



For immediate release:

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## Soundwalks open Vancouver New Music's landmark season

Find music in unexpected places this fall with guided listening tours

Vancouver New Music is proud to announce its presentation of **two free Soundwalks** for the fall on **September 22 and 29, 2013**, in partnership with the **Vancouver Sound Collective**. Participants will have the chance to experience unique auditory adventures with expert guides in some of Vancouver's diverse neighbourhoods. Now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, these innovative roving tours will mark the opening of VNM's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary season.

### **Underground Vancouver**

Sunday, September 22, 2013 | 2 – 3:30PM

Led by Pietro Sammarco

Meeting Location: Corner of East 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Glen Drive, Vancouver

This soundwalk will explore the Still Creek region in East Vancouver to examine the area's extensive underground waterways, both natural and engineered. Participants will consider the sounds resonating through catch-basins and utility covers – to appreciate soundscapes that mix the flow of water with the urban development of the site, and hear nature contained within the cement and metal networks of drains, gutters, storm pipes and sewers.

### **Hadden Park Soundwalk**

Sunday, September 29, 2013 | 2 – 3:30PM

Led by Josh Hite

Meeting Location: Hadden Park Fieldhouse, 1015 Maple Street, Vancouver  
Corner of Ogden Avenue and Maple Street

The Hadden Park walk is a collaboration of two collectives – Vancouver Soundwalk Collective and **Ten Fifteen Maple** – that will combine different approaches to scout the confines of the park. Ten Fifteen Maple is an art collective in residence at the park as part of the Vancouver Park Board's community art initiative. The group's objective is to investigate the psycho-geographic relationships between local histories and forms of mapping through projects that converge in Hadden Park. Join us for a walk that explores the local sound environment of the Hadden Park area.

Soundwalks are FREE events and open to the public. As these are outdoor events, participants are advised to be prepared for all weather conditions with suitable clothing and footwear. Soundwalks happen rain or shine.

The purpose of the Soundwalks is to encourage active and contemplative listening. The leader of each walk embarks on a pre-planned route, with the group following in silence. To fully immerse in the experience participants are encouraged to open up awareness to listen for the subtle rhythms and cadences in the city environs. The walks are meant to rediscover and reactivate the essence of listening, and after each walk the group is asked to share experiences and, if interested, can join in the planning and designing of future walks.

VNM started co-presenting Soundwalks in its 2003/04 season. Giorgio Magnanensi, VNM's Artistic Director, approached local composer and sound ecologist Hildegard Westerkamp of the Vancouver Soundwalk Collective in 2002 to launch the partnership. It was conceived as a series of annual events to wake listeners up to the often neglected sounds in daily life, to consider new ways to listen, and build meaning in the soundscapes produced in urban surroundings. It was also a way to create a connection with the improvised and sophisticated orchestration experienced on these walks to the contemporary music presented by VNM. The current roster of guides is focused on further evolving the Soundwalks by developing of new approaches, incorporating diverse themes and performance elements. The fall and spring events have been popular since its inception, and are an integral part of the VNM season.

#### ABOUT VANCOUVER NEW MUSIC

Celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2013, Vancouver New Music is dedicated to exploring and contextualizing new music and sonic art, through concert presentations, festival, community, and workshop events. VNM regularly commissions and premieres new works by Canadian composers, presents leading and emerging electroacoustic and electronic music artists, international composers and performers, sound installations and music theatre. VNM presents an annual festival that focuses each year on a theme within the new music landscape, and explores the interaction of contemporary music with other disciplines such as theatre, installation and media arts. Other activities include lectures and workshops with visiting artists, ensemble workshops and presentations open to the community, and other sound art and new music related community events.

[www.newmusic.org](http://www.newmusic.org)

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