

## Bramwell Tovey Appointed Honourary Officer - Order of Canada



On November 21, 2014 Bramwell Tovey was invested as an Honourary Officer of the Order of Canada. This appointment is Canada's second-highest award for merit awarded to living Canadians for their outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation or to non-Canadians who have made exceptional contributions to Canada. There are three levels--1. Companion (national pre-eminence/international service or achievement) 2. Officer (national service or achievement) and 3. Member (outstanding local or regional contributions or in a specialized field of activity). In appointing Bramwell Tovey as an Officer, he was cited "for his achievements as a conductor and composer, and for his commitment to promoting new Canadian music".

In other news, Bramwell received international attention when his car was broken into and one of the items stolen was the score to his new work for the Borealis String Quartet *Did You Ever Dance With Him?* Most of the work had been sent to his copyist, except the end of the quartet. He had to re-write about a third of it. It was commissioned to be included on a program for their concert on November 14, 2014 *Centuries: A Sonic Journey*, featuring music from four centuries. It was inspired by war, in particular a line from Max Hastings' book *Catastrophe: Europe Goes to War 1914*. In September, 1914 when the first casualty lists began coming in, British Prime Minister Herbert Asquith sent a letter to the woman with whom he was in love about one of the men who had been killed; a well-heeled gentleman from her circle, asking, "Did you ever dance with him?" "This sort of casual line just seemed to encapsulate something about that time." Based on a simple sound bite which seemed to express that, it's an elegy that gets very intense and fast in the middle and ... I also tried to make it a little redemptive or transformative at the end."

Tovey's trumpet concerto *Songs of the Paradise Saloon* is gaining popularity as it has been taken into the repertoire of the wonderful soloist Alison Balsom. She performed it with the Los Angeles Philharmonic in September, 2013, just recently with the Philadelphia Orchestra in December, 2014, and will next perform it four times in April and May, 2015 with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Hear Bramwell Tovey talk about this concerto through this YouTube clip

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kkWNHOoXNM&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kkWNHOoXNM&feature=youtu.be)

Tovey created a brass band version of the work for the Hannaford Street Silver Band of Toronto, premiered October 26, 2014 with the soloist for whom it was written, Andrew McCandless. It was recorded for future release.

## Vancouver Symphony Orchestra New Music Festival features Kelly-Marie Murphy



The 2015 edition of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's New Music Festival January 15 - 18, will be featuring composer Kelly-Marie Murphy.

Kelly-Marie's music has been described as "breathtaking" (Kitchener-Waterloo Record), "imaginative and expressive" (The National Post), "a pulse-pounding barrage

on the senses" (The Globe and Mail), and "Bartok on steroids" (Birmingham News). Composer Kelly-Marie Murphy "is an exciting and imaginative composer, much in demand especially in her native Canada and deservedly so" (New York Concert Review).

Saturday, January 17, her violin concerto, *Blood Upon the Body, Ice Upon the Soul* will be performed with soloist Nicholas Wright, Assistant Concertmaster with the VSO. The title of this work is adapted from a line from Leonard Cohen's *The Butcher*. "The inspiration is a personal one, coming from having lived next door to a sociopath who was convicted of a gruesome murder." In doing research on sociopaths, she learned that "psychopaths processed certain abstract words (such as grace, future, and power), differently than non-psychopaths. This became the core of the entire piece."

The Sunday, January 18 concert will feature *Black Sand* and *Through the Unknown, Unremembered Gate*. "*Black Sand* was inspired by the world of metal work. Specifically, I was interested in making the comparison between the process of annealing (where metal is heated to a very high temperature and then allowed to cool slowly in order to remove any impurities) and the process of composing, which can be extremely intense. In researching types of metal work, I became fascinated with the making of samurai swords. Samurai swords are made from Tamagane steel. The steel is made from black sand. *Black Sand* is a journey from dark and shadowy to bright and intense; warm and cool. There is an overall energy to the piece that is powerful yet controlled. My artistic volition is the black sand and the music is the tamagane."

*Through the Unknown, Unremembered Gate* is about a journey. The title comes from a poem by T.S. Eliot called *Four Quartets*. With this piece I wanted to discover the orchestra, as if for the first time; to start from a place of enthusiasm for sound; and to share that joy and excitement with the musicians.

The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra opened their 2014/2015 season, on September 27, 2014 with Kelly-Marie's *A Thousand Natural Shocks*, which was commissioned by the CBC at the request of Bramwell Tovey, for the occasion of his first concert as Music Director with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in 2000. The idea behind the piece is that change and new beginnings can be shocking and stressful, but also full of fantastic challenges that are ultimately as rewarding as they are necessary. For more information about the composer visit [www.kellymariemurphy.com](http://www.kellymariemurphy.com)



## Congratulations to Victor Davies Appointed Member - Order of Canada



In the July 1, 2014 announcement of inductees to the Order of Canada, Victor Davies has been named a Member "for broadening the appeal of contemporary Canadian music and for supporting the legal rights of Canada's composers."

Victor's music is loved

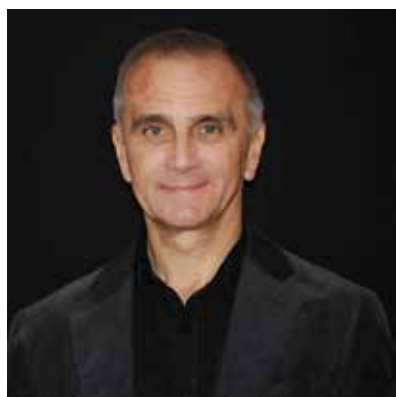
by musicians and audience members around the world. In addition to his contributions to the music repertoire, he has worked for many years as a member of the Board of Canada's performance rights organization, SOCAN, and as a member of the SOCAN Foundation which grants funds to applicants who are working to support the creation and performance of the music of Canada's composers.

Victor's fun and entertaining work featuring the tuba, *Concerto for Tubameister* was recently performed by the Olympia (Washington) Symphony Orchestra. Victor travelled to Olympia for the concert and was not only the concert's featured composer, he was welcomed and interviewed on King FM 98.1 in Seattle, Washington. The King FM audience loves Victor's music and his *Mennonite Piano Concerto* is a frequently broadcast piece of music on this station. *Concerto for Tubameister* is next scheduled to be performed on February 21, 22, 2015 by the Starlight Symphony Orchestra in Wimberley, TX, featuring soloist Paul Rodriguez, with conductor David Oertel.

The big news for Victor is that his *Jazz Organ Concerto* was featured in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the Mormon Tabernacle's Temple Square Conference Center on July 18-19, 2014 with soloist Richard Elliott, who is the Principal Tabernacle Organist. He played the last movement, *Hot Pipes (Ragging the Pipes!)* conducted by Mack Wilberg, on one of the largest and best sounding organs in the world. It was recorded and posted on YouTube. So far it has had over 31,000 hits! Richard Elliott next plans to perform the whole work.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=jMgWV\\_86VFc&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jMgWV_86VFc&feature=youtu.be)

New projects for Victor include two new operas, one based on the book, *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*. Exciting times for Victor.



**Gary Kulesha** will host the 2015 edition of the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival's New Music mini-festival. This year, the two day event closes with a concert of his recent chamber music, including the *Sonata for Flute and Piano*, the world premiere of the *Sonata for Trombone and Piano*, and

the Canadian premiere of the *Piano Quartet*. The performers include Susan Hoepfner, Gordon Wolfe, David Thies-Thompson, the Gryphon Trio, and the composer. Gary's new *String Quartet* will be premiered January 6, 2015 by the New Orford Quartet at Walter Hall, University of Toronto.

Gary's chamber works continue to get noticed and performed in Canada and around the world: his *Zephyr Oboe Trio* in New Zealand, his *Jazz Music* in Colorado Springs and *Sonata for Horn, Tuba and Piano* in Colorado Springs, Massachusetts, New Mexico and Finland, and of course his ever popular *Bagatelles from the Devil's Dictionary* for wind quintet. His recent *Sonata for Flute and Piano* was written for and is being championed by Susan Hoepfner. His *Third Chamber Concerto* was performed in Frankfurt in June, 2014 by the Frankfurt Radio Symphony.

## Jacob Plachta's Celebration for Brass Band is being noticed and performed



Counterpoint's young composer Jacob Plachta's work *Celebration* for brass band was featured at the annual Conductors' Guild conference, this year held in Washington, DC, at their New Music Project session. A number of conductors expressed their interest in this work and recommended that it be arranged for concert band, which will

be forthcoming in the new year. The Hannaford Street Silver Band performed this work, which was originally written for the Hannaford Youth Band, at their season-opening concert, October 26, 2014 under the direction of conductor Bramwell Tovey. The work, as its title suggests, is a joyous and energetic piece meant to show off the brass band, showcasing the power and versatility of various instruments and the ensemble as a whole. Bramwell Tovey will be presenting the work's European Premiere at the Easter, 2015 concert with the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain, of which Mr. Tovey has been music director since 2006. You can listen to this work at this link:

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/100714747/Plachta-Celebration.mp3>

Other works by Jacob include his *Sonata for Trombone and brass band*, which can be heard through this YouTube link, with Jacob as soloist. It is also available for trombone and piano.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGjXGQWROtc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGjXGQWROtc)

Also to appear in the new year is his *Mountainscapes* for trombone and piano. He wrote this work for his graduation recital from University of Toronto, earlier this year. To listen to the first movement (you can request a link to the other two movements) <https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/100714747/Plachta-Mountainscapes%20-%20I.%20Seeking%20the%20Summit.mp3>

### Noteable Upcoming Performances:

Jan. 6/15 Kulesha - *String Quartet*, New Orford Quartet, Toronto

Jan. 10/15 Tovey - *Lincoln Tunnel Cabaret*, Pensacola Symphony, Pensacola, FL

Jan. 17-18/15 Murphy - *Black Sand; Blood Upon the Body; Through the Unknown, Unremembered Gate*, Vancouver Symphony, Vancouver

Jan. 23-25/15 Wolf-Ferrari - *Suzanna's Secret* (opera), Opera 5, Toronto

Jan. 28/15 Buhr - *Symphony no. 2 Adagio Pathetique*, Thunder Bay Symphony, Thunder Bay, ON

Feb. 3/15 Archer - *Prelude and Incantation*, Winnipeg Symphony, Winnipeg, MB

Feb 13/15 Forsyth - *Concerto for Accordion*, Newfoundland Symphony, St. John's, NL

Feb. 21, 22/15 Davies - *Concerto for Tubameister*, Starlight Orchestra, Wimberley, TX

Feb. 21,22/15 Mercure - *Pantomime*, Orchestre symphonique de Saguaney Lac St-Jean, Alma & Chicoutimi, QC

Apr. 1,2/15 Forsyth - *Atayoskewin*, Orchestre symphonique de Montreal, Montreal, QC

Apr. 12/15 Cowell - *Rollercoaster*, NIH Philharmonia, Washington, DC

Apr. 20,21,22, May 2/15 Tovey - *Songs of the Paradise Saloon*, London Philharmonic, UK tour

May 29,30,31/15 Forsyth - *A Ballad of Canada*, Kansas City Symphony, Kansas City, MO

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[www.cpmusiclibrary.ca/highlights](http://www.cpmusiclibrary.ca/highlights)