

Salon 21 on Nov 18, 2008 with special guest Glenn Buhr

NEW DIRECTIONS IN MUSIC PRESENTED BY



About Arvo Pärt

Arvo Pärt was born in Paide, Estonia, a small town near Tallinn, the country's capital, on 11 September 1935. In 1944, Estonia saw the occupation of the Soviet Union, which would last for over 50 years, and would have a profound effect on his life and music.

Living in the old Soviet Union, Pärt had little access to what was happening in contemporary Western music but, despite such isolation, the early 1960s in Estonia saw many new methods of composition being brought into use and Pärt was at the fore front. His *Nekrolog* was the first Estonian composition to employ serial technique. He continued with serialism through to the mid 60s in pieces such as the *Symphony No. 1*, *Symphony No. 2* and *Perpetuum Mobile*, but ultimately tired of its rigours and moved on to experiment, in works such as *Collage über BACH*, with collage techniques.

Official judgement of Pärt's music veered between extremes, with certain works being praised and others, like the *Credo* of 1968, being banned. Pärt chose to enter the first of several periods of contemplative silence. At the very beginning of the 1970s, he wrote a few transitional compositions in the spirit of early European polyphony.

Pärt turned again to self-imposed silence, but re-emerged in 1976 after a radical transformation. The technique he invented, or discovered, and to which he has remained loyal, practically without exception, he calls "tintinnabuli" (from the Latin, little bells), which he describes thus: "I have discovered that it is enough when a single note is beautifully played. This one note, or a silent beat, or a moment of silence, comforts me. I work with very few elements - with one voice, two voices. I build with primitive materials - with the triad, with one specific tonality. The three notes of a triad are like bells and

Glenn Buhr

Glenn Buhr (b. 1954 - Winnipeg, Canada) is a composer, band leader and improvisational pianist. He became well known in Canada as co-founder with conductor Bramwell Tovey of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's New Music Festival. He was Composer-in-Residence with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and curator of the Winnipeg Symphony's New Music Festival from 1990 - 1996. He is also active as a guest conductor having conducted concerts with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. In 1998 he was awarded the University Research Professor Fellowship at Wilfrid Laurier University; it

that is why I call it tintinnabulation." The basic guiding principle behind tintinnabulation of composing two simultaneous voices as one line - one voice moving stepwise from and to a central pitch, first up then down, and the other sounding the notes of the triad - made its first public appearance in the short piano piece, *Für Alina*.

Having found his voice, there was a subsequent rush of new works and three of the 1977 pieces - *Fratres*, *Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten* and *Tabula Rasa* - are still amongst his most highly regarded. As Pärt's music began to be performed in the West and he continued to struggle against Soviet officialdom, his frustration ultimately forced him, his wife Nora and their two sons, to emigrate in 1980. They never made it to their intended destination of Israel but, with the assistance of his publisher in the West, settled firstly in Vienna, where he took Austrian citizenship. One year later, with a scholarship from the German Academic Exchange, he moved to West Berlin where he still lives.

Since leaving Estonia, Pärt has concentrated on setting religious texts, which have proved popular with choirs and ensembles around the world. Pärt's achievements were honoured in his 61st year by his election to the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He was nominated as 14th International Composer for the year 2000 by the Royal Academy of Music in London. In May 2003, he also received the "Contemporary Music Award" at the Classical Brit Awards ceremony at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

11 September 2005 was the date of Arvo Pärt's 70th birthday. As a homage to the composer, the Rakvere Arvo Pärt Festival 2005 took place in several Estonian towns.

was the first time that the award was given to a creative artist. He is also the founding Artistic Director of the Music in the Ruins festival at the St. Norbert Arts Centre in Manitoba and the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony's New Orchestra Series. Buhr performed the solo part at the premiere of his jazz-oriented Piano Concerto no. 2 with the Esprit Orchestra in March 2006. The work was remounted by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in February 2008 with the composer at the piano. He's toured Canada twice as a jazz artist (pianist/composer), and he released his 3rd jazz CD in March 2007 on the Marquis label.

He has received several awards for his compositions and has also received commissions from many important performers

and ensembles including the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the Penderecki String Quartet, the Detroit Contemporary Chamber Ensemble, the Verdi String Quartet, pianist Janina Fialkowska, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Children's Chorus and the Esprit Orchestra. His music has been performed all over the world by such diverse ensembles as the London Sinfonia, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Symphony, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, pianist Louis Lortie, soprano Tracy Dahl and many others. In 2003,

Paul Frehner

Born in Montreal in 1970, Paul Frehner completed his Doctorate in music in 2004 at McGill University where he studied composition with Denys Bouliane. During his Master's degree at McGill, completed in 1998, he studied composition with Brian Cherney and orchestration with Bengt Hambraeus.

Paul Frehner's works have been performed and broadcast both in Canada and internationally by professional soloists, ensembles and orchestras including, among others, Almeida Opera, the Esprit Orchestra, the Prague Philharmonia, the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, the North Holland Philharmonic Orchestra, the CBC Vancouver Orchestra, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, pianist André Ristic, the Ensemble contemporain de Montréal, Le Trio Fibonacci and the Quasar Saxophone Quartet.

In 2001, he was commissioned by the Genesis Foundation to compose *Sirius on Earth*, a one hundred-minute opera based

his full length ballet *Beauty and the Beast* was premiered by the Birmingham Royal Ballet in Birmingham, England. The work played a run of 50 sold-out performances and toured the UK. The ballet was re-mounted in December 2005 and toured to Hong Kong early in 2006 and Tokyo in January 2008. He has also composed a number of scores for film and theatre and has collaborated on several dance projects. His work and his performances are featured regularly on the CBC.

on a libretto by Angela Murphy. Co-produced by Almeida Opera and Aldeburgh Productions, *Sirius on Earth* was premiered in the 2003 during the Almeida Opera Festival in London, England. Paul Frehner has received numerous awards and mentions for his compositions both in Canada and on the international scene. Notable among these was the First Prize in the Prague Philharmonia's Symphony of the Third Millennium Composition Competition for his orchestral work *Elixirs*. In 2000 he won First Prize in the Jeunesses Musicales World Orchestra's International Composition Competition for *Overture 2000*, a work for large orchestra. Most recently, his work *Lila* was awarded the Claude Vivier National Award in the Montreal Symphony Orchestra's International Composition Competition.

Currently, Paul Frehner holds the post of Assistant Professor of Music in composition at the University of Western Ontario.

BE AN ACTIVE GUEST AT SALON 21!

Salon 21 invites you to explore several

INTERACTIVE STATIONS:

LISTEN

Discover music from Soundstreams.

READ

Visit our Information Station.

Discover Maria Guinand's projects.

Get a sneak peak at the House Programme for the next Soundstreams concert.

Read the libretto for *The Children's Crusade* by R. Murray Schafer, a Soundstreams and Luminato commission that will open the Luminato Festival 2009.

Read about the history of the Salon concept.

Peruse the extensive list of Soundstreams' commissions over the last 9 years.

NETWORK

In the middle of the room you see our "Busy Music Stand". Attach your business cards, and help yourself to the cards of other guests.

WRITE/IMAGINE

Make your mark! Add your definition of "Salon" to our poster.

ASK

Questions about new music? Satisfy your curiosity and ask us.

We'll give you the answers at the next Salon 21.

COMPOSE

Take a crack at composing a jingle for Salon 21.

GUESTBOOK

Please give us your feedback, opinions and suggestions for Salon 21.

If you liked the Salon 21 evening, consider donating to Salon 21 in order to further develop this exciting new series.

TERRIFIC TOES TICKETS

At 8:30 pm there will be a contest! The guest with the most sensational pair of shoes will win two tickets for an upcoming Soundstreams concert.

BATA SHOE COLLECTION

From 8:30 to 9:30 pm you are welcome to visit the beautiful Bata Shoe collection.

I hope you enjoy the evening! With kind regards,
Leonie Hentschel

*Community Outreach Coordinator, Soundstreams
Salonnière of Salon 21*