

Vancouver New Music 2014 Sonic Topographies Festival Sound and music explorations into sustainability

Vancouver New Music's festival, **Sonic Topographies**, featuring four eclectic evening concerts will be held **October 16 - 19, 2014**. In addition, an extensive platform of complementary events, **Alternative Energies**, in association with wide-reaching community partners will be presented before, during and after the festival at venues across Vancouver.

Delving deep into the theme of sustainability, this year's annual festival will showcase ground-breaking artists, composers and musicians from Canada, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, and the US. Sharing common threads, the collected works demonstrate a commitment to tackling projects around sustainability concepts, and the connectivity between nature, society, and politics. **Alternative Energies** will continue the dialogue with a rich program of **artist talks, soundwalks, performances by the Vancouver Electronic Ensemble, and an exhibition.**

It is only natural with the global movement towards sustainability that composers and sound artists on a global arena are turning their ears to the music of the earth to reconsider what artistic creation means in a context that fosters sustainable ideas about creativity, culture, and tradition. These concerts and events will shed light on the work of local and international musicians and sound artists such as **John Luther Adams, Raven Chacon, Leslie García, Annea Lockwood, Akio Suzuki, and Hildegard Westerkamp**, and their commitment to seeking out new, sound-based exploration on ideas that emerge from natural, interlocking cycles, and alternative systems of thought.

FESTIVAL PASSES + TICKET INFORMATION

Purchase a four-concert festival pass for \$112. Single tickets for each concert are \$35 regular / \$15 students and seniors. Advance tickets and passes are available through Brown Paper Tickets.

Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com or 1.800.838.3006. Tickets are also available at the venue box office one hour before performance time. Festival passes and ticket prices include taxes and venue surcharges.

FESTIVAL CONCERT PROGRAM

Thursday, October 16, 2014; Concert at 8 PM | FREE artist talk with Annea Lockwood; 7PM
Orpheum Annex (823 Seymour Street, 2nd floor)

- **Akio Suzuki** (Japan), in association with Powell Street Festival
Legendary Japanese sound artist with a nearly 40 year career performing, building instruments and creating sound installations.
- **Jitterbug (2007), Annea Lockwood** (New Zealand), for six channel tape and three musicians
Counterpointing hydrophone recordings of aquatic insects and fish with musicians' interpretations of rock markings from Glacier Park, Montana. Featuring JP Carter (trumpet), Peggy Lee (cello), and Lisa Cay Miller (piano).
- **Liebes-Lied/Love Song (2005), Hildegard Westerkamp** (Vancouver), for cello and electroacoustic soundtrack
Inspired by the poem *Liebes-Lied* (Rainer Maria Rilke, translated by Norbert Ruebsaat) combined with the recordings of Anne Bourne's improvised explorations and live performance by Peggy Lee (cello).
- **Ilimaq (2012), John Luther Adams** (US), for solo percussion and electronics
Virtuosic percussionist Scott Deal (US) performs Adams' expansive, richly layered *Ilimaq*.

Friday, October 17, 2014; Concert at 8 PM | FREE artist talk with Raven Chacon and Leslie García; 7PM
Orpheum Annex (823 Seymour Street, 2nd floor)

- **Raven Chacon** (US)
Navajo Nation artist uses unique instruments: bone whistles, light-drums, and antler harps, along with voice.
- **The Light Within (2007), John Luther Adams** (US), for alto flute, bass clarinet, vibraphone/crotales, piano, violin, cello, and electronics
A sublimely textured work, performed by the Ethos Collective, that was inspired by installation artist James Turrell's explorations of light and space.
- **Sextett (1992/1996), Georg Friedrich Haas** (Austria/US), for flute, clarinet, percussion, piano, violin and violoncello
A complex and precise exploration of pitch, featuring two voices, accompanied by the Ethos Collective.
- **Like a Memory (2002), Hildegard Westerkamp** (Vancouver), for piano, two electroacoustic soundtracks
Exploring aural perception, where scrap metal structures become musical instruments and the piano becomes a strange sound sculpture.

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- **Territoires de l'oubli (1977), Tristan Murail** (France), for solo piano
A massive exploration of the piano's resonance, unfolding in a huge curve of continuously evolving textures, the piece will be performed by William Fried (US).

Saturday, October 18, 2014; Concert at 8PM | FREE artist talk with Hildegard Westerkamp; 7PM
Orpheum Annex (823 Seymour Street, 2nd floor)

- **Bio-Box, Leslie Garcia** (Mexico)
A plant-based, biofeedback interface; this part-performance, part-laboratory experiment involves audio communications made between different living systems (mosses and algae).
- **Four Thousand Holes (2010), John Luther Adams** (US), for piano, percussion, and electronics
Featuring percussionist Scott Deal (US), and pianist William Fried, (US) performing a "sometimes lush, sometimes fragile, rhythmically complex and technically demanding work" (Jim Fox, Cold Blue Records).
- **Fantasia for Horns II (1979), Hildegard Westerkamp** (Vancouver), for solo French horn and two electroacoustic soundtracks
Train horns, foghorns, and factory horns provide the background track to be overlaid with live French horn.
- **Buoyant (2013), Annea Lockwood** (New Zealand), stereo electroacoustic work
An intriguing interweaving of water recordings taken at Flathead Lake (Montana), the Hoboken Ferry Terminal on Hudson River and a small boat harbor on Lake Como (Italy).
- **Dusk (2012), Annea Lockwood** (New Zealand), stereo electroacoustic work
Bats zip past while Willie Winant creates long sonic trails with large gongs above the deep pulsing of a hydro-thermal vent in the Pacific seabed.

Sunday, October 19, 2014; Concert at 3:30PM | FREE panel discussion; 2PM - note early start time
Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability (CIRS), University of British Columbia (2260 West Mall)

- **stone garden (2014), Michael O'Neill** (Vancouver), for gamelan, bagpipes, and voices - WORLD PREMIERE
Commissioned by VNM with the assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts
A rumination on end-of-life matters, this intercultural work has the words of celebrated Vancouver poet Gerry Gilbert woven through the piece, conveying lightness, humour, and gravitas.
- **Songbirdsongs (1974-80), John Luther Adams** (US), for two piccolos, and three percussion instruments
A mesmerizing and shifting sonic landscape evoking bird calls, water, and wind.
- **floating world (1999), Annea Lockwood** (New Zealand), for stereo tape
An immersion in place and transience with recordings in places of personal, spiritual significance by 11 friends of the composer.
- **école polytechnique (1990), Hildegard Westerkamp** (Vancouver), for eight church bells, mixed choir, bass clarinet, trumpet, percussion, and two-channel tape
Dedicated to the 14 women slain at École Polytechnique in Montreal in 1989.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGIES PROGRAM

Canadian Music Centre-BC Region and Vancouver New Music present **At the Edge of Wilderness**

Composition by Hildegard Westerkamp and photography by Florence Debeugny

September 29 - October 17, 2014; Monday - Friday, 9AM - 5PM | FREE

Opening reception: **September 26, 2014; 5 - 7PM** | Performance by Peggy Lee | Culture Days Weekend Event!

Canadian Music Centre (837 Davie Street)

An installation of images and sounds gathered in various ghost towns of British Columbia. Originally commissioned by the Western Front Society in Vancouver for the group show Industrial Ear, September 8-16, 2000.

Vancouver New Music presents **Vancouver Electronic Ensemble plays music by David Dunn**

Saturday, October 4 and 11, 2014; 8PM | BY DONATION

Vancouver Community College Atrium (1155 East Broadway)

The Vancouver Electronic Ensemble (VEE) will perform works based on the music of composer and sound ecologist David Dunn, incorporating environmental and field recordings to explore intersections of art and nature.

The Contemporary Art Gallery presents **Vancouver Electronic Ensemble at the CAG**

Monday, October 6, 2014; 7PM | FREE

Contemporary Art Gallery (555 Nelson Street)

An sound performance inspired by the recent works of German artist Jürgen Partenheimer whose exhibition, The Archive - The Raven Diaries, runs from September 12 - November 9, 2014 at the CAG.

Vancouver New Music presents **Sound and Sustainability Soundwalks**

Sunday, October 5 and 12, 2014; 2PM | FREE | Meeting point TBA

Take time to listen to the underlying sounds and rhythms of the city on a soundwalk. Members of the Vancouver Soundwalk Collective lead two, free guided walks through the urban environment.

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Tuesday, October 14, 2014; 7PM | Tickets: \$12 | www.doxafestival.ca

The Cinematheque (1131 Howe Street)

“One of the most adventurous American filmmakers” (*Variety*), Bill Morrison’s films combine archival film material and found footage set to contemporary music. He has collaborated with Laurie Anderson, Philip Glass, Michael Gordon, Bill Frisell, Steve Reich, and many others. Screened as part of Motion Pictures, DOXA’s monthly film series.

Emily Carr University of Art + Design and Vancouver New Music present **Raven Chacon: Artist Talk**

Thursday, October 16, 2014; 11:30AM | FREE, limited space

Aboriginal Gathering Place, Emily Carr University of Art + Design (1399 Johnston Street)

Chacon’s work explores sounds of acoustic handmade instruments overdriven through electric systems and the direct and indirect audio feedback responses from their interactions.

Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability (CIRS) and Vancouver New Music present **Panel discussion on Arts and Sustainability** | Moderated by Giorgio Magnanensi

Sunday, October 19, 2014; 2PM | FREE

Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability, University of British Columbia (2260 West Mall)

UBC’s Associate Provost, Sustainability John Robinson, the Suzuki Foundation’s Jay Ritchlin, and artists Leslie García, Annea Lockwood, David Maggs, and Hildegard Westerkamp discuss the intersection of art and sustainability.

SFU Woodward’s presents Art Music’s **Indigenous Inclusions and the Politics of Form**

Monday, October 20, 2014; 7PM | FREE

Djavad Mowafaghian World Art Centre, Goldcorp Centre for the Arts (149 West Hastings Street)

This talk examines the space between classical and Indigenous musical forms, and the attendant politics of recognition in such collaborative processes that often celebrate Indigenous inclusion at the cost of political engagement.

Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery in collaboration with the University of British Columbia School of Music present **Soundwalk with Tyler Kinnear**

Wednesday, October 22, 2014; 2 - 3:30 PM | FREE

A guided soundwalk through the campus of the University of British Columbia by Tyler Kinnear.

Pauline Oliveros’ Sonic Meditations - WORKSHOP SERIES

Tuesday, October 14 and 28, 2014; 2PM | FREE, registration required, for more information visit www.belkin.ubc.ca

Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Point Grey Campus, University of British Columbia (1825 Main Mall)

University of British Columbia professors of Musicology David Metzer and Hedy Law will lead a workshop exploring the pioneering work of Pauline Oliveros.

ABOUT VANCOUVER NEW MUSIC

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

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