

For Immediate Release
Thursday, February 9, 2023



Musicians from Vancouver, Montreal and the US come together for the first West Coast String Summit

Vancouver New Music, Vancouver Improvised Arts Society and NOW Society, in partnership with The Roundhouse present

Westcoast String Summit

March 9 – 12, 2023

Concerts at 8pm each night

Artist chats take place March 9 – 11 at 7:15pm each night

FEATURING:

Meredith Bates & Alex Abahmed (Vancouver) • Nicolas Caloia & Malcolm Goldstein (Montreal) • Eyvind Kang (US) • Quatuor Bozzini (Montreal) • Quatuor d'occasion (Montreal) • Sapphire Haze (Vancouver) • Josh Zubot Strings (Vancouver)

VENUES:

Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre (181 Roundhouse Mews)
ANNEX (823 Seymour Street)
8EAST (8 E Pender St)

TICKETS:

Single tickets for March 9–11 at The Roundhouse and ANNEX \$19–\$39; 3-night pass \$50.

Available through [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/west-coast-string-summit-2023-1667309):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/west-coast-string-summit-2023-1667309>

and at the door.

Tickets for March 12 at 8EAST by donation, available at the door.

CONCERTS:

Thursday, March 9; 8pm – The Roundhouse, Performance Centre (181 Roundhouse Mews)

Artist chat at 7:15pm

Eyvind Kang • Josh Zubot Strings • Meredith Bates & Alex Abahmed

Friday, March 10; 8pm – The Roundhouse, Performance Centre (181 Roundhouse Mews)

Artist chat at 7:15pm

Malcolm Goldstein & Nicolas Caloia • Quatuor Bozzini • Sapphire Haze

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Saturday, March 11; 8pm – ANNEX (823 Seymour St., 2nd Floor)

Artist chat at 7:15pm

Quatuor d'occasion (Goldstein/René/Girard-Charest/Caloia)

Sunday, March 12; 8pm – 8EAST (8 E Pender St.)

A night of improv with local and visiting artists: **Nicolas Caloia (double bass), Émilie Girard-Charest (cello), Parmela Attariwala (viola), Marina Hasselberg (cello), Lan Tung (erhu), Sina Ettihad (kamanche), Torsten Müller (double bass), Josh Zubot (violin)**

WORKSHOP

Friday, March 10; 1–3pm – The Roundhouse, Performance Centre (181 Roundhouse Mews)
Improvisation as a process of discovery; a workshop for bowed string instrument musicians with Malcolm Goldstein

Space is limited; registration required. Visit newmusic.org/stringsummit2023 for more information and to register.

newmusic.org • improvisedarts.ca • nowsociety.org

Vancouver, BC – Spanning four days and three venues, Vancouver New Music, Vancouver Improvised Arts Society and NOW Society have partnered to present the first West Coast String Summit from March 9th to 12th, a new annual celebration of creative music and the power of strings.

The West Coast String Summit will bring together quartets, ensembles, duos and solo string players for eclectic explorations of string music: from contemporary string quartets to improvisation to string and electronic duos the String Summit promises to cover a lot of sonic territory through concerts, open chats and a workshop with renowned composer and musician Malcolm Goldstein.

Commenting on this inaugural series, Vancouver New Music Artistic Director Giorgio Magnanensi expects that “we are going to enjoy wonderful energy within the amazing group of string players that gather during these few days of workshops, sonic dialogues and performances. The String Summit will expand ideas of music composition into a kind of resonating sociality, working together, an re-sounding; or how Malcolm Goldstein would put it, ‘becoming song.’”

The Summit opens on March 9th and 10th at The Roundhouse (181 Roundhouse Mews) with three performances each night in the Performance Centre.

On the 9th catch Vancouver-based duo Meredith Bates and Alex Abahmed with *Inertia*, a set for laptop and processed violin. Josh Zubot Strings brings together the idiosyncratic talent of composer and improviser Josh Zubot with acclaimed musicians Jesse Zubot, Marina

Hasselberg, Meredith Bates and James Meger. Closing the night is a special solo performance by US-based violist Eyvind Kang (Secret Chiefs 3, Tzadik Records, Ipecac Recordings).

On March 10th, Montreal-based favourites Quator Bozzini will share the stage with fellow Montréalers Malcolm Goldstein and Nicolas Caloia (Quatuor d'occasion). Local violin/electronics duo Sapphire Haze round out the programming for the second night of the Summit.

A highlight of the series is the presence of veteran composer and renowned Montreal-based musician Malcolm Goldstein, playing with quartet Quatuor d'occasion whose members include Jean René, Émilie Girard-Charest, and Nicolas Caloia. Over the course of the festival Goldstein and members of the quartet will collaborate with local artists and perform in different configurations, with a full evening performance by the quartet featuring Goldstein's music on March 11th at the ANNEX (823 Seymour Street, 2nd Floor).

Each of the first three evenings will begin with a public chat starting at 7:15pm. The series of discussions will present evolving dialogue on music, creativity, improvisation and artistic practice. Earlier in the day, from 1 to 3pm on Friday, March 10th at The Roundhouse, Malcolm Goldstein and Nicolas Caloia will also deliver a special improvisation workshop for string players. This workshop will be free and open to string players of varying skill levels, however as space is limited registration is required. For those who aren't able to directly take part in the workshop, a number of spaces will be open to those interested in observing the process. More information on this workshop will be available at newmusic.org/stringsummit2023

Single tickets and passes for the concerts taking place March 9th to 11th are available at [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

The West Coast String Summit will close on Sunday, March 12 with a collaborative improvisation session at 8EAST (8 E Pender Street). This by donation event presented by NOW will feature Nicolas Caloia (double bass), Émilie Girard-Charest (cello), Parmela Attariwala (viola), Marina Hasselberg (cello), Lan Tung (erhu), Sina Ettehad (kamanche), Torsten Müller (double bass), and Josh Zubot (violin).



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 VANCOUVER IMPROVISED ARTS SOCIETY

The Vancouver Improvised Arts Society was born out of the desire to foster the creation of new artistic works sparked from joyful spontaneous play. Through fostering conversations, performances, education initiatives, and research projects, we encourage artists working across mediums to explore, create, and share their work within (and without) the limitless realm of improvised art. We are committed to highlighting the work of historically under-represented artists. Our efforts are grounded in our mission to support and celebrate the intersections of gender, race, age, ability, and social status in our interdisciplinary programming. VIAS is committed to being active in the arts community in Vancouver by encouraging the sharing of resources and developing processes that engage community and fuel connection, creativity, and innovation. The Improvised Arts Society is poised to be a hub for artists ready to expand and evolve their crafts through experimentation, collaboration, and performance.

<https://improvisedarts.ca/>

ABOUT NOW SOCIETY

The NOW Society began as a community initiative designed to support the vibrant community of Vancouver improvisers. Lisle Ellis, Paul Cram, Paul Plimley, Gregg Simpson and Ralph Eppel founded the New Orchestra Workshop (NOW) Society in 1977. Since then, leadership has also included Clyde Reed, Paul Bruce Freedman, Graham Ord, Kate Hammet Vaughan, Don Druick, Roger Baird, Ron Samworth, Nikki Carter and since the spring of 2014, Dr. Lisa Cay Miller. NOW has a history of presenting stellar new works by improvising ensembles in unique and engaging concerts, of collaborating with international artists of commissioning new compositions, of domestic and international touring, and of producing celebrated recordings and publications. NOW Society presents improvisation workshops, and has been presenting them public for over 40 years at the Western Front. Our most exciting new program is the establishment of the 8EAST social space for new culture. Workshops take place at 8EAST, as well as creative improvised music performances, community collaborative events, and informal historical and neighbourhood talks.

<https://www.nowsociety.org>

MEDIA CONTACT

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We gratefully acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Sel̓íl̓wítulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations within which we live, work and create.

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