



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 15 September 2021

Hear the city in a new way on a guided Soundwalk

Vancouver, BC – Join **Vancouver New Music** and members of the **Vancouver Soundwalk Collective** for two free Soundwalks on September 26 and October 3.

For the first outing [Hildegard Westerkamp](#) has created a special Soundwalk dedicated to the memory of composer R. Murray Schafer, who passed away on August 14, 2021. Westerkamp was an original member of the [World Soundscape Project](#), established by Schafer in the late 1960's and early 1970's, and one of the earliest proponents of Soundwalking and soundscape studies. Her Soundwalk, ***In Pursuit of Clairaudience*** (Sunday, September 26; 1PM) encourages participants to turn their ear to consider the trajectory of soundwalking and the sonic environment, and its relevance to our current times.

Helena Kroboth's route, ***Choose Your Own (Sonic) Adventure*** (Sunday, October 3; 4PM) will offer participants an opportunity to engage in their own unique sonic explorations through a variety of mediated listening experiences in the downtown core.

Soundwalks are curated listening tours that take advantage of a location's unique ambiance and underlying rhythms. Participants follow a guided route, and are invited to actively listen to their surroundings – opening ears and consciousness to the complex orchestration that the environment is composing at all times.

Full details can be found at <https://newmusic.org/fall-soundwalks-2021/>

Soundwalks are free, but capacity is limited. Participants MUST [register](#) in advance. If you do not register we can not guarantee that there will be a spot available for you on the day of the Soundwalk.

In Pursuit of Clairaudience

Sunday, September 26, 2021; 1 – 2:30PM

Led by Hildegard Westerkamp, Jorma Kujala, Jennifer Schine and others

Meeting Location: By the chandelier under Granville Bridge, NW corner of Granville St and Beach Ave.

Dedicated to the memory of composer R. Murray Schafer who passed away on August 14, 2021.

Schafer coined the term “soundwalk” and was the first to propose it as a form of active participation in the soundscape. All this happened right here in Vancouver in the early 1970s, when Schafer taught at SFU, headed the World Soundscape Project research group and wrote

his seminal book *The Tuning of the World*. On this walk we will revisit some of Schafer's early approaches to soundwalking and will test and contemplate their relevance and application through our own present day listening in times of Covid and the Climate Crisis.

This Soundwalk was conceived and will be guided by Hildegard Westerkamp, with assistance from Jorma Kujala, Jennifer Schine and other members of the Vancouver Soundwalk Collective.

Accessibility information: Light to moderate walking, possibly some stairs. The route can be adjusted around stairs with advance notice. Please contact soundwalks@newmusic.org if you have any accessibility concerns or other questions.

Note: This walk will end near the north side of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre, about 1km from the starting point. We invite you to stay in the area following the Soundwalk to take in [Ben Brown's Sound Sculptures](#) performance beginning at 3PM at [The Swimmer](#) public sculpture near the Vancouver Aquatic Centre.

This Soundwalk is part of [Soundwalk September](#).

Choose Your Own (Sonic) Adventure

Sunday, May 30, 2021; 4 – 5:30PM

Led by Helena Krobath

Meeting Location: Front steps of the Vancouver Public Library Main Branch (350 W Georgia St, Vancouver, BC)

This soundwalk explores active ways of hearing public places, especially listening for pleasure. It invites us to transform our attention and sensations of sound, using optional listening tools and experiments. We'll experience different acoustic environments within a 2km distance, as we wander from Vancouver Public Library towards the waterfront.

Optional Preparation:

- Download & install the free [Zoom Handy Recorder App](#) for smartphones (and bring your own headphones), and/or...
- Bring your field recorder if you have one (and bring your own headphones).
- There will 2 portable field recorders available to borrow during the walk. Please email soundwalks@newmusic.org to reserve one of the recorders (please bring your own headphones; splitters can be provided for pairs listening together).
- Other listening paraphernalia will be provided. All items are sanitized and individually packaged for distribution.

Accessibility information: Light to moderate walking, possibly some stairs. The route can be adjusted around stairs with advance notice. Please contact soundwalks@newmusic.org if you have any accessibility concerns or other questions.

Note: This walk will end near Devonian Park, about 2 km from the starting point. We invite you to stay in the area following the Soundwalk to take in [Ben Brown's Sound Sculptures](#) performance beginning at 6PM at the [Solo](#) public sculpture in the park.

ABOUT THE VANCOUVER SOUNDWALK COLLECTIVE

The Vancouver Soundwalk Collective is a community of listeners that explores acoustic locales in and around Vancouver. Through organized and improvised soundwalks, workshops, and other activities, the collective inquiries into what our ears tell us about place and what place tells us about ourselves.

https://www.facebook.com/vancouver_soundwalk_collective/

ABOUT VANCOUVER NEW MUSIC

Vancouver New Music engages communities in the exploration, creation, and experience of progressive and outstanding new music. 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.

<https://newmusic.org>

MEDIA CONTACT

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