



vancouver new music

For immediate release:

30 August 2007

Follow your ears on a Soundwalk

Fresh listening turns familiar places into an arena for music

Vancouver New Music presents two **free** Soundwalks - FREE guided listening tours in Vancouver neighbourhoods.

Listening and relistening

Sunday, September 30, 2007

2 – 3:30 pm

Led by by Zoe Gordon

Meeting Point: Georgia and Heatley, southwest corner of MacLean Park

Bus route: 10, 16, or 20(look for the “Astoria” hotel marquee)

Wheelchair accessible

This soundwalk is an opportunity to cultivate listening on a route that returns on itself, allowing participants to listen and re-listen to a circular route through Vancouver's dynamic Strathcona neighbourhood.

Found/Roaming the Railbed

Sunday, October 7, 2007

2 – 3:30 pm

Led by Jacky Sawatzky and Chris O'Connor

Meeting Point: Northeast corner of 1st and Fir (near Granville Island)

Bus route: 4, 7, 50, 84

Not wheelchair accessible

An audio and video enhanced soundwalk where participants are invited to imagine what was, is, and could be lying beyond an old railbed.

Soundwalks are FREE and open to the public, but participants must call to reserve: 604.633.0861.

Each Soundwalk can accommodate 50 people. Participants should be sure to wear appropriate footwear and clothing for any weather condition.

These soundwalks are presented as part of *Vancouver Vibrates - R Murray Schafer Soundscapes* – a festival of events throughout 2007-08 celebrating the works and influence of R Murray Schafer.

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A soundwalk is a silent group walk led along a planned route to experience a location's ambiance and underlying rhythms. All too often the sounds of the environment pass by unnoticed because of our uncanny ability to shut them out. A soundwalk enables its participants to actively listen, opening ears and consciousness to the complex orchestration that the environment is composing at all times. It is a musical-sonic adventure that reveals the banal to be extraordinary!

Soundwalks have been offered as part of VNM's season since 2003 and have been well-attended from the start. After every soundwalk interested people have been invited to join in the planning and designing of future such walks. Now, four years later, a group has emerged that is working together in exploring ever new approaches to soundwalking, new routes and structures, walks with different themes or walks that may contain subtle performative aspects. Soundwalk participants can relax and enjoy these fascinating listening journeys under the safe and inspired guidance of members of this group. Everyone is invited to log on to discuss your experiences and ideas at <http://www.oscillations.ca/ofo>.

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Vancouver New Music gratefully acknowledges the support of The Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage through Arts Presentation Canada, The Province of British Columbia through the British Columbia Arts Council and Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, The City of Vancouver, Holiday Inn Downtown and Tom Lee Music.

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