

FORWARD CURRENTS

FESTIVAL **music | art | social change**

Forward Currents Festival: LGBTQ2S+ Living Out Loud

April 29, 30 & May 1, 2022
māmawēyatitān centre



REGINA
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
Gordon Gerrard
Music Director



REGINA



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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Regina Symphony Orchestra acknowledges that we are on Treaty 4 Territory, which is the traditional territory of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakoda, and Lakota Peoples, and the homeland of the Métis. In the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration, we commit to moving forward in partnership with the Indigenous people who live here and across Canada.

WELCOME TO THE FORWARD CURRENTS FESTIVAL

Queer voices possess extraordinary power. They challenge us to examine our lives with fresh perspectives, they inspire us with their resilience, and they lift us up with the unwavering strength of community. The Regina Symphony Orchestra's Forward Currents Festival is an opportunity for us to lend our platform to these visionary artists from the LGBTQ2S+ community. The festival aims to present ideas and issues that are socially relevant to those of us who live here, to spark conversation, and ultimately to create consciousness about the choices we make. Through these everyday choices, each of us has a hand in determining the kind of community we live in."

Gordon Gerrard, Music Director

GORDON GERRARD BIOGRAPHY

Conductor Gordon Gerrard is among the exciting new generation of music directors demonstrating new visions for orchestral leadership in Canada. Currently in his sixth season leading the Regina Symphony Orchestra, Gordon has distinguished himself as a leader in innovative and inclusionary programming. Trained first as a pianist and subsequently as a specialist in operatic repertoire, he brings a fresh perspective to the podium that endears him to audiences and musicians alike. After an international search, Gordon was appointed Music Director of the Regina Symphony Orchestra where he has taken bold steps reimagining the orchestra's programming, including its Forward Currents Festival dedicated to social change and community engagement.

Learn more about Gordon at gordongerrard.com

Photo Credit: Chris Graham Photography

RSO MUSICIANS

VIOLIN 1

Christian Robinson, Concertmaster✧
Carmen Constantinescu, Assistant
Concertmaster✧
Katie Gannon
Carmelle Pretzlaw
Rudolf Sternadel
Elizabeth Stirr
Karley Parovsky
Drusilla Waltz

VIOLIN 2

Heng-Han Hou✧
David Johnson•
Beatrice Hodgkins
David Hopkinson
Jeff Looysen
Adrian Casas

VIOLA

Jonathan Ward✧
Megan Zak•
Jonathan Achtzehner
Margaret Carey

CELLO

Simon Fryer✧
Amelia Borton•
Catherine Folstad
Joel Macdonald

BASS

Christopher Jones✧
Curtis Scheschuk•

FLUTE

Marie-Noelle Berthelet✧
Tara Semple•

OBOE

Tamsin Johnston✧
Wing Lok Soo•

CLARINET

Hyon Suk Kim✧
Timothy Yung•
Shawn Earle

BASSOON

Anna Norris✧
Jennifer Tenford•

HORN

Richard Burdick✧
Alison Cushway•
Sharla Benoit
Wendy Stenger

TRUMPET

Miles Newman✧
Natalie Fuller•
Lyle Buddecke

TROMBONE

David Dick•
Nathan Syrnick•
Jeremy Drotar

TUBA

Mark Preece•

TIMPANI

Alex Artale•

PERCUSSION

Darcy Gingras•
Jacob Kryger•
Andrea Ulriksen
Brennan Kowalski

Keyboard

Chris Kayler•

✧ Regina Symphony Chamber Player ◆ Principal • Assistant Principal

COMMUNICATION MEDIA ARTS PATHWAY & SCOTT RAINBOW ALLIANCE



ABOUT THE VENUE

mâdawêyatitân (pronounced ma-ma-way-a-ta-tan) - a Cree word meaning "let's be all together"

The students of the Communication Media Arts Pathway at Scott Collegiate are producing an audio media project with the Scott Rainbow Alliance.

Scott Collegiate students will tell their stories about identity, love, experience, and community - sewn together with the common thread of location. Who we are - whether alone or as a group - is connected to where we are or where we come from.

The Media Arts students will emphasize this idea further by "placing" the different stories heard around the audience, hoping that they will in turn think about who and where they are, connect their stories to the students' and feel the bond of community with new voices, new perspectives, and the location of mâdawêyatitân centre.

The RSO would like to thank the students, and their teacher Jeffrey Looyzen, who is also a member of the RSO violin section, for creating this audio experience for our festival.

mâdawêyatitân centre brings people together to connect, learn, play, develop skills and to celebrate culture. The RSO would like to thank the mâdawêyatitân centre team for inviting us in to their beautiful space for this year's festival.

THANK YOU!

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PRE SHOW: CREATING POSITIVE SPACES

PANELISTS

Meg Hadland (she/her), Education and Diversity Manager
Ari Giroux, (she/they), Interim Executive Director

UR Pride Centre for Sexuality and Gender Diversity is a non-profit organization based in Regina. UR Pride is proud to offer services, supports, resources, and programming to not only 2SLGBTQ+ and allied students at the U of R, but anyone who is a part of, or spending time in the Regina community.



UR PRIDE

Centre for Sexuality
and Gender Diversity

CONCERT: THE BOOK OF MY SHAMES

Gordon Gerrard, conductor
**Isaiah Bell, tenor, creator
& composer**
**Sean Gust, creator &
director**
**Kolby Zinger-Harris,
orchestration**

BELL *THE BOOK OF MY SHAMES*

Hungry, Hungry Hole
Roman Summer
Piano Miniature No. 2
Mal de Coucou
Let Me Be Next to You
Tornami
Comets

PROGRAM NOTES

The Book of My Shames is hard to write about. Partly, this is because we already state our case as clearly as we can within the piece. Mostly, though, it's that the show is like one of those paintings where the painted area only serves as background to a blank space in the middle — a blank space that forms the shape of the actual subject. Ostensibly, our show is made up of a series of episodes from my early life, but it might not be most helpful to think of it as a coming-of-age story, or in fact as a narrative at all. We call it "The Story of a Hole", but it might as well be called "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Hole"; *The Book of My Shames* is not really about the anecdotes that it comprises, but about the blank space they all point to — a black hole whose gravitational pull distorts all activity around it.

I hope that doesn't sound too pompous or confusing, but if it does it may only be because, in my experience, we are much more used to talking about what a person is or does than we are to wondering what it must be like to be that person — even though it is the experience of living in our particular bodies that gives rise to all our particular behaviour.

Sean Guist and I first had the idea to develop a conversation around this after I premiered an autobiographical song (a piece that later came to anchor this show) at Sean's OUTstages Festival in Victoria. I had never intended to sing the piece myself, but when the original performer couldn't do it, I let Sean gently bully me into presenting my own work — something I was very uncomfortable doing at the time.

In the response to the performance I instantly noticed a gap between my understanding of the piece and what others seemed to be taking from it. Most striking was the difference in empathy; audience members seemed to have much more compassion for the suffering of the young person in the story than I had, either at the time of the experience or in writing of it many years later. I could only see weakness and compulsion.

It's surprising how long it has taken me to understand that my self-image doesn't always correspond with how other people see me. Surprising because, as a performing artist, I spend a lot of time thinking about how I'm seen. It's like the old joke: an old fish swims by two younger fish and says "Morning, boys... How's the water?" One young fish turns to the other and says, "What the hell is water?" The element that we swim in, the lens through which we see everything, is the hardest thing to recognize. That's what shame has been for me. That's why it's so hard to talk about, and that's why this piece isn't really a story; you can't have a story where nothing changes. I hope you can look into and beyond these personal reminiscences, to the invisible force that shapes them. I believe these forces — shame for me, something else equally pervasive and nebulous for you — pull the strings in all of our lives, and usually only at the edges of our awareness. And *that's* interesting.

Isaiah Bell, February 2022

ISAIAH BELL, TENOR, CREATOR & COMPOSER



Isaiah Bell performs across North America in opera and oratorio, his work characterized by his “beautiful tenor, command of style, and natural stage

presence” and a “strong, glorious voice with its heroic, oratorio-style ring”. He is also a composer, a writer, and a poet. Recently he has combined these disciplines in his critically acclaimed touring solo show, *The Book of My Shames*; in the performance on film of his original translation/adaptation of Poulenc’s solo opera *La voix humaine* (a “finely tuned performance, so perfectly married to his own sensitive and intelligent adaptation” - Opera Canada); and in hybrid concept recitals across Canada.

SEAN GUIST, CREATOR AND DIRECTOR



Co-Creator and Director of *The Book of My Shames*, Sean Guist is Co-Artistic & Marketing Director of Intrepid Theatre

in Victoria, BC/Lekwungen Territory. Administrator by day and queer artist, producer and director by night, Sean is

the founding Curator of Intrepid Theatre’s OUTstages queer theatre festival, and has created new residency programs for local artists, and fostered new work through cabarets, emerging artist programs, and mentorship opportunities.

KOLBY ZINGER-HARRIS ORCHESTRATION



Kolby Zinger-Harris is a composer, arranger, music producer, and musicologist based in Toronto, ON. Kolby completed a Bachelor of Music

specializing in Composition at the University of Toronto, having studied with Gary Kulesha, James Rolfe, and Norbert Palej, as well as a Master of Arts in Musicology, also at U of T. Their original works have been performed by such ensembles as the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra, the U of T Opera Company, and the Cecilia String Quartet. Kolby is also a composer on the independent video game *Waterboy* from Gremshak Games.



PRE SHOW: JOSHUA WHITEHEAD

Presented in Partnership
with Regina Public Library



Joshua Whitehead (he/him) is a Two-Spirit, Oji-nêhiyaw member of Peguis First Nation (Treaty 1). He is currently a Ph.D. candidate, lecturer, and Killam scholar at the University of Calgary where he studies Indigenous literatures and cultures with a focus on gender and sexuality. His dissertation, tentatively titled "Feral Fatalisms," is a hybrid narrative of theory, essay, and non-fiction that interrogates the role of "ferality" inherent within Indigenous ways of being (with a strong focus on nêhiyawewin). He is the author of *full-metal indigiqueer* (Talonbooks 2017) which was shortlisted for the inaugural Indigenous Voices Award and the Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry. He is also the author of *Jonny Appleseed* (Arsenal Pulp Press 2018) which was long listed for the Giller Prize, shortlisted for the Indigenous Voices Award, the Governor General's Literary Award, the Amazon Canada First Novel Award, the Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award, and won the Lambda Literary Award for Gay Fiction and the Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction. Whitehead is currently working on a third manuscript titled, *Making Love with the Land* to be published with Knopf Canada, which explores the intersections of Indigeneity, queerness, and, most prominently, mental health through a nêhiyaw lens. Currently, Whitehead is premiering his newly edited anthology, *Love after the End: an Anthology of Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer Speculative Fiction*. You can find his work published widely in such venues as *Prairie Fire*, *CV2*, *EVENT*, *Arc Poetry Magazine*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Grain*, *CNQ*, *Write*, and *Red Rising Magazine*.

CONCERT: BUFFALO GIRLS

GORDON GERRARD, CONDUCTOR
CRIS DERKSEN, CELLO & COMPOSER
REBECCA BENSON, VOCALS
JESSE BAIRD, DRUMMER

SET LIST

New Heya
Overture to the Spiderbeing
Planes
Buffalo Girls
War Cry
Top Shelf
Zombie (by Dolores O'Riordan,
arranged by Cris Derksen)
Round Dance
Home on Native Land

CRIS DERKSEN CELLO



Juno nominated Cris Derksen is an Internationally respected Indigenous Cellist and Composer. In a world where almost everything — people, music,

cultures — gets labelled and slotted into simple categories, Cris Derksen represents a challenge. Originally from Northern Alberta she comes from a line of chiefs from North Tallcree Reserve on her father's side and a line of strong Mennonite homesteaders on her mother's. Derksen braids the traditional and contemporary, weaving her classical background and her Indigenous ancestry together with new school electronics to create genre-defying music. As a performer Derksen performs nationally and internationally as a soloist and in collaboration with some of Canada's finest, including Tanya Tagaq, Buffy Sainte Marie, Naomi Klein, and Leanne Simpson, to name a few. Recent concert destinations include Hong Kong, Australia, Mongolia, Sweden, and a whole lot of Canada: the place Derksen refers to as home. A new album of Cris Derksen's works will be released in 2022.



ALL OUR RELATIONS: FINDING A PATH FORWARD

With Tanya Talaga

Thu May 26 · 7:30 pm

Join award-winning author and journalist Tanya Talaga at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum for a discussion about finding the path forward for Truth and Reconciliation. Reception to follow.

reginalibrary.ca/reconciliation





PRE SHOW: SCHOOL-BASED GENDER & DIVERSITY ALLIANCES

DAVID POPOFF,
MODERATOR

PANELISTS

Kyla Christiansen - Diversity
Consultant - Regina Public Schools /
Good Spirit School Division

Dr. James McNinch - University of
Regina

Karen McIvor - Winston Knoll
Collegiate - GSA Facilitator

Mita - Karen's student - WKC GSA

Jason Howse - Harbour Landing
School - GSA Facilitator

Lakeland Scriver - Educator

Cas Kreller - Lumsden High School
Student - GSA / Prairie Valley GSA
Summit Coordinator



CONCERT: QSO X RSO

Gordon Gerrard, conductor
Queer Songbook Orchestra
Ruaridh MacDonald,
narrator

SET LIST

Smalltown Boy
Constant Craving
Woman of Heart & Mind
You Don't Own Me
Lush Life
Ever New
Sunset Village
Overture to Candide



QSO ROSTER

The Queer Songbook Orchestra (QSO) are a Toronto based 13-piece chamber pop ensemble, dedicated to exploring and uplifting 2SLGBTQ+ narrative in pop music.

With the queer lens intact, they look through the last century of popular music and bring forward obscured 2SLGBTQ+ historical narratives, alongside the personal reflections from members of the community. By working with a base of known songs that are uniquely reimagined for the ensemble, the listener is offered new points of entry into familiar works and a broader perspective on the universality of human experience. A highly collaborative project, the QSO incorporate members of the local community to participate in every performance. From high school students to elders, and from well-known artists to novice performers, individuals are invited on stage to co-present these narratives, and to foster dialogue and nurture deepening community.

RUARIDH MACDONALD NARRATOR



Ruaridh MacDonald (he/him) is an actor, singer, musician, composer & playwright who hails from Treaty 4. Ru is a 2017 graduate of

Sheridan College's Honours Bachelor of Music Theatre Performance Program. He currently works as Artistic Associate at Globe Theatre.

ORCHESTRA

Shaun Brodie, artistic Director
Alanna Stuart, vocals
Mingjia Chen, vocals
Thom Gill, vocals & guitar
Jennifer Burford, violin
Evan Lamberton, cello
Naomi McCarroll-Butler, clarinet & alto saxophone
Charlotte Alexander, french horn
Amy Horvey, trumpet
Morgan-Paige Melbourne, piano
Daniel Fortin, double bass
Stefan Schneider, drums

Photo Credit: Andrew Parry



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June 24

To celebrate **National Indigenous Peoples Day** and to bring to a close National Indigenous History Month Casino Regina is proud to partner with FHQ Developments Ltd. to bring you DJ Shub.

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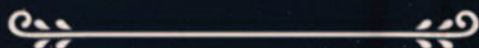
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FORWARD
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A celebration of Black artists
June 2, 3 & 4, 2023

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Donors are an important part of the financial stability of our orchestra. All gifts have a positive impact on our ability to continue to hire professional musicians, to offer incredible live music experiences, and provide high-quality education opportunities.

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Regina, SK S4P 1C8

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Music Director

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