program for Piano

Pedagogy as a two-time recipient of the Ontario Graduate Scholarship, which recognizes some of Ontario's best graduate students in all disciplines of academic study.



# **OUR TEAM**

# Mark Cramer - Piano Technician

Mark Cramer is a Registered Piano Technician, serving Brandon University from as early as 1983. Mark travels extensively with his work, including The Banff Centre, a number of other musical institutions in Canada, and Steinway & Sons, New York, but is pleased to call Brandon home. Mark's passion is promoting the joy of playing the piano, and sharing simple insights into how this marvellous instrument works. He believes that once you understand what is happening under your fingers, you will enjoy a much wider range of musical possibilities.

# Dianna Neufeld - Administrative Officer

Dianna Neufeld holds a Master's in Music from the Brandon University, specializing in Performance and Literature as a Collaborative Pianist. She is on staff at the Eckhardt-Gramatté Conservatory as a piano teacher, employed by the Brandon University as a collaborative artist who performs with a variety of musicians, and a composer who is published within Canada and Europe. As the President of the Manitoba Registered Teachers Association of the Brandon Branch, Dianna works together with local private teachers to encourage and support the future of our musical community, supporting events which feature Canadian music and Canadian musicians.

# **Diogo Peixoto - Technical Support**

Having taught music in conservatories, universities, giving workshops, training music staff, and music production courses; Diogo's mission is always to share his experience and knowledge to help students achieve their goals and find their own voice through music and art. Diogo holds a Bachelor's Degree in Popular Music, a College Degree in Financial Management, and a Master's Degree in Jazz Performance and Literature. Currently teaching at Brandon University, Diogo is producing his debut album and intends to pursue a PhD in the coming years. The Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition, Inc. is a chartered not-for profit corporation.

# 2023 Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition Prizes

1st Place: \$11,000 total value prize, including \$6000 cash prize

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2nd Place: \$2500 cash prize

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Finalists prizes: \$1000 cash prize each

City of Brandon Prize: \$1000 cash prize for the Best Performance of the

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With special thanks to our sponsors, whose generous support makes the cash prizes and winner's tour possible.

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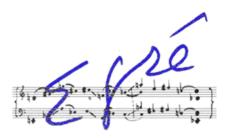
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