

Summer, 2013

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JUNO Award-Winner *Atayoskewin* - 30th Anniversary



2014 is the 30th Anniversary of the premiere of Malcolm Forsyth's *Atayoskewin - Suite for Orchestra*.

Awarded the first ever JUNO for "Best Classical Composition" by the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences in 1987, it was commissioned by Shell Oil to commemorate the opening of a new refinery

in Alberta. This 20', three-movement work has gone on to become not only his most performed work, but one of the most performed Canadian orchestral pieces. The final movement *The Dance*, is the most-often-performed part of the piece. The whole work, including performances of only *The Dance*, has in fact been performed over 100 times, including many educational concerts which used excerpts. Excerpts were used in the educational show, *Music, Masks and Magic*, put on by the entertaining, Ottawa-based, theatre group Playtypus.

Atayoskewin is a Cree word meaning "Sacred Legends". The Suite's three movements (*The Spirits, The Dream, The Dance*) seek to evoke different aspects of the Canadian North. *The Dance* is included in our sampler CD of Forsyth's orchestral works, free for the asking. You can also hear the full work through these links:

<http://cpmusiclibrary.ca/highlights-audio>



Artist: Maxine Noel, Trickster Coyote, -Lightening Elk

Conductors' Guild Conference 2013 St. Louis, MO

Counterpoint will, for the fourth consecutive year, be represented at the annual Conductors' Guild Conference. The 2013 edition will be held in St. Louis, MO. Attending this conference is important for making connections with conductors from many different orchestras, choirs and bands - professional, community, student as well as church groups.

A regular part of this conference is a focus on New Music from the previous 10-15 years, present by publishers (one session) and conductors to their peers (two sessions). Each participant has 9 minutes to highlight one or more compositions. This year Counterpoint's focus will be on Malcolm Forsyth's violin concerto, *Trickster Coyote -- Lightening Elk*, accompanied by the award-winning animation produced by Theresa Wynnyk. This animation, made to accompany live performances of Forsyth's work, won the 2012 Edmonton Film Festival's "Best Animated Short" award. This 18' piece, which may be performed with or without the film, is in 4 movements: I *Wenu-ya-neh*; II *Eagle: "Sees-Far"*; III *Bear: "Looks-Within"*; IV *Seven Arrows*.

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You can view the full video with music at this link:

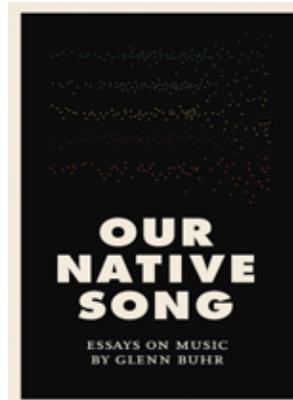
<http://cpmusiclibrary.ca/highlights-audio>

New York Philharmonic to premiere Tovey trombone concerto with Joseph Alessi

Bramwell Tovey has created an orchestral version of his work *Lincoln Tunnel Cabaret*, for solo trombone, and originally, brass band. It was written for and recorded by trombone soloist, Joseph Alessi, principal trombone of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, and Foden's Band, one of the UK's best brass bands.

Tovey is the founding host and conductor of the New York Philharmonic's *Summertime Classics Series*, and it is in this venue that the World Premiere of the version for solo trombone and orchestra will be given on July 3, 4, 2013 at Avery Fisher Hall, in New York City, and repeated again at Vail, Colorado, July 25, 2013 at the Vail Music Festival, in the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheatre. The soloist will be Joseph Alessi. You can listen to the complete work (brass band version), with Joseph Alessi, through this link:

<http://cpmusiclibrary.ca/highlights-audio>



Buhr - *Our Native Song* Counterpoint's first book released

Composer/Author Glenn Buhr has released a collection of essays which explore the idea that music is social, and that it emerges organically in every society through social rituals, such as concerts, festivals, church, and simple singing. Music is a language, and

like verbal language, it's an essential quality of every culture.

The essays look at many of the world's various musics – European classical music, American jazz, pop music, Jamaican reggae, East Indian classical music, contemporary music and sound art – from this perspective. The book looks at countries with successful musical legacies and compares them to countries, like Canada, who are only just emerging with a musical voice of their own.

Some of the writing is analytical, and some is anecdotal, drawing on the author's experiences as a composer and conductor of symphonies and ballets, and his various tours of jazz and folk festivals as an improvisational pianist, guitarist and songwriter. Some essays are more philosophical, exploring the impact of music on our lives and the reason that music is elemental to every culture.

Glenn Buhr loves music so much he questions the unquestionable and reveres the irreverent, and we and music are better for it.

- Tom Allen, trombonist/author/CBC host

Available for sale from our website: soft cover \$16.95 (<http://cpmusiclibrary.ca/store/products/our-native-song-book-hard-back/>)

E-Book \$14.95: (epub/mobi/pdf) (<http://cpmusiclibrary.ca/store/products/our-native-song-book-ebook/>)

Also available for sale from **McNally Robinson** in Winnipeg, **Remenyi Bookstore** in Toronto, **Wordsworths Bookstore** in Waterloo, and may be ordered through other book stores and music stores upon request.

New Victor Davies CD released: Mennonite Concertos



Victor Davies' two Mennonite Concerti are featured on this new CD, recorded live in November, 2012 by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Included is his loved *Mennonite Piano Concerto*, performed on this recording by the wonderfully expressive and excellent pianist, Leanne Regehr, a student of the pianist who premiered it, Irmgard Baerg. Leanne's performance is sparkling and engaging.

The second Mennonite Concerto is Davies' violin concerto called *The Journey*, which again is based on Mennonite hymns, in a similar vein to the first concerto for piano. It was written for and premiered by the violinist Rosemary Seimens. Commissioned by arts patrons Elmer and Hilda Hildebrand for Rosemary Siemens, it is in honour of Golden West Radio's 50th Anniversary. Golden West Radio is a network of 30 AM and FM community-service radio stations serving small and medium size communities in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Rosemary is a Manitoba native, and with her accompanist Loren Hiebert, they are known for their improvisations on hymns. Rosemary wanted the new concerto to be based on hymns, as is Davies' most popular work, the *Mennonite Piano Concerto*, premiered 37 years ago. The new concerto includes such favourites as *Bringing in the Sheaves*, *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*, *The Old Rugged Cross*, *Amazing Grace*, and it uses the same hymn that starts the *Mennonite Piano Concerto*, *Jesu Meine Freude*.

This CD can be ordered through this link:

(http://www.peminavalleyonline.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=30097&Itemid=430)

Victor Davies' fun and entertaining *Jazz Piano Concerto* was performed in April with a new soloist, Maxine Willan, and the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony, of Toronto, under conductor Norman Reintamm. The story line is based on the general idea of a Detective Story, set in the 1920s-30s, with the piano playing the role of the detective telling the story of two lovers, who are inadvertently enmeshed in a crime, of which they are innocent. The first movement called *Theme with 9 scenes (A Detective Story)*, followed by *I saw them in Paris (Sorbet)*, and ending with *Escape to Havana (Farewell)*.

This piece was commissioned for Bramwell Tovey and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in 2001.

You can listen at: <http://cpmusiclibrary.ca/highlights-audio>



deeper still - CD by Glenn Buhr

"This CD is an excursion for me. A return to my roots, stirred up with some of my more recent interests in contemporary music and sound art. I'm a creative musician.

It's my job. I write music for string quartets, ballet companies, symphony orchestras, theatre and film directors. Still, I'm pretty much a normal guy who grew up in the suburbs.

When I teach composition and improvisation, I always tell my students that the most important thing for an artist is to be one's self. Not easy. The self is a complicated thing. And we're all different.

I don't think that this CD shows that I have a split personality, as it might first seem to someone expecting a jazz/blues CD or a new music CD rather than this unusual mix of both. It simply represents my own interests. And for that, I use musical materials that are close to home. Like my piano, which is never far away. I've been influenced by all of the songs, structures, solos and compositions that I admire."

Clips from the CD at:

<http://glennbuhr.com/music/deeper-still>

Jim McGrath new Suite no. 2 for orchestra "Hauntingly Beautiful"



The Montreal Chamber Orchestra premiered the latest of Jim McGrath's orchestral works, *Suite no. 2 for orchestra*, last fall. McGrath and the Montreal Chamber Orchestra have collaborated on a number of orchestral works over the last several years, and they enjoy working with each other. This new work is another using the

composer's delightful and approachable style, appreciated by both the performers and the audience. Zygmunt Jablonski, a member of the MCO's Board, said: "Jim McGrath's piece is hauntingly beautiful and he has restored my faith in modern music. This composer affirms that modern music can be profoundly enjoyable."

McGrath is more known for his TV and film work, having composed the music for such popular series as *Degrassi*, for which he received a Gemini Award for *Best Original Score for a Dramatic Series*, and he just finished scoring his fourth season of the hit Newfoundland private-eye series for CBC, *Republic of Doyle*. A fifth season has been ordered, and the show was recently picked up for US syndication.

McGrath's next collaboration with the Montreal Chamber Orchestra will be a new cello concerto that he is writing for soloist Cicely Parnas, a fast-rising young cellist who made her Carnegie Hall debut in December, 2012, under Jamie Laredo with the New York String Orchestra performing the Saint-Saens Cello Concerto No. 1. The new cello concerto will be premiered under the baton of the MCO's conductor Wanda Kaluzny, December 10, 2013.

You can listen to the 3 movements of Suite no. 2 at this link:

<http://cpmusiclibrary.ca/highlights-audio>



Tranquility by Christopher Nickel, now arranged for clarinet and chamber orchestra

Christopher Nickel, one of our newest composers, composed *Tranquility* for English horn and chamber orchestra. It was commissioned by soloist Beth Orson, Principal English Horn of

the Vancouver Symphony, who premiered the work in 2007. "Initially entitled Rangimarie, which is Maori for "tranquility" or "peace", this work is just that, peaceful, still, yet filled with longing. The work is influenced by the beautiful imagery of New Zealand...the Canterbury plains, Mt. Cook, the shores around Auckland, and the pastoral rolling hills. This beautiful land, filled with dramatic scenery and a warm and friendly people, is captured in the long, expressive melodies that infuse this piece with a stillness and passion that are expressed by both soloist and orchestra."

This piece is as lovely as the description suggests. It is in Christopher's engaging style which draws the listener in and has a calming influence.

English Horn players' solo repertoire is not large, so this new piece featuring the English Horn is a welcome addition to the catalogue. However, in order to make it available to more soloists, *Tranquility* has now been arranged for solo clarinet and chamber orchestra. The solo and piano reduction parts are available for sale, through our Print-on-Demand Service. You can listen to both versions at:

<http://cpmusiclibrary.ca/highlights-audio>

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