

Highlights

2012

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L-R Leanne Regehr, Victor Davies, Rosemary Siemens

New Violin Concerto from Victor Davies - *The Journey* + a new CD

The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, under conductor Alexander Mickelthwate, gave the World Premiere of Victor Davies' new violin concerto, *The Journey (A hymn concerto for violin and orchestra)*, earlier this month, on December 2, 2012.

The work was commissioned by arts patrons Elmer and Hilda Hildebrand for the soloist Rosemary Siemens, 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*. The audience was enthusiastic in its response to the new concerto.

The second half of the concert was a performance of that beloved concerto, the *Mennonite Piano Concerto*, with a new rising star pianist, Leanne Regehr. Leanne is a former student of the soloist who premiered the work, Irmgard Baerg. Leanne's performance was wonderful, sparkling and engaging. She had the audience's attention from beginning to end.

The concert with both concerti was recorded, and will be available on CD in the first part of 2013. Copies will be for sale on our website through our online store.

Christopher Tyler Nickel

We would like to introduce you to our new composer, Christopher Tyler Nickel. Christopher is a successful writer of concert, film, television and video game music. He studied at the University of British Columbia with renowned composer Stephen Chatman. His

many concert works have been performed by orchestras and ensembles in Canada, the U.S.A. and Europe. His film and television work has included music for the Sci-Fi Channel, National Geographic, Alliance Atlantis, YTV, NBC, National Film Board, HGTV, and the Discovery and History Channels.

Counterpoint has published two of his works so far, *Tranquility for Solo English Horn and Chamber Orchestra* or piano reduction, and *Christmas Dreams*, for full or chamber orchestra or string quartet. *Tranquility* was composed for English Horn soloist Beth Orson, principal English Horn of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. The original name of the work was *Rangimarie*, which is Maori for "tranquility". The work is inspired by the scenery of New Zealand. Both these works are in Christopher's very appealing style, a style that draws and engages the listener. Please visit our website to learn more.



Photo Credit: Ron Checora

New Website for Malcolm Forsyth

Composer Malcolm Forsyth (1936 - 2011) has a new website www.malcolmforsythcomposer.ca

This new site has biographical information, pictures from important events in his life, a listing of his works, some sound clips (with more to come) and a list of notable performances. There have been quite a few performances in the last year and a half since his death, including the works, *Essay for Orchestra*, *Atayoskewin*, *Valley of a Thousand Hills*, *Springtide* and *ukuZalwa*. *Trickster Coyote: Lightning Elk*, *Concerto for Violin and Orchestra*, commissioned for Tara-Louise Montour, will be performed with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra with Ms. Montour as soloist, March 7,9, 2013 and Benjamin Rous conductor.

The second movement from *Trickster Coyote*, called *A Bear Looks Within*, was turned into an animation under the direction of Alberta film maker Theresa Wynnyk using the art of Maxine Noel and Animator David Paseika. The story is based on a classic First Nations myth about a giant bear that threatens a Mohawk village. This animation won **Best Animated Short at The Edmonton Film Festival**. The animation was created as a backdrop to live performances of the concerto and is available through our library. The 4-minute video can be viewed at: <http://www.bravofact.com/2012/11/16/bear-looks-within-2009/>

Forsyth's daughter, cellist Amanda, husband Pinchas Zukerman (on viola) and pianist Angela Cheng, gave a recital at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia earlier this month, on December 12. The concert ended with a personal piece, *In Perfect Harmony*, a work written by Malcolm Forsyth, for Amanda and Pinchas' wedding. The online review in Philly.com stated, "What might've been a sentimental indulgence was one of the concert's best moments."

The international virtuoso classical accordionist Antonio Peruch has recently launched a new CD called *Logos Futura*, featuring 3 concerti written for him by Canadian composers Violet Archer, Allan Gilliland, and Malcolm Forsyth. The work by Forsyth - *Concerto for Accordion and Orchestra* is performed with the Edmonton Symphony. The CD may be purchased by credit card from The Gramophone Inc. 800-231-7594 www.antonioperuch.com



Please visit our newly re-designed website. It remains a user-friendly and useful site, but now more so. The main change is a greatly expanded online store where we have added many of the items we print and sell on demand, including ensemble works, full, vocal and choral scores, CDs and music downloads. The Browse function has expanded as well to search works for particular instruments, groupings, or voice.

www.cpmusiclibrary.ca



Choral works by John Beckwith available for sale

We would like to remind you that Counterpoint prints and sells on demand a number of choral works by the distinguished Canadian composer John Beckwith, which are available through our online store at

<http://cpmusiclibrary.ca/shoppingcart/>

There are descriptions of each work under the title, on the shopping cart page, and you can also explore John Beckwith's works through our website:

http://cpmusiclibrary.ca/library_composer.php?cKey=BECJ

Choral works: *1838, All at Once, Alternative Greeting, Banks of Newfoundland, The Canadian Christmas Carol, A Farewell to Nova Scotia, For E.C.M. (Ernest C. MacMillan, arrangement of Happy Birthday), The Gowans are Gay, Harp of David, Harp that once thro' Tara's Halls, Houses in Heaven, Lady Wisdom, Papineau, Six New Brunswick Songs, Snow is Falling, Three Burns Songs, and Trois Chansons*



New Book by Glenn Buhr *Our Native Song*

Counterpoint is pleased to announce we are publishing our first book. Glenn Buhr has compiled a collection of essays about music and culture that he has given as lectures, over a number of years, and

named the book *Our Native Song*. The book's primary thesis is that all music, even European classical music, is folk music.

The essays 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 is an essential quality of every culture.

The essays look at many of the world's musical cultures --European classical, American jazz, pop, Jamaican reggae, East Indian classical, contemporary 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. It draws 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.

This book will be available in hard cover and in E-book formats through our website, and can be ordered through music stores across the country. Launch to be in March or April, 2013.



Johnny Cowell Trumpet Virtuoso

Trumpeter **Johnny Cowell** has long been known as one of the best, if not the best, trumpet player. To showcase his talent, Johnny created a number of pieces for trumpet(s) and orchestra. Counterpoint is pleased to

represent these pieces. Since Johnny's retirement, these pieces have not often been performed, and they are too good to be ignored. This music needs to find, new soloists and audiences to appreciate these delightful and entertaining works. To hear the great Johnny performing, his piece,

Rollercoaster, go to

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hIZVbeZFIQ>

Carnival of Venice go to

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_zQ8h-Ge38Y

We also have **Cowell - A Canadian Odyssey, Trumpet Concerto**, both for solo trumpet and orchestra, as well as *Playful Trumpets* for 2 trumpets and orchestra. To hear these pieces or to look at a full score or solo part (these may also be purchased) to any of these, please contact us.



Oxford University Press' website is filled with useful information. This link takes you to a page with many choices <http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/category/music/composers.do>

Explore their featured composers including well-known names such as **Bob Chilcott, William Mathias, John Rutter, Mack Wilberg**, or not as familiar names such as **Michael Berkeley, Michael Finnissy, Libby Larsen, Hilary Tann**, and Pulitzer-Prize winner of 2011, **Zhou Long**.

Discover the **Living Music promotion initiative**, aimed at amateur orchestras, that introduces fun and accessible contemporary music in varying levels of difficulty. These works are offered at a rental discount. Ask us for the promotional CD sampler of Living Music.

Read the current and past issues of **Oxford Music Now**, their semi-annual promotional brochure on what's new and what's happening.

Peruse the huge rental catalogue through their Hire Library link, including works by instrumentation, a list of their complete rental holdings and a complete list of carol orchestrations.



Hannaford Street Silver Band Music Series

Canada's premiere professional brass band, the Hannaford Street Silver Band, since its inception has believed that commissioning new music for the band to perform is important. Many excellent works have been created and Counterpoint will be embarking on a program to make a number of these works available for sale.



Composer Jacob Plachta

Photo Credit: Stan Ellison

The Hannaford Youth Program has also followed this mandate, and there will be a separate series of works composed for the Youth Program. The first of these to be published will be *Sonata for Trombone and Piano* (the brass band version will come out next) by the very talented, young, up-and-coming composer **Jacob Plachta**, a second-year University of Toronto student. Jacob wrote this piece for himself to perform in the annual Hannaford Youth Band Solo Competition. Jacob won the 2012 competition playing this piece. Part of the prize was to perform it with the Silver Band. The version for trombone and piano will be published in January, and will be available for sale through our website, Cherry Classics website www.cherryclassics.com and can be ordered through music stores across Canada. You can hear this piece and learn more about Jacob on our website.

The *Progress of Vanity* is a new concerto for **English Horn and chamber orchestra** by **Bramwell Tovey**, composed for Beth Orson, principal english horn of the Vancouver Symphony



Orchestra. Beth premiered this work for 2 fl (II=picc).cl.bsn.tmb.2 perc. pno.sts, at the International Double Reed Society's annual conference 2012 at University of Miami in Oxford, Ohio. This new concerto is a welcome addition for an instrument not often featured in a solo role. Please ask for a

perusal score. A promotional recording is available on request.