

Cyborg Song

Meet our performers

Etienne Rolin – composer, soundpainter/conductor, improviser (USA/France)

Following studies in Music and Philosophy in San Francisco, he continued advanced studies in Paris with masters Nadia Boulanger, Messiaen, and Xenakis, attending workshops with Donatoni, Ligeti, and Lutoslawski. Over the last ten years he has worked closely with Soundpainting inventor Walter Thompson. His catalogue of works surpasses 1000 opus from solos to chamber music to opera and jazz. He has been commissioned by Ensemble Intercontemporain, Ars Nova, and Ensemble 2e2m. He is the author of many books on the relationship between composition and improvisation (Emerging Ear) Editions Tempéraments. At present he teaches at the Bordeaux Conservatory and gives sound-painting concerts (real-time composition) with his NASA ensemble. He also performs improvised music on basset horn/tenor saxophone and Hindustani music on Bansuri flute with tabla experts John Boswell and Matthias Labbé. Etienne has collaborated extensively with Researcher Shlomo Dunbov of UCSD San Diego, at Studio SCRIME in Bordeaux with OMax software where they have produced three real-time compositions using musical tape mixes from improvisations on Indian Bansuri Flute, tenor saxophone, and Basset Horn. **Etienne Rolin conducting:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_fM_4J9_sg



Dirk Johan Stromberg – Composer, Performer, Improviser, Performing the Phallophone (USA / Singapore)

Dirk Johan Stromberg is an American music technologist, composer and improviser. His body of work explores dynamic interaction between performer, technology and performance practice. Designing both hardware and software has led to the development of network based audio cards, embedded hardware, and e-instruments. Dirk's music has been performed in Europe, Asia and North America. He has thrice worked on Art Creation Funds supported by the National Arts Council, Singapore – a major arts development grant. He is currently collaborating on his third Arts Creation Fund as a composer and technology integrator for a premiere exhibition in December 2017. He has been composer in residence at STEIM (Studio for Electronic Instrumental Music) and Brooklyn Center for Computer Music and has received recognition for his work from ISAM (Institute for Study in American Music) and MATA (Music at the Anthology). He has also been artist in Residence twice at SLOSS Furnaces in Birmingham, Alabama, which culminated in the trans-disciplinary work "Convergence" in 2016. Dirk Stromberg has been invited to present his work as a composer and technologist at a number of international conferences and festivals including, Music Tech Fest (Umea, Sweden), Sound Islands '15 (Singapore), and Temp'Ora (Bordeaux, France).



Phallophone Cadenza: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUjS8YdsZp4>

Janice Isabel Jackson – vocalist, improviser, contemporary music specialist (Canada)

Janice Isabel Jackson has sung over 220 world premieres, many works written specifically for her, and performed with contemporary music ensembles and in concert halls around the world – Beijing, Paris, Vienna, Amsterdam, Hamburg, Torino, Toronto, Montreal, New York, Berlin, Johannesburg, Cape Town and more. She has appeared in countless contemporary music festivals including the November Festival (Ghent), Wien Modern (Vienna), Ludwigs Lust (Hamburg), The Proms (Amsterdam), IRCAM (Paris), Big Torino 2000 (Turin), and the Diem Festival of Electro-acoustic music (Denmark). She is also the Artistic Director of the Halifax based contemporary vocal music society *Vocalypse Productions*, through which she has produced many new works including *Vonda de Ville in Temporal Follies* by Lukas Pearse and Tim Brady's new opera *Ghost Tango* for 2 singers and electric guitar. In 2015 she performed the world premiere of Jerome Blais' *Songs for Milena* with the Symphony Nova Scotia. During her career she has been the recipient of many grants including professional development grants through Arts Nova Scotia and a long term project grant through The Canada Council. In 2015 she was a musician in residence at the Banff Arts Centre. She has received recognition for her contribution to Nova Scotian culture from The Honorable Myra A. Freeman, Lieutenant Governor, as well as an Established Artist Award through Arts Nova Scotia. www.janicejackson.ca



Antonia Pigot – innovative vocalist, improviser-composer, jazz artist (Canada)

Antonia Pigot work ranges from creating electronic vocal soundscapes to free improv to interpretations of the standard jazz repertoire. As a member of the Paul Cram Improv Guerilla Orchestra, Toni performed and collaborated with European improvisors Han Bennick and Peter Weigold and performed with diverse Canadian ensembles such as Toronto's Lina Allemano and Pierre Labbe of Montreal. Winner of the Galaxie Rising Star award, she produced her debut jazz CD *Heart Songs* and recorded with Cirque du Soleil on the *Saltimbanco* album. The recipient of various arts awards and grants, Toni has collaborated with Maritime choreographers and musicians, composing improvisatory soundscapes for voice and prepared instruments involving electronics and digital processing for both dance and film. These sound scores have been featured in various events throughout the Maritimes, from the Festival of New Dance in St. John's Nfld to Nuit Blanche in Ottawa. Following a post as choral soloist for Grammy award winning organist Paul Halley, Antonia worked with visual artist Barbara Brown in Ottawa to create choral soundscapes sung in response to the environment for contemplative labyrinth walks at the Christ Church Cathedral.



Lukas Pearse – double bass and live electronics (Canada)

Lukas Pearse is the Artistic Director of Upstream Music Association, an organization dedicated to the creation and promotion of pan-genre music celebrating the intersection of improvisation and composition. Lukas is himself a musician, composer and media artist who works with sound, image and technology in many ways, using acoustic, electric and electronic instruments; mechanical, analogue and digital sound recordings, sound diffusion techniques for installation and performance, as well as exploring live visuals and interactive projections using both analogue video and computer vision. Composing, performing, recording, programming, projecting and editing in various contexts, a wide variety of musicians, filmmakers, visual artists and dancers continue to collaborate with Lukas Pearse. With a background in community radio and indie rock, he has studied intermedia at NSCAD, classical double bass at Dalhousie, and electroacoustic music at Goldsmiths College, University of London. He is instructor at the NSCAD University Film Academy and longtime affiliate of artist-run Centre for Art Tapes. **Lukas Pearse:** www.lukaspearse.ca



Geordie Haley – guitarist and improviser (Canada)

Geordie Haley has been a featured Artist with several new music presenters including Suddenly Listen, Upstream Music, Vocalypse, and Open Arts. Geordie is a frequent contributor to The Halifax Jazz Festival, the Harvest Blues and Jazz Festival, and the Open Waters Festival. He has collaborated with dancers Shannon Cooney, Susanne Chui, Rhonda Baker, Sara Coffin and Jacinthe Armstrong. Geordie has played in the pit bands for Neptune Theatre, Theatre New Brunswick and Canadian Stage. As an accompanist Geordie has worked with Christine Duncan, Tena Palmer, Tanya Tagaq, Louise Pitre and Measha Brueggemann. As a leader Geordie has 6 albums of original music available on CDBABY, videos of live shows on you tube and numerous tracks on Soundcloud. Geordie heads the Guitar program at the NSCC Waterfront Music Arts Department and has been teaching at the Maritime Conservatory since 2009. **Geordie Haley Trio:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MRZ5hFBGq8>



Jerome Blais – piano (Canada)

Composer and pianist improviser Jérôme Blais has established himself as a major creative voice in Canada. His works have been performed and recorded by leading ensembles and musicians, including Symphony Nova Scotia, Toca Loca, Suzie LeBlanc, Janice Jackson and Yannick Nézet-Séguin's Orchestre Métropolitain of Montreal. A recipient of a 2017 Creative Nova Scotia Established Artist Recognition Award, he won Quebec's Concours Collégien de Musique Contemporaine in 2015, received ECMA nominations for best classical composition for (Un)Forgotten Voices (2016), Rafales (2014), and Mouvance (2013), and is featured on Between the Shore and the Ships, which won Best Classical Recording in 2013. He is currently professor at Dalhousie's Fountain School of Performing Arts.

