



ACWC and Heliconian Music Series Concerts present:
Climate Change and Endangered Species
a concert of music
by Association of Canadian Women Composers
Friday, October 27, 7:30 pm, 2017
Heliconian Hall, Toronto

Program:

Faraway Star Jaye Marsh, flute Kye Marshall, cello Louise Morley, piano	Joanna Estelle
Buttercup Fields (text, Lindsay Selwood) Katerina Utochkina, soprano Evelina Soulis, piano	Sylvia Rickard
The Sun Has Turned Jaye Marsh, flute Evelina Soulis and Kye Marshall, piano (4-hand)	Colleen Muriel
Vocalise (for Bees) Paula Arciengo, mezzo soprano	Emily Doolittle
Calling Jaye Mars, flute electroacoustic soundscape	Diane Berry
from I Have Been a Traveller (text, Judith Miller) Always Autumn Raven in Springtime Rebecca Campbell, vocals Kye Marshall, cello Carol Ann Weaver, piano	Carol Ann Weaver

Short Intermission

Prelude – from Land's End Rita Greer, Bb clarinet Velma Ko, violin Evelina Soulis, piano	Hope Lee
Planet Earth (text, PK Page) Marie Soulis, soprano Dora Krizmanic, piano	Jana Skarecky
Parched Dobrochna Zubek, cello	Kye Marshall
L'Etang Jane Blackstone, piano	Emily Hiemstra

Abba from Paraclete Rita Greer, clarinet, kick drum, Tibetan singing bowl	Tawnie Olson
Tale Of M'Whale (text, Marjorie Chan) Katerina Utochkina, soprano Rita Greer, Bb clarinet Velma Ko, violin Suzanne Yeo, piano	Alice PY Ho

Programme Notes

Joanna Estelle is producing a CD with PARMA Recordings (Boston) for international distribution in 2018 and pursuing a composition doctorate through the University of Sheffield (UK). *Faraway Star* is a plea for mercy to Venus, the Love Star, by lovers fearing they may never meet again in the natural world.

Toronto-born **Sylvia Rickard** began piano lessons at 6. Private studies with Jean Coulthard led to many genres of music. Foreign living inspired Rickard to respect Planet Earth. *Buttercup Fields*, poem by Lindsay Selwood, daughter of her friend, Norma, allowed Rickard to equate nature's bounty with friends – both, great gifts.

The Sun Has Turned, composed by BC native **Colleen Muriel** (now living in the UK) is a musical description of an eye witness account of a forest fire during which the sun appeared to change colour and disappear behind the smoke and flames. Hopefully, not a metaphor for our future!

Composer **Emily Doolittle** was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and now lives in Glasgow, where she is an Athenaeum Research Fellow at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. *Vocalise (for bees)* is at once an homage to the cheerful, buzzy warmth of bees, and a lament for their human-induced decline.

Diane Berry, a Victoria based composer, gets much of her inspiration from the natural environment. That, and memories of summers spent on Georgian Bay helped to create *Calling* for flute and loon soundscape. Sadly we are in danger of losing this national symbol due to habitat loss and climate change.

In *Raven in Springtime* and *Always Autumn* we fly with the raven and other wild birds, celebrating them as vibrant indicators of wild spaces we cannot afford to lose. Toronto vocalist Rebecca Campbell and cellist Kye Marshall join composer/pianist **Carol Ann Weaver**, ACWC Chair, in lauding our buoyant, beleaguered earth.

Hope Lee explores new sounds and structures, always striving for growth within her music. Furore-Verlag publishes all her works. *Prelude to 'and the end is the beginning'* captures the fragility, meaning and significance of the vanished, as the last flicker of candle light before eternal darkness and silence.

In *Planet Earth* Canadian poet P.K. Page celebrates the earth – bright, shining, sacred – and how we need to care for it. Composer **Jana Skarecky**, who frequently writes for voice, also has a November 11 concert here at Heliconian. Her music has been performed on four continents.

www.JanaSkarecky.com

Kye Marshall is a composer and jazz cellist with six CD's to her credit. *Parched* for Solo Cello is a reflection on the droughts in various parts of the world as a result of climate change. The two lower strings of the cello are tuned down by a semitone.

Emily Hiemstra is a composer and violist based in Toronto, ON. *L'etang* is French for 'pond', and she was captivated by the beauty of the endless rippling across still waters. She was inspired to write *L'etang* after spending many summers in Northern Ontario on camping and canoe trips.

Paraclete, written for a grieving friend, depicts shock, then peace. "Grief is an appropriate response to climate change denial and environmental destruction. I hope we can defeat disastrous policies and move towards peace." – **Tawnie Olson**, composer, currently working on an opera inspired by Hildegard of Bingen and Aliénor of Aquitaine.

Composer **Alice Ho** is a 2015 Juno nominee and the recipient of 2016 Louis Applebaum Composers Award. Acclaimed for her "organic flow of imagination," *Tale of M'Whale* tells the story of a young whale trapped on beaches near Vancouver. With death near, the journey is recalled in poetic style.