



vancouver new music

For immediate release

25 September 2008

VANCOUVER NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL 2008

Solus

The art of solo virtuosity

22-25 October 2008

Show starts 8pm each night

Free artist chats 7:00pm each night

Scotiabank Dance Centre

677 Davie Street

Tickets \$15/\$10 each night, available at Sikora's Classical Records (432 W. Hastings Street), Tickets Tonight (604.684.2787 or www.ticketstonight.ca) and the door.

Passes for all 4 nights \$50/\$35, available at the door or by calling 604.633.0861.

For 2008, the Vancouver New Music Festival celebrates the art of solo virtuosity. We've assembled a program of world-class artists who push the limits of their instrument to performance extremes.

Featuring performances by: Jaap Blonk (Netherlands/voice), Tzenka Dianova (Canada/piano), Lori Freedman (Canada/bass clarinet), Pascal Gallois (France/bassoon), Kuniko Kato (Japan/marimba), Garth Knox (UK/viola), Mark Takeshi McGregor (Canada/flute), Stefano Scodanibbio (Italy/double bass), Josh Stevenson (Canada/synthesizer) and Frances-Marie Uitti (Netherlands/cello).

Full schedule and details follow:

Wednesday 22 October 2008

Stefano Scodanibbio (Italy)

Double Bass

Plucking, bowing, scraping and tapping with amazing technique and precision, Stefano Scodanibbio has the ability to coax a seemingly impossible range of sounds and colours from his double bass. Both composer and performer, he has written over 30 compositions and has had works written especially for him by such composers as Bussotti, Donatoni, Estrada, Ferneyhough, Frith, Globokar, Sciarrino, Xenakis.

"Stefano Scodanibbio...lifted the instrument into new realms. For him the bass is an instrument of fantasy...an astonishing variety of sounds..." – Los Angeles Times

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Josh Stevenson (Vancouver)

Synthesizers

Under the guise Magneticring, Stevenson uses vintage synthesizers and analog equipment incorporating influences ranging from Javanese Gamelan, obscure psychedelic music, early new age, and 60's electronic music. A longstanding figure in Vancouver's underground music scene, Stevenson has performed, collaborated and toured with numerous artists from Vancouver, to Montreal, Portland and NYC.

Garth Knox (UK)

Viola

A highly sought after performer, Garth Knox has recently become a pioneer of the *viola d'amore*, exploring its possibilities in new music, with and without electronics, and developing a new repertoire for the instrument. A former member of the Ensemble InterContemporain in Paris, and the Arditti String Quartet, Knox will perform his own composition *Viola Spaces* as well as works for solo viola by Ligeti, Dillon, Sciarrino, Scelsi and Berio.

Thursday 23 October 2008

Lori Freedman (Montreal)

Bass Clarinet

Conspicuously described as “a musical revolutionary,” Lori Freedman's approach to the clarinet is uniquely her own. She is known internationally for her provocative and creative performances of contemporary, improvised and electroacoustic musics.

“Clarinet never sounded so human - wildly curious, deeply soulful, swooping, swooning naked intimacy.” — The Montreal Gazette

Frances-Marie Uitti (Netherlands)

Cello

Playing for audiences from New York City to Mongolia, Frances-Marie Uitti delivers a solo cello performance unlike anyone else in the world. Using two bows in one hand, Uitti pioneered a new dimension to the cello by transforming it into a polyphonic instrument capable of sustained chordal (two, three, and four-part chords) and intricate multi-voiced, polyphonic writing.

“...the end result- as with all great music-is metaphysical, hinting at a private world that no words or rationale can suffice in describing. The crowd filed out of the performance in a daze, having glimpsed something beyond music.” — Los Angeles Times

Friday 24 October 2008

Mark Takeshi McGregor (Vancouver)

Flute

A stand-out performer and musician of “huge physical energy” — an uncommon descriptor for a flautist, to say the least — Vancouver's Mark McGregor will perform works for flute by the British complexity composer Brian Ferneyhough, including his masterpiece *Unity Capsule*. Widely regarded as the “enfant terrible” of the avant-garde, Ferneyhough's flute music is infamously difficult, incorporating a stunning array of vocal and percussive effects.

“A mind-blowing flautist.... McGregor played the piece with confidence and a huge physical energy, eliciting elements of free jazz, hip-hop beat boxing and skat singing.... totally engaging.”

- Victoria Times Colonist

Kuniko Kato (Japan)

Percussion

An exciting and energetic performer, Kuniko Kato is without a doubt one of the most promising young percussionists in the world today. Kato's performance for solo marimba will include work by Donatoni, Xenakis and Bach.

Saturday 25 October 2008

Tzenka Dianova (Victoria)

Piano

Tzenka Dianova is recognized internationally for her masterful and insightful interpretations of 21st Century piano compositions by some of the world's most recognized composers. Dianova will perform works for solo piano by Stockhausen, Ligeti, Ustvolskaya and Harvey.

Jaap Blonk (Netherlands)

Voice

Self-taught composer and vocal performer Jaap Blonk performs his interpretation of Kurt Schwitters's Dadaist composition for solo voice, *Ursonate*.

“His unfinished studies in physics, mathematics and musicology mainly created a penchant for activities in a Dada vein, as did several unsuccessful jobs in offices and other well-organized systems. In reciting poetry, he discovered the directness and flexibility of vocal utterance, whether using meaningful words or not. He developed into a specialist in the performance of sound poetry, supported by a powerful stage presence and an almost childlike freedom in improvisation. “

Pascal Gallois (France)

Bassoon

An unparalleled bassoonist, brilliant soloist and member of the Ensemble InterContemporain, Pascal Gallois is celebrated the world over. Gallois is a master of advanced extended techniques, showcased in works such as Berio's *Sequenza XII*, a piece that incorporates 15 minutes of circular breathing.

Tickets for each night are \$15 regular, \$10 students/seniors and are available at Sikora's Classical Records (432 W. Hastings Street), Tickets Tonight (604.684.2787 or www.ticketstonight.ca) and the door. Passes for all 4 nights \$50/\$30, available at the door or by calling 604.633.0861.

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Media contact: Heather McDermid

Phone: 604.633.0861 • Fax: 604.633.0871 • Email: heather@newmusic.org

Web site: www.newmusic.org



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