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39th season | 322nd event

New Music Concerts presents

Tim Brady – My 20th Century

Saturday October 17, 2009 | Isabel Bader Theatre

39th season | 322nd event



Robert Aitken, artistic director

Tim Brady – My 20th Century

Saturday October 17 2009

Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles Street West

Concert 8:00pm | Introduction 7:15

Tim Brady (Canada, 1956) *My 20th Century* (2003-06)
A music / video / theatre narrative in 4 works

Strumming (Hommage à John Lennon)

Traces (Hommage à Charlie Christian)

Hommage à Rosa Luxemburg (Casino Adagio)

Double Quartet (Hommage à Shostakovich)

Bradyworks

Tim Brady ::: composer (music & text), electric guitar
Pamela Reimer ::: piano **André Leroux** ::: saxophones
Catherine Meunier ::: percussion **David Cronkite** ::: sampler

Video

Strumming ::: **Martin Messier** + **Tim Brady**

Traces ::: **Martin Messier**

Hommage à Rosa Luxemburg ::: **Oana Suteu** + **Tim Brady**

Double Quartet ::: **Martin Messier**

Sound Engineer ::: **Morris Apelbaum**

Theatre Consultant ::: **Stéphane Zarov**

**Concert honouring the 35th anniversary of
the founding of the Toronto Arts Council**

Please join us in the lobby for a reception following the performance

New Music Concerts

Robert Aitken, c.m., Artistic Director

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Tim Brady

Biography

Known for his radiant orchestrations, his dramatic structures and his innovative guitar work, Canadian **Tim Brady** is a composer and guitarist who has created music in a wide range of genres ranging from chamber and orchestral music to electroacoustic works, chamber opera, contemporary dance scores, jazz and free improvisation. He has been commissioned and performed by numerous ensembles and orchestras in North America and Europe including the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the Société de musique contemporaine du Québec, New Music Concerts, INA-GRM (Radio-France), the English Guitar Quartet, the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, the Esprit Orchestra (CBC), the Philadelphia-based Relâche ensemble, the Australian group Topology, and the British string ensemble The Smith Quartet.

Since 1988 he has released 14 CDs as both a composer and a performer on Justin Time Records and on the Ambiances magnétiques label. His most recent CDs are: *SCAT*, a collaboration with Australia's Topology Ensemble, *GO* [guitar obsession], a solo project (2006), *Playing Guitar: Symphony #1* (2004), recorded with the Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, and his one-act multimedia chamber opera *Three Cities in the Life of Dr. Norman Bethune* (2005), recorded with the Bradyworks ensemble and baritone Michael Donovan. His most recent major orchestral work is *The Choreography of Time: Symphony #2* (for saxophone quartet & orchestra), commissioned for the 2005 Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra New Music Festival.

Brady regularly tours North America, Europe, Asia and Australia as an electric guitar soloist, performing his own music as well as new works which he commissions from other composers in his effort to create a new voice for the electric guitar. He has performed at many leading venues including The South Bank Centre and the ICA (London), The Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (UK), the Bang on a Can Festival (NY), and De Ijsbreker (Amsterdam), Radio-France (Paris), the Barcelona Contemporary Music Festival and BKA (Berlin). He has recorded extensively for Radio-Canada, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the British Broadcasting Corporation, Netherlands Public Radio, Radio-France, Spanish National Radio and National Public Radio in the USA. In 1999 his *Strange Attractors* World Tour took him to 10 countries for a total of 23 concerts. He was named "one of the thirty most important guitarists in the world for the future of instrument" by the prestigious American magazine *Guitar Player* in 1997.



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In January 2004 he was awarded the Prix OPUS for "Composer of the Year" by the Conseil québécois de la musique, for the outstanding quality of his work as a creative artist. In November 2006 he was awarded the Jan V. Matejcek Prize by SOCAN. In 2008 he was named "composer-in-residence" for the Orchestre symphonique de Laval, where he worked with conductor Alain Trudel in developing new works and new ideas around creative concert music. At this season's Winnipeg New Music Festival, February 12-18, 2010, Tim Brady is a featured guest composer. His residency includes performances of *My 20th Century*, *Guess Who Symphony* (a radical deconstruction and re-composition of the songs "American Woman", "These Eyes" and "Runnin' Back to Saskatoon", performed by Vancouver blues singer Ndidi Onakalu, with the WSO) and the premiere of *Amplify, Multiply, Remix and Redefine* (in memory of Les Paul).

In addition to his work as a composer and guitarist, from 1994 to 2004 he served as the Artistic Director of Innovations en concert, a company which he founded. It is one of Montreal's main new music producers, and during his tenure as director he produced over 100 concerts of contemporary music from across Canada and around the world. He also writes frequently for Musicworks Magazine, and has served on the boards of Codes d'accès, The Canadian League of Composers and the Music Gallery. He is currently the President of the Canadian New Music Network.

His new music ensemble **Bradyworks** has toured Canada five times (1991, 1994, 2000, 2004, 2006), performed in the United States, and records regularly for both the CBC and Radio-Canada. The ensemble released its first CD in 1991, entitled *Inventions*, and released its second recording, *Revolutionary Songs*, in 1996 to coincide with its performance at the Festival international de musique actuelle de Victoriaville. In the autumn of 2003 the group released its third CD, entitled *Unison Rituals*, and presented its first European tour, including a radio performance for the BBC Radio 3 programme "Hear and Now", along with concerts in Aberdeen, Dublin and Cork. The ensemble recently presented Brady's two chamber operas in highly successful productions: *Three Cities in the Life of Dr. Norman Bethune* (Montreal, 2003 / Toronto, 2005, for New Music Concerts), and *The Salome Dancer* (Kitchener, 2005). Bradyworks is supported in part by the Canada Council for the Arts, le Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, le Conseil des arts de Montréal, the SOCAN Foundation and private donors.

My 20th Century

Programme notes by Tim Brady



1 :: Strumming (*Hommage à John Lennon*) (2005)
for multiple electric guitars and single looped video image

The story :: 1963–1964: the Kennedy assassination, the arrival of the Beatles in North America, TV becomes the central narrative of our lives — for the first time, the whole world really is watching.

The music :: A single chord slowly evolves over the course of 11 minutes, all resulting from a single musical action — that of strumming the guitar.



2 :: Traces (*Hommage à Charlie Christian*) (2005)
for electric guitar, piano, tenor saxophone, percussion and sampled clarinet
Video generated from the over 2 million letters in the DNA source code.

The story :: 1939–1942: black jazz guitarist Charlie Christian joins white clarinetist Benny Goodman on stage at Carnegie Hall, black and white making music as equals for the first time ever in America, in such a public manner. The question has been asked: if we can make music together as equals, why can't we live together as equals?

The music :: a radical deconstruction of Christian's famous guitar solo *Solo Flight*, recorded with the Benny Goodman Band in 1941.



3 ::: *Hommage à Rosa Luxemburg* (Casino Adagio) (2003)

Video images from the Casino du Lac-Leamy and Île-aux-Coudres, inspired by the painting *Hommage à Rosa Luxemburg*, by Jean-Paul Riopelle, a work obsessed by ghostly images of birds and nature.

The story ::: 1993: a massive 150-meter long painting in 30 panels, named for a murdered German socialist from the beginning of the 20th century, is hung for public viewing in a casino. What happens when we put money, politics and art in the same room?

The music ::: An electronic soundscape created with sounds recorded at the Casino du Lac-Leamy accompanies a long, slow, evocative melody for string quartet (performed by the Quatuor Molinari in studio), and a solo guitar improvisation.



4 ::: *Double Quartet* (Hommage à Shostakovich) (2005)

1 ::: *Impossible Pizzicato Machine*

Images (1910) by Sergey Prokudin-Gorsky

2 ::: *An Infinity of Four*

Images from the siege of Leningrad (1941)

3::: *Hocket, Canon, Fugue*

Images from St. Petersburg (2006) by Anton Gergamenov

The story ::: 1906–1975: Dmitri Shostakovich, born under the Czar, lives through two world wars, a revolution and a brutal dictator, sees his country go from rural poverty to conquering Space, yet manages to compose a remarkable collection of immensely powerful and deeply personal musical works — an extreme life in an extreme century.

The music ::: A dialogue between piano, saxophone, percussion and electric guitar and a “virtual” string quartet, played by the sampler. Each movement deals with a different aspect of Shostakovich’s life, and especially his relationship with his home town of St. Petersburg.

Audio samples for the work *Double Quartet* are all based on improvisations around the 4 notes D, E-flat, C, B, as improvised by the Quatuor Bozzini under the direction of the composer. D, E-flat, C, B are the four notes which Dmitri Shostakovich often used to represent his name in his musical works, most notably in his eighth string quartet.

Our next concert: Happy Birthday Udo!

Sunday December 13, 2009 | Introduction 7:15 | Concert 8:00

Tickets: \$30 (reg)/\$20 (seniors/artists)/\$10 (students). Box office: 416 961-9594



Sunday December 13, 2009

Happy Birthday, Udo!

Betty Oliphant Theatre, 404 Jarvis Street

Stephen Clarke, piano;

New Music Concerts Ensemble;

Robert Aitken, direction

✦ Udo Kasemets

(Estonia/Canada, 1919)

fraCtal fibONaCciERTO (1997)

for piano and

mixed ensemble.

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