

For Immediate Release – Tuesday, March 28, 2023



## Dory Hayley performs Aperghis' *Récitations*

Masterwork for solo soprano demands virtuosity and versatility

### Dory Hayley (Vancouver) – *Récitations*

Saturday, April 22, 2023; 8pm

Pre-show artist talk with Matthew Talbot-Kelly / A Knobe Dee; 7:15pm

Venue: ANNEX (823 Seymour Street, 2nd Floor) [[map](#)]

Tickets: Sliding scale \$19–\$39 (+ service fees) available at [Eventbrite](#)

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/dory-hayley-recitations-tickets-579578333397>

Event info: <https://newmusic.org/aperghis-dory-hayley-recitations/>

**Vancouver, BC** – On April 22nd audiences will have a rare opportunity to hear George Aperghis' complete *Récitations* for solo voice performed by the inimitable [Dory Hayley](#). Widely considered one of the finest contemporary vocal masterworks, a performance of Aperghis' *Récitations* demands a combination of virtuosity, stamina and versatility. Vancouver-based soprano Dory Hayley will perform all 14 *Récitations* accompanied by a specially created visual performance and installation created by artistic collaborator [Matthew Talbot-Kelly / A Knobe Dee](#). Presented by Vancouver New Music, the concert will take place on Saturday, April 22 at 8pm at the ANNEX (823 Seymour Street, 2nd floor).

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*Récitations* is divided into 14 separate pieces that are based on a virtuoso combination of phonemes and theatrical sound gestures. The writing is characterized by high speed, repetitions, accumulations and high rhythmic pressure. The pieces solicit the creative participation of both performer and audience, and adapt well to a great versatility of vocal playing modes. An imaginary language is invented here – ambiguous and often funny.

To dialogue with this work and enhance its intrinsic theatricality, Vancouver New Music has invited experimental mixed media artist Matthew Talbot-Kelly/A Knobe Dee to create a live visual component to compliment Dory Hayley's interpretation of this exuberant and challenging work. His original visual performance will be by turns live animated AR loops, live edited digital loops and an installation of physical assemblages.

### **ABOUT RÉCITATIONS**

Written in 1977–8, George Aperghis' 14 *Récitations* are among the most challenging masterpieces of contemporary solo vocal writing. The fact that Aperghis originally wrote them for the French comedian and singer Martine Viard offers a clue to their aesthetic. Each *Récitation* operates in a similar emotional register to a miniature opera, but with a plot that is unknown and a text that at best teeters on the edge of intelligibility (the texts are in French, but cut up into syllables and jumbled, sometimes using homophones borrowed from other languages). Yet their dramatic form – like that of comedy – exists independently of semantic meaning. Like comedy, too, they subvert and demolish stereotypes. Whatever little else we know of her, the woman portrayed in the 14 *Récitations* is angry, empowered, sexual, violent, scared and glorious. In short, she is – like all of us – messy.

– Stephanie Lamprea and Tim Rutherford-Johnson, New Focus Recordings

### **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>

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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*We gratefully acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the x̱w̱məθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and Seḻíḻw̱iṯulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations within which we live, work and create.*

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