



24/25
NMC's
54th
Season

New Music Concerts Presents:

Glimmer: A personal and shared exploration of queerness

Artistic Director
Brian Current

**Director of Operations
and Communications**
Emily Schimp

54th Season
— 438th Event

Wed, June 11, 2025
Buddies in Bad
Times Theatre
12 Alexander St.

Land Acknowledgment

New Music Concerts acknowledges that we are on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishinaabe, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples. Today, Toronto is now home to many First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples from across Turtle Island and around the world. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands. We are grateful to have the opportunity to meet, work, and live on this island. As an organization dedicated to commissioning and performing works to inspire listeners, we are grateful to all Indigenous peoples for their valuable, past and present, contributions to the arts and music. At New Music Concerts, we acknowledge and respect the importance of Indigenous musical traditions in advancing reconciliation and trusting relationships with Indigenous communities, and are grateful for the Indigenous artists whose sharing and knowledge continues to expand our understanding of Indigenous peoples, cultures, and arts.

24/25 Concert Season

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Glimmer: A personal and shared exploration of queerness

In partnership with OperaQ and the Canadian Music Centre.

FEATURING:

Thierry Tidrow — Composer

Anika Venkatesh — Voice

Brad Cherwin — Clarinets

Danika Lorèn — Voice

Hee-Soo Yoon — Viola

Ryan McDonald — Voice

Terry Lim — Flutes

54th Season

— 438th Event

June.11.25

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre

12 Alexander St.

Program

7:15PM Pre-Concert Talk with Thierry Tidrow

7:45PM Young Artist Overture performed by Kailan Fournier

Kaija Saariaho (FIN) Duft for solo clarinet

I. "Blütenstaub" ("Pollen")

III. "Flüchtig" ("Fleeting")

8:00PM Main Show

Thierry Tidrow (CA) *Glimmer* (2025 World Premiere) for 3 high voices, flutes, clarinets and viola

This work was developed as part of the Canadian Music Centre, Ontario Region's Chalmers Performance Space Artist in Residence Program.

A Message from NMC Artistic Director, Brian Current & Director of Operations & Communications, Emily Schimp



NMC is thrilled to embark on our 54th season, continuing our mission of bringing the world's exceptional adventurous music to Toronto. This year, we invite you to explore an alternate reality of sound and storytelling, where familiar musical landscapes flow into new forms, and boundaries dissolve into uncharted realms of possibility.

Our 2024/2025 season highlights the power of transformative musical narratives. Schnee invites you to experience Hans Abrahamsen's 21st-century masterpiece about snow, where crystalline music melts into Toronto's winter cityscape. Dark Tales offers a haunting journey through ghost stories and folklore, brought to life alongside fluid, evocative projections.

We are especially proud to present Glimmer, a groundbreaking collaboration by Thierry Tidrow at Buddies in Bad Times

Theatre during Toronto's renowned Pride celebrations. We also honour the revival of Julius Eastman's *Gay Guerrilla*, a groundbreaking late 20th-century work, whose powerful structures reclaim their place on today's world stage. Finally, our MAKEWAY program empowers early-career creators, ensuring that the future of contemporary music remains bright and inspiring for all.

As always, our performances are designed as both encounters with exceptional music and opportunities for connection, conversation, and community. Whether you're a long-time supporter or new to the world of contemporary music, you'll find a welcoming home at NMC. Let's continue to push the boundaries of what music can become, together.

-Brian Current, Artistic Director & **Emily Schimp**, Director of Operations and Communications



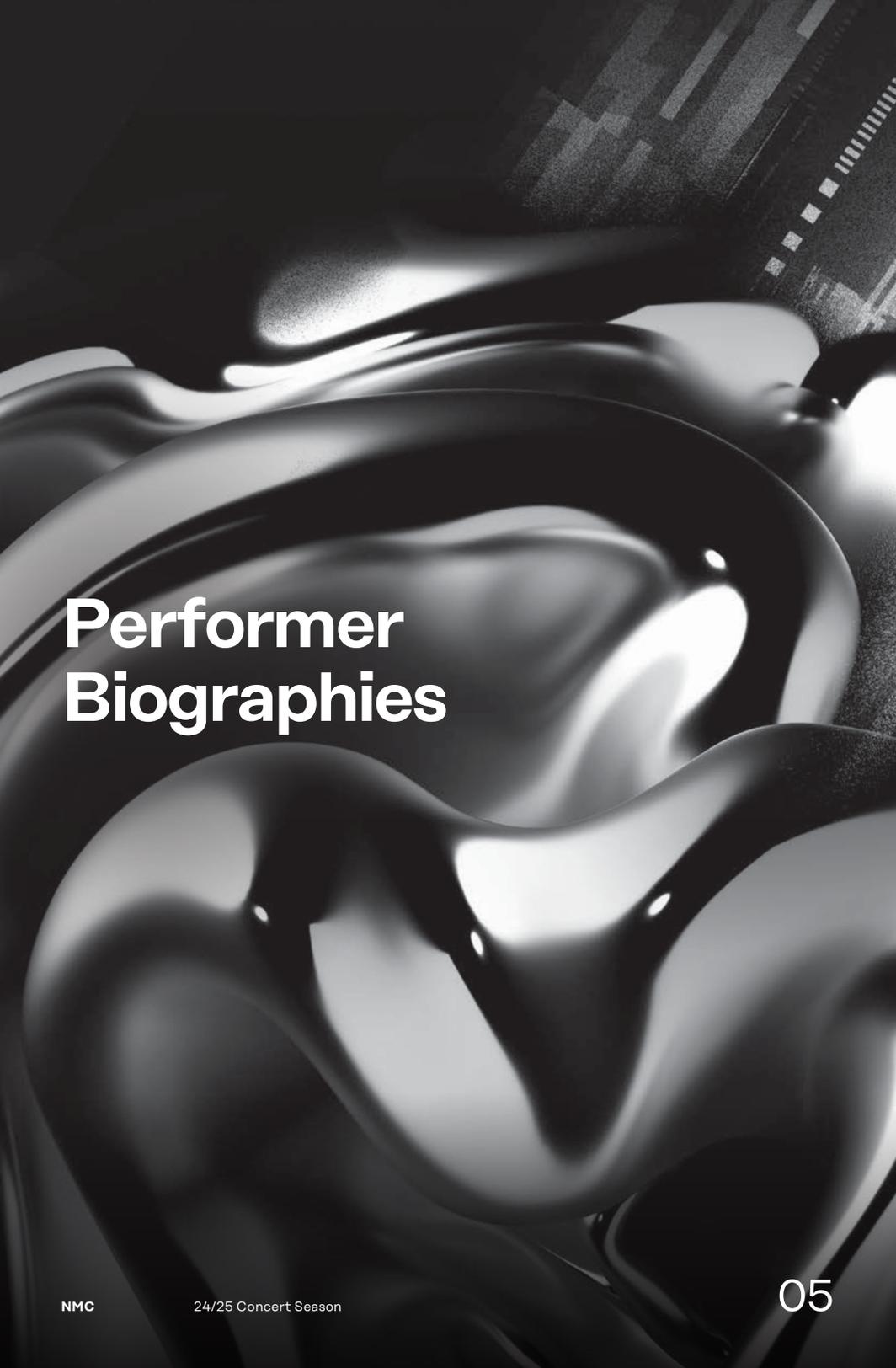
Young Artist Overture

Kailan Fournier

— Clarinet



Biography: Kailan Fournier is a freelance clarinetist living in Toronto. As an orchestral freelancer, Kailan has performed with ensembles such as the acclaimed Quebec chamber orchestra Les Violons du Roy, the Hamilton Philharmonic, the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra and the Montreal Symphony. Kailan completed his Bachelors degree at The Glenn Gould School with Joaquin Valdepeñas, a Graduate degree at McGill University with Todd Cope and recently finished his Advanced Diploma in Performance at the Eastman School of Music with Michael Wayne. With a recently developing interest in new music, Kailan is excited to begin exploring more contemporary repertoire and the bizarre and exciting extended techniques that are possible on the clarinet. In his plentiful spare time, Kailan also manages a cafe in Yorkville, enjoys rock climbing, and fights for transgender rights and inclusion.



Performer Biographies

Brad Cherwin

— Clarinet



Biography: Cited for his “technical prowess [and] perfect conveyance of...wit, humor, and effect” (Sarasota Herald-Tribune), Brad Cherwin is one of “Toronto’s best young chamber musicians” (Bachtrack). His playing has been lauded as “astounding” and “a total success ... as flexible in tone as possible” (Calgary Herald). Cherwin is a 2019 Dora Award winner for his performances as solo clarinetist in Vivier’s *Kopernikus* with Against the Grain Theatre. In the 2024/2025 season, Cherwin was Curator-in-Residence with Toronto’s Soundstreams as part of their New Voices programme for curators of contemporary music.

Highlights of Cherwin’s recent seasons included performances with Barbara Hannigan and Equilibrium Young Artists, and a sold-out European debut at Hamburg’s Tonali Saal with Ema Nikolovska, Hagar Sharvit, and Daniel Gerzenberg.

Cherwin is the Artistic Director of Toronto’s West End Micro Music Festival. Following two fully-sold out seasons, the festival returned for its 3rd season in November 2023 with ANACHROPHONIA. With four performances and some of Toronto’s boldest artists, ANACHROPHONIA featured music by Nahre Sol, Cassandra Miller, Linda Catlin Smith, J.S. Bach, and more. Performances of Thomas Adès’ *Alchymia* — recorded at the 2024 festival with the LeWitt Quartet — were recently featured on CBC Radio’s *About Time*.

Cherwin is also the director of The Happenstancers, a Toronto-based ensemble that features “an obscene amount of talent” (The WholeNote). Their concerts have been praised as “superbly planned, with a rich banquet of textures and colours...Next time these people throw a recital, run, don’t walk” (Lydia Perovic, Definitely the Opera).

Cherwin is thankful for the generous support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Toronto Arts Council, the SOCAN Foundation, and FACTOR Canada in the presentation and development of his work.

Hee-Soo Yoon

— Viola



Biography: Hee-Soo began her violin adventure when she was 3 back in BC, where she was born and raised. Now living in Toronto, she spends her days as an orchestral and chamber musician.

She is enthusiastic about performing contemporary classical music and has worked with many composers including Sofia Gubaidulina, Julian Anderson, and Andy Akiho. Some of her work includes the premieres of the late Roger Tapping's *Reverberations* and Nahre Sol's *Interludes for Clarinet Quintet*. She also performs frequently in contemporary music-focused concerts in Toronto, such as playing with *The Happenstancers* and at the *West End Micro Music Festival*.

As a chamber musician, Hee-Soo has performed with members of the *Borromeo* and *Cleveland String Quartets*, and has worked with members of the *Brentano*, *Miró*, and *Juilliard String Quartets*.

One of Hee-Soo's most memorable experiences as an orchestral musician include the

partnership between *The Juilliard School* and the *Royal Academy of Music* in London in the summer of 2018 which was conducted by *Sir Edward Gardner*, where they performed at the *Aldeburgh Festival* and at the *BBC Proms*. In Toronto, she is a member of the *Canadian Opera Company* and might also be occasionally spotted in the pit at the *National Ballet of Canada*.

As an alum of the *New England Conservatory*, *Juilliard*, and the *Glenn Gould School*, her former teachers include *Donald Weilerstein*, *Laurie Smukler*, and *Mayumi Seiler*. Her current violin is a 2014 *Douglas Cox* copy of the "ex-Huberman" *Stradivarius*.

Terry Lim

— Flute



Biography: Described as “imaginative and magical”, Terry Lim is a multifaceted flutist known for musical risk taking and brilliant artistry. He received his Bachelor of Music degree with an international soloist, Lorna McGhee, at the University of British Columbia. Terry was also a former faculty member at the UBC Summer Music Institute and New York University. Currently, he teaches at the McMaster University. Terry has performed in various music festivals and concert series across North America, including Ottawa International Chamberfest, Stratford Summer Music, Toronto Summer Music Festival, Banff Centre, Redshift Society, Music on

Main, New Music Edmonton and Pierre Monteux. He also has been heard on the radio and in concert halls throughout the United States, Canada and Asia, performing at the Chan Center, Kimmel Center, Carnegie Hall, DiMenna Center, Alice Tully Hall, and Merkin Hall.

As an energetic proponent for chamber and contemporary music, Terry has created a dynamic force in the music world highly regarded for his music concerts of various styles and genres. He has worked closely with numerous composers and has given several world premieres. Terry is a member of Toronto-based ensembles, Thin Edge New Music Collective and Charm of Finches. He is also the artistic director and general manager of the Caledon Music Festival. Besides performing, he maintains a private flute studio, delivering weekly solo and chamber music lessons, adjudicates festivals across Canada and appears as guest speaker in university classroom and festival panels.

Terry is an International Artist for Trevor James Flutes and Beaumont Music.

Danika Lorèn

— Voice



Biography: Danika Lorèn is a multifaceted performer and accomplished composer, captivating audiences worldwide with their innovative and emotive musicality. Having obtained a master's degree in opera performance from the University of Toronto, Danika further honed their skills as a vocalist with the Canadian Opera Company's Ensemble Program. As an alum of Barbara Hannigan's Equilibrium Young Artists, Danika continues to build a unique career as a composer and vocalist under the mentorship of the renowned soprano. Their exceptional talent has led to performances by prestigious orchestras and ensembles, nationally and internationally, earning critical acclaim and establishing Danika as a leading voice in contemporary music. Follow Danika on instagram @danikaloren and catch Danika next in "The Two Deaths of Ophelia" with the Happenstancers, June 19th at the Music Gallery!

Anika Venkatesh

— Voice



Biography: Anika Venkatesh is a genre-defying artist hailing from Coast Salish Territories, currently based in Tkarón:to. A graduate of the University of Toronto (BMus. 2023), Anika is a solo vocalist, choral professional, and theatre performer. Select performance credits: Alice in Wonderland on tour (Bad Hats Theatre); Sky in a Small Cage (Mahogany Opera, Barbican Centre, Copenhagen Opera Festival); Universal Child Care (Quote Unquote Collective, Canadian Stage); Rocking Horse Winner (Tapestry Opera); soloist in The Atonement (The Orpheus Choir of Toronto). Anika is also an R&B musician, amongst other contemporary genres. Follow them @ [anikavenkatesh](#) [anikavenkatesh.com](#)

Ryan McDonald

— Voice



Biography: Countertenor Ryan McDonald is a current Young Artist with POV's Civic Engagement Quartet. A recent Encouragement Award winner from the MET Council Auditions, Ryan has been seen on stage across Canada and Europe in a variety of operatic and concert roles. Ryan was hailed by Opera Canada for his performance in *Dido and Aeneas*: "Ryan McDonald, a young Newfoundland and Labrador countertenor, made a particularly favorable impression as Spirit. McDonald has a voice of luminous, fresh colour, combined with natural musicality and an exciting sense of narrative drama". Ryan is currently pursuing a DMA at the University of Toronto where they are researching the life of Klaus Nomi and investigating the ever expanding queer performance practice guide.



About the Composer

Thierry Tidrow

— *Glimmer* (2025 World Premiere) for 3 high voices, flutes, clarinets and viola



Program Note: What does it mean to be proud in 2025? How does it feel to celebrate in a time of unrest? How does one go about one's day whilst a genocide is unfolding? These questions swirl in my head, as I am sure they sometimes do in yours. I often think about how our present moment causes us to freeze, break down, or disassociate, as the possibility of a better world seems to slip further and further away from our collective grasp—something philosopher Mark Fisher calls « the slow cancellation of the future. » Indeed, the whiplash between our zeitgeist's depiction of a possible future and the one promised to us as children could not be harsher. And yet, at the same time, we live in a world in which many of us are allowed to thrive and dream, and to explore and express

our sexualities and identities in ways that were hitherto unfathomable. For that, I know we are, as queers, all truly grateful.

Glimmer attempts to address these urgent matters and seemingly irreconcilable coexisting realities through multiple frames and lenses. Taking full advantage of an all-queer cast of performers, with whom the piece was developed organically through a series of discussions and workshops, this work intertwines the autobiographical and the fictitious in order to shape a kaleidoscopic vision of queer identity in dialogue with the strange and tragic timeline we find ourselves in. The result is manifold: a celebration of queer joy, an embracing of our silliest selves, a dissection of our neuroses, a quest for (self-)love, and a prayer to the cosmos.

Like the inextricable rapport between light and darkness which the word itself evokes, Glimmer ultimately attempts to capture both the sorrow and euphoria of contemporary queer existence in order to help us cry, contemplate, and cackle to our hearts' content.

Biography: Thierry Tidrow is an award-winning Franco-ontarian composer of instrumental and vocal music, with a predilection for opera. His music has been described as “embracing many musical worlds, in which explorations of noise, expressionist lyricism, pastiche and parody form a discursive and richly detailed whole.” (ECM+ Generations Jury 2018) This audacious synthesis of styles gives rise to a chiaroscuro of meaning, often playful, but where the humourous can quickly turn to horrific or tragic and back. His studied approach to text and sound reveals hidden meanings and erects new ones, and his dramatic instinct leads to an intrinsically narrative mode of expression packed with surprise and intrigue.

Born in Ottawa in 1986, Thierry's musical education began with choral and vocal music, followed by studies in composition, music theory and early music performance at McGill University (B. Mus. 2009). As a Fondation Ricard and Canada Arts Council Fellow, he received his Masters degree in composition from the Conservatorium van Amsterdam in 2011 under Richard Ayres, followed by an Advanced Studies

diploma at the Hochschule für Musik Freiburg in 2013, under Brice Pauset.

Thierry has collaborated with many performers across Europe and North America, including the Asko-Schönberg Ensemble, Ensemble Modern, Klangforum Wien, the Quatuor Bozzini, Continuum, Ensemble Paramirabo, Sarah Maria Sun, Thomas Hampson, Heather Roche and many others.

Thierry has written more than ten operas, including many for younger audiences and amateur performers. From 2019 to 2022 he was composer-in-residence at Oper Dortmund, and his operatic works have also been played in many opera houses in Germany and Austria, including Bonn, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Dresden, Darmstadt, Karlsruhe and the Vienna State Opera. Thierry has received many distinctions, including the 1st prize of the inaugural Graham Sommer Competition for his string quintet Quicksilver (2018), and the Canada Council for the Arts' Governor General's award, the Jules-Léger Prize for Au fond du Cloître Humide (2014). His last large-scale work in Canada (and spiritual precursor to Glimmer) was *Entre Nous* (2022), an abstract 70 minute theater work for four actors and four saxophones, commissioned by the Montreal sax quartet Quasar, focusing on Canadian French colloquialisms as a way to unpack themes of belonging and self-discovery, largely inspired on personal experiences as both an insider and outsider in Quebec.

ALL PROGRAM NOTES AND BIOGRAPHIES PROVIDED BY COMPOSER, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

OperaQ



Founded in 2018 by Camille Rogers and Ryan McDonald, OperaQ is a Toronto-based independent opera company

dedicated to amplifying queer and trans voices to offer unique perspectives on traditional narratives.

The company is run as a project-based collective, allowing queer artists the autonomy to explore and share their own unique experiences of queerness.

OperaQ's mission is to create a space in which queer and trans artists can tell their stories on their own terms, an opportunity which is largely missing from the opera industry.

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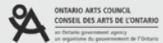
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An abstract, colorful background featuring flowing, wavy shapes in shades of blue, yellow, and purple. A faint, semi-transparent image of a concert hall with a stage and audience is visible in the background. A vertical white line runs down the right side of the image.

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for our 2025/2026
season launching
this fall!**

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