



the  
**continuum**

March, 2008

**Continuum presents Common Chords**

Sunday, April 20, 8 pm, at The Music Gallery  
197 John Street, St. George-the-Martyr Church

On Sunday, April 20 at 8 pm, Continuum presents *Common Chords*, a co-production with The Music Gallery. The performance will feature works by the Czech Republic's Martin Smolka and Hanus Barton, Czech-Canadian Rudolf Komorous, and **world premieres** by Gyula Csapo and Cassandra Miller. The Continuum ensemble will be joined by conductor **Gregory Oh** and soprano **Carla Huhtanen**. Here's what you'll hear:

**Martin Smolka** is one of the Czech Republic's most prominent composers. *Oh my Admired C Minor* reflects his most recent musical preoccupation of retrieving relics from the past. "The piece is another attempt to breathe new life into old, hackneyed musical elements - this time the minor triad and minor melody", he writes. "See it as a visit to a junk-shop. The charming little shop is full of bits and pieces of a vanished world... You go out and you can't decide whether it delighted you or whether it made you frightfully sad."

**Hanus Barton** teaches at the Prague Academy of Performing arts. His compositions are often organic fusions of various elements of musical style, genre and history -- qualities exhibited in *Passing of Time*.

The influence of **Rudolf Komorous** (b.1931) is widespread and profound. His involvement with the Czech avant-garde in the 1950s and '60s led to a close association with painters, sculptors and writers. This circle, known as the "Smidra Group", was influenced by Dada and surrealism - theirs was the "aesthetic of the wonderful," through which common materials could be transformed into something sublime, mysterious or even magical. *About Scales* rehearses ascending scales until all associations are washed out, leaving the wonder of pure material and the timbral combinations.

**Cassandra Miller's** music features idioms of the classical tradition, both old and new. Her pieces range from flamboyant paraphrases of Monteverdi to heartfelt reflections on the Canadian landscape. Her new work -

*Goose Food* - features a recording of poet, typographer, art historian and author Robert Bringhurst reading his translation of the Haida myth "In his father's village, someone was just about to go out hunting birds."

In his native Hungary **Gyula Csapó** was a member of the New Music Studio with Kurtag, Eotvos, Jeney and Albert Simon before working at IRCAM in Paris; once in North America he held posts at McGill and Princeton. A former student of Morton Feldman at the University of Buffalo and now professor of composition at the University of Saskatchewan, Csapo finds inspiration in text – and for his new work, *Huacas*, written for Continuum and soprano Carla Huhtanen, he turns to a variety of Spanish, English, Aztec and even invented texts. He writes, "Huaca means 'sacredness' or 'holiness' in the Quechua language; it can also mean spirits that either inhabit or actually are physical phenomena such as waterfalls or mountains. What I found most fascinating is the simultaneous possibility that huaca can be man-made and an object found in nature, object and spirit at the same time." The cantata tracks a process where loss of rigid control leads to a light, euphoric, ecstatic state.

Soprano **Carla Huhtanen** is in demand internationally for repertoire ranging from classic opera roles to music theatre, baroque to contemporary. She has performed throughout Europe, making appearances with the BBC Orchestra and the Israel Philharmonic, and in Canada with Opera Atelier, Toronto Operetta Theatre, Opera in Concert and Tapestry New Opera Works. One of Canada's most versatile musicians, conductor/pianist **Gregory Oh** is active in contemporary music, and has premiered works by Hywel Davies, Inouk Demers, Glenn Buhr, Heather Schmidt, Walter Buczynski and Erik Ross. He is a founding member of the highly acclaimed new music group Toca Loca.

**Tickets for Common Chords** are \$25/adults, \$15/seniors & arts workers and \$5/students and will be available at the door.

**For more information** please call (416) 924-4945 or email [josh@continuummusic.org](mailto:josh@continuummusic.org).

## SHIFTing Into Gear

Continuum is planning SHIFT - a major festival of Canadian and Dutch music, film, literature and visual arts to be held in Amsterdam this November 18 to 23, and in Toronto February 25 to March 1, 2009. Each five-day festival will include:

- Performances by the Bozzini Quartet
- Performances of Continuum and the acclaimed Ives Ensemble, jointly and alone
- Collaborations between Canadian filmmakers and Dutch and Canadian composers;
- Visual art exhibitions by Canadian and Dutch artists
- Readings by Canadian and Dutch authors

Plus fun stuff like a Canadian chef in Amsterdam, a Dutch street organ in Toronto, and a forum on Dutch Architecture.

**We need volunteers!** If you would be interested in helping out with marketing, publicity, fundraising or any other aspect of the festival, please contact us at (416) 924-4945 or [josh@continuummusic.org](mailto:josh@continuummusic.org).

SHIFT will revisit, redefine and reinvigorate the relationship between Canada and The Netherlands and with your help it will be one of the biggest arts events of the year.

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## News from the New Music Community

Here the news from the New Music Community...

- **Canadian New Music Network Forum**  
The Canadian New Music Network (CNMN) is presenting its annual Forum on May 24 and 25, 2008. Called "Expanding the Boundaries: Programming New Music In An Age of Diversity", The Forum would be of interest to anyone wishing to find out more about the performance and dissemination of new music. Special guests will include Graham Mackenzie, artistic director of the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (UK); Jarko Aiken, Assistant director of The Muziekgebouw (The Netherlands); and David Lang, co-artistic director of the Bang on a Can Festival (USA). For complete details go to [newmusicnetwork.ca](http://newmusicnetwork.ca) and click on Upcoming Activities.

- **Raise a Ruckus for Radio Two**  
Changes at the CBC make it into the news and commentary pages of papers and blogs on a weekly, if not daily basis. These changes – leading to a general loss of serious, non-commercial content and now the axing of the CBC Vancouver Orchestra -- constitute to

many a rolling barrage of ill-conceived revisions that will leave the CBC little different than commercial radio. At the heart of the matter is a misconception on the part of CBC brass (and undoubtedly their political masters) of the definition and function of public broadcasting. To them it's about making sure that every possible taste, no matter what its state of formation, has expression. This take on their actions, they might say, smacks of elitism...but what is elitist about the principle of development – of educating the ear, engaging as a listener and developing aesthetic discernment? That is the real difference between music as entertainment, background accompaniment to the task of getting through the day; and music as art form and part of the task of getting through life in an engaged way. Surely the latter form is the one worth public investment. **Help to raise a ruckus - visit:** [savecbcorchestra.com](http://savecbcorchestra.com) or [standonguardforbcradio.earsay.com](http://standonguardforbcradio.earsay.com)

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## Upcoming Performances

### INform

#### As part of the soundaXis festival

Sunday, June 8, 8pm, at The Music Gallery  
197 John Street, St. George-the-Martyr Church

Featuring music which examines materials, texture and form - the themes of the second soundaXis festival. Works by Aaron Gervais, Giorgio Magnanensi, Matthew Rizutto, Salvatore Sciarrino and James Tenney.

The Continuum Ensemble with Marion Newman (mezzo-soprano) and Gregory Oh (conductor).

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## Be a Part of the Continuum - Make a Donation

Continuum Contemporary Music relies on donations to provide financial support for our ongoing programming. Your donation will help us to organize unique musical and cross-disciplinary events, present concerts of the highest caliber and demonstrate to arts councils a broad funding base. Making a donation to Continuum is easy and **all donations are tax-receiptable**.

To make a donation to Continuum, please call us at (416) 924-4945. **Donate now online!** You can donate online with a credit card and **receive your tax receipt immediately**. Just go to [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) and search for Continuum.

**Thanks for your support!**