

Soundstreams presents

ADRIANNE PIECZONKA: BEYOND THE ARIA

September 29, 2015 at 8:00 pm, Koerner Hall

Adrienne Pieczonka goes avant-garde with George Crumb's sonic masterpiece, reimaginings of the *American Songbook* and Beatles, and a world premiere by Analia Llugdar.

Tuesday, August 25 // Toronto – Soundstreams launches its 2015/2016 season with a concert reimagining the possibilities of voice and percussion, ***Adrienne Pieczonka: Beyond the Aria***, on September 29, 2015 at Koerner Hall. Featuring renowned Canadian soprano **Adrienne Pieczonka**, this concert is a rare opportunity to hear her haunting interpretations of an eclectic range of 20th-century repertoire. She is joined by mezzo-soprano **Krisztina Szabó**, and chamber ensemble for works by avant-garde composer **George Crumb**, Beatles songs arranged by **Luciano Berio**, and a world premiere from Canadian composer **Analia Llugdar**.

Hailed by *The Globe and Mail* for her “pearly soprano...as lustrous a sound as anyone could imagine,” **Adrienne Pieczonka** has appeared on leading opera and concert stages in Europe, North America, and Asia. Critically acclaimed for her interpretation of Wagner's strong and tragic women, she has performed in some of the world's most famed houses—the Bayreuth Festspiele, Metropolitan Opera, Staatsoper Unter den Linden, and the Wiener Staatsoper. Pieczonka made her Soundstreams debut in 1988, performing **George Crumb's** *Ancient Voices of Children*, and she revisits this experimental and highly virtuosic work at this concert in homage to her Soundstreams beginnings. A cycle of songs on texts by Spanish poet Federico García Lorca, *Ancient Voices of Children* is famous for its bizarre and often eerie vocal effects, such as the soprano singing into an amplified piano. It also features a boy soprano, and a large number of experimental sounds and instruments, including prayer stones, Japanese temple bells, a musical saw, toy piano, whispers, and yelling. In addition to this work, Pieczonka will delight audiences with **Luciano Berio's** arrangements of *Beatles Songs* by **John Lennon** and **Paul McCartney**.

Hungarian-Canadian mezzo-soprano **Krisztina Szabó** is widely lauded for her versatility, stage prowess, and ability to paint vivid character portraits on both opera and concert stages. She joins Pieczonka for selections from **George Crumb's** *American Songbook*, which uses a wide array of percussion instruments to transform spirituals, hymns, Civil War songs, and other folk material into contemporary soundscapes. Szabó will also perform the world premiere of **Analia Llugdar's** *Romance de la luna, luna*, a flamenco-flavoured work inspired by the Lorca poem of the same name, in which a child speaks to the moon about life and death, innocence and sensuality.

Soundstreams is proud to kick off our most exciting season yet with a concert celebrating the soaring voices and talents of Pieczonka, Szabó and Llugdar, three exceptional musical women.

Soundstreams' free Salon 21 at the Gardiner Museum on September 18 at 7:00 pm features an exploration of the connections between poetry and music with performances and discussion.

Adrienne Pieczonka: Beyond the Aria

September 29, 2015 at 8:00 pm

Koerner Hall, TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning, 273 Bloor Street West



Featuring:

Adrienne Pieczonka, soprano; **Krisztina Szabó**, mezzo-soprano; boy soprano; chamber ensemble

Repertoire:

George Crumb

Selections from *American Songbook*

George Crumb

Ancient Voices of Children

John Lennon, Paul McCartney

Beatles Songs, arr. by Luciano Berio

Analia Ludgar

Romance de la luna, luna (world premiere)

A pre-show chat with Artistic Director Lawrence Cherney will be held at 7:00 pm before the performance. Tickets range from \$37.50-\$67.50 and are available through The Royal Conservatory Box Office at 416-408-0208 or online at soundstreams.ca. This concert will be streamed live at soundstreams.ca.

SOUNDSTREAMS 2015/2016 PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Julie, composed by Philippe Boesmans, libretto by Luc Bondy & Marie-Louise Bischofberger

November 17-29, 2015, Bluma Appel Theatre, St Lawrence Centre

Squeezebox

Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 8:00 pm, Trinity-St. Paul's Centre

The Music of James MacMillan

Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 8:00 pm, Trinity-St. Paul's Centre

Steve Reich at 80

Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 8:00 pm, Massey Hall

Soundstreams also offers [Salon 21](#), a free performance and discussion series at the Gardiner Museum.

ABOUT SOUNDSTREAMS

Led by Artistic Director Lawrence Cherney and Executive Director Susan Worthington, Soundstreams showcases the work of living Canadian and international composers with a focus on innovative thematic and experiential programming. In collaboration with the finest Canadian and international artists, Soundstreams presents an annual concert series in Toronto as well as national and international tours. Soundstreams also serve the larger community through our free Salon 21 series at The Gardiner Museum, composer training activities, SoundWave program for music lovers under 35, and digital performance space, including concert livestreams, SoundMakers website, and video content.

SOUNDSTREAMS SUPPORTERS

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