

For Immediate Release  
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Erin Gee, photo by Elody Libe.

## BioSynths and ASMR come together in Erin Gee's *Affect Flow*

Vancouver New Music presents

**Parallel 05: Erin Gee w/ musica intima**

***Affect Flow***

Saturday, November 19, 2022 | 8pm

Artist chat at 7:15pm

ANNEX (823 Seymour Street, Vancouver, BC)

Tickets \$19-39 sliding scale. On sale now, available from [Eventbrite](#):

<https://parallel-05-erin-gee.eventbrite.ca>

**Vancouver, BC** – For this fifth edition of Vancouver New Music's *PARALLELS* series, Montreal-based artist and composer [Erin Gee](#) partners with vocal ensemble [musica intima](#), pianist [Andrea Wong](#) and a ensemble made up of community members to present *Affect Flow*.

*Affect Flow* is a concert of work by Gee that features hypnotic gestures, live biosensor feedback, imaginative script writing, choral performance by *musica intima*, and original electroacoustic music. Through her work in music and new media art, Gee probes interior experience as an automatic, unconscious, and sensual material, likening the vibrations of vocal chords to the channeling of electricity across her electronic biofeedback systems, or the feeling of an emotion spreading across the room.

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Inspired by the online phenomena of Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response (ASMR), Gee whispers, taps, and sings to provoke physiological responses, feeding this affective data into her DIY BioSynths to generate live and spatialized sound.

Gee has been exploring the way that emotion manifests in the body and can be “read” by emotional data systems for a decade, translating sympathetic emotional reactions in real time to sonic textures that evolve through analysis of BPM, blood flow, skin conductivity, and gentle shifts in respiration.

Lauren Fournier, Canadian Art Magazine, writes of Gee’s work that “[it] reflects on the valences of emotional life in a post-internet world, gesturing to the many resonances between humans and machines in a time when the humanity of algorithms, data and screens might seem at odds with the complexities of feeling.”

Vocal ensemble *musica intima* and pianist Andrea Wong join Gee for *Song of Seven* (2016). Choir members lay bare their emotional memories of childhood through seven solo vignettes, within which the affective reactions of the choir are woven into the work through Gee’s BioSynth devices.

Rounding out the concert, Gee invites seven community members to the stage to present explorations of solo and small group combinations of soft sounds, words, gestures, snaps and non-verbal communication based on her piece *Intimacy Alphabet* (2020). Workshopped over the course of two days, the final results will play out on stage as part of the evening’s program.

Gee’s newest work is influenced by the cool, algorithmic intimacy of Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response (ASMR) videos, within which she melds whispers, taps, and various sonic and visual “triggers” into electronic music. Through works presented as part of *Affect Flow*, Gee provokes intimacy in gentle, pleasurable, and sometimes psychologically dark and humorous ways.

### **ABOUT ERIN GEE**

**Erin Gee** is a Canadian artist with a hybrid practice that spans new media, art-science, performance art and music composition. Using emotion as a raw material, she creates new technologies, instruments, and sounds that address the material limits of embodied, affect-driven experience. In her music, Gee draws upon the textural intimacy of Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response (ASMR) to create sensually layered music inspired by electroacoustic and ambient genres. As a maker, Gee is a DIY expert in affective biofeedback, developing her own sensor-systems to implicate the body of the listener in imagined cyborg systems of togetherness. Her work in vocal composition, networked performance, ASMR, VR, AI and robotics has been presented internationally at venues such as Akousma (CA, 2021), Networked Music Festival (2020), LEV Festival (ES, 2020), MUTEK (CA/ES/AR, 2020-2021), Elektra Festival (CA, 2019), Toronto Biennale (CA, 2019), and Ars Electronica (AT, 2018).

### **ABOUT MUSICA INTIMA**

From grass-roots beginnings to international renown, pushing the boundaries of traditional

choral performance and new perspectives on ensemble singing has made **musica intima** one of Canada's most unique vocal ensembles. A shared leadership model allows the singers to exchange ideas freely while exploring their own musical creativity, and this freedom leads to dynamic performances where the ensemble engages with the audience directly and spontaneously.

Over the past thirty years, musica intima has commissioned twenty new works from Canadian composers and has championed contemporary Canadian vocal repertoire around the country and across the world. musica intima has released ten commercial recordings, received two JUNO nominations, and one Western Canadian Music Award.

Recent and upcoming highlights include collaborations with international superstar vocalist Bobby McFerrin (2019), Kenyan-Canadian spoken-word artist Germaine Konji (2021), Indigenous choreographer Olivia C. Davies (2022), Indigenous painter Sonny Assu (2022), and composer of Cree descent, Andrew Balfour, in the premiere of his project *Nagamo* (2022), a musical reimagining of first contact between the "Old" and "New" worlds through the translation of Elizabethan motets into Cree and Ojibway, which will be released as a CD, and toured and workshopped with youth choirs across Canada in 2023.

<https://www.musicaintima.org/>

### **ABOUT VANCOUVER NEW MUSIC**

Supporting creativity, innovation, curiosity and a multiplicity of voices and ideas, Vancouver New Music is committed to curating practices, not only works, and embracing the rhizomatic expansion of current modes of sound and music creation. Founded in 1973, Vancouver New Music regularly commissions and premieres new works by Canadian and international composers, 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, community presentations, and other sound-, art-, and new-music related community events, such as Soundwalks.

<https://newmusic.org>

### **ABOUT PARALLELS**

**PARALLELS** is a workshop-performance series curated by VNM that brings acclaimed local, national and internationally based artists together with local musicians to create unique, collaborative performances. Previous editions of the series have included – [Parallel 01: Uri Caine + Ensemble](#), [Parallel 02: Okkyung Lee + ensemble](#), [Parallel 03: Endlings + collaborators](#) and [Parallel 04: UNION Immersed](#).

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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