

**ECM+ and the Gryphon Trio present
ILLUSIONS - A multimedia odyssey**

Montreal, March 16, 2015 – The Ensemble contemporain de Montréal (ECM+), its artistic director, Véronique Lacroix, and guests the Gryphon Trio invite Montrealers to the show *Illusions* on April 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the Salle Pierre-Mercure.

A veritable odyssey for chamber orchestra, trio of soloists, and giant screen video, *Illusions* plunges the audience into the weird and wonderful world of the carnival during the heyday of this popular attraction in the early 1900s. The show was designed around the three movements of the *Piano Trio* (1911), written by Charles Ives, who lived during this time of great openness. Interwoven between the movements will be three new works by Quebec composers, while original videos by Kara Blake and Corinne Merrel (collaborators on the film *The Little Prince*, 2015) will transport us into this roiling laboratory of a bygone era when scientific discoveries rubbed shoulders with side-show oddities.

In the manner of a “curio cabinet,” or Wunderkammer, *Illusions* presents the unexpected overlays of Charles Ives, the microtonal tracks of Simon Martin, and the exotic world of Gabriel Dharmoo in succession before culminating in an explosion of form and colour with the multimedia creation by composer Nicole Lizée. An invitation to dream, to send your imagination soaring and to make new discoveries!

ILLUSIONS - A multimedia odyssey

in co-production with the Ottawa Chamber Music Society

Thursday, April 30, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. - under the honorary presidency of Jean Pierre Desrosiers

Salle Pierre-Mercure of the Centre Pierre-Péladeau
300 De Maisonneuve Blvd. East, Montreal

Tour:

Friday, May 22, 2015 | 8 p.m.
21C Music Festival, Koerner Hall, Toronto

Sunday, July 26, 2015 | 7 p.m.
Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival

Program around *Piano Trio* by Charles Ives:

Charles Ives, *Piano Trio* (1911), Mvt. I - *Moderato*
Simon Martin, *Musique d'art pour orchestre de chambre II* (new work)
Charles Ives, *Piano Trio*, Mvt. II - TSIAJ. *Presto*
Gabriel Dharmoo, *Wanmansho* (new work)
Charles Ives, *Piano Trio*, Mvt. III - *Moderato con moto*
Nicole Lizée, *Wunderkammer* (new work)

Musicians and soloists

Véronique Lacroix, conductor
ECM+, 13 musicians

Gryphon Trio: Annalee Patipatanakoon, violin
Roman Borys, cello
James Parker, piano

Vincent Ranallo, baritone

Creative personnel

Véronique Lacroix (ECM+) and **Roman Borys** (TG), artistic directors

Maude Gareau, assistant artistic director

Kara Blake and **Corinne Merrell**, video designers

Jacques Collin, projection designer

Claude Accolas, lighting designer

Marie-Josée Chartier, staging

TICKETS 514 524-0173 www.illusionsecm.ca

Ensemble contemporain de Montréal (ECM+)

More than an ensemble, ECM+ produces innovative, multidisciplinary concerts and showcases Canadian musical creation throughout the country. Renowned for her flair and her appetite for risk-taking, artistic director Véronique Lacroix is passionate about creation and, with her musicians, is helping to foster the next generation of composers.

ECM+ is in residence at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal.

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Source: Ensemble contemporain de Montréal (ECM+) | 514-524-0173 | info@ecm.qc.ca | www.ecm.qc.ca

BIOGRAPHIES

GRYPHON TRIO

Since forming in Toronto in 1993, the Gryphon Trio has established itself as one of the world’s leading piano trios. With a repertoire that ranges from the traditional to the contemporary and from European classicism to New World jazz and popular song, the Trio is committed to redefining chamber music for the 21st Century.

The Gryphon Trio tours regularly throughout North America and Europe, and their sixteen recordings are an encyclopedia of works for the genre, winning two Juno Awards and eight nominations. The ensemble has commissioned over 75 new works and frequently collaborates with other instrumentalists, singers, narrators, actors, dancers, and visual artists. The Trio has a long-standing relationship with Music TORONTO, has worked closely with The Banff Centre, Soundstreams Canada, and Tapestry New Opera, and has appeared with the Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, and Kitchener-Waterloo Symphonies.

VINCENT RANALLO, baritone

Baritone Vincent Ranallo’s career is mainly focused on concerts and the performance of new works. He has appeared with an ever-growing number of ensembles, including the McGill Chamber Orchestra, I Musici, Orchestre Métropolitain, ECM+, SMCQ, Chants libres and Codes d’accès, and has taken part in a multitude of festivals, such as Ear Heart Music (New York), the Athelas New Music Festival (Copenhagen), New Music Concerts (Toronto) and Aventa (Victoria).

His recent performance of the Canadian premiere of *Kassandra* by Iannis Xenakis with ECM+ was enthusiastically received by both critics and music fans alike. Numerous Quebec and European composers have been inspired by his voice, his creative personality and his evolving musicianship. Ranallo recently participated in the first recording of sacred works by Quebec composer Auguste Descarries, on the Espace 21 label. In 2014, he sang in *O Mensch* by Pascal Dusapin, *Tierkreis* by Karlheinz Stockhausen, and *Le rire physiologique* by Georges Aperghis.

NICOLE LIZÉE, compositrice

Montreal based composer Nicole Lizée creates new music from an eclectic mix of influences including the earliest MTV videos, turntablism, glitch, rave culture, Hitchcock, Kubrick, and 1960s psychedelia.

In 2001 Nicole received a Master of Music degree from McGill University. After a decade and a half of composition, her commission list of over 40 works is varied and distinguished, and includes the Kronos Quartet, BBC Proms, the *Orchestre Métropolitain*, CBC, New York City’s Kaufman Center, San Francisco Symphony, So Percussion, Eve Egoyan, Australian Art Orchestra, Gryphon Trio, ECM+, Arte Musica Foundation, Cecilia Quartet, Soundstreams, and the SMCQ.

Nicole was awarded the prestigious 2013 Canada Council for the Arts Jules Léger Prize for New Chamber Music. She is a Civitella Ranieri Foundation Fellow (2010). Her work for piano and notated glitch, *Hitchcock Études*, was chosen by the International Society for Contemporary Music to be featured at the 2014 World Music Days. Additional awards and nominations include a Prix Opus (2013), two Prix collégien de musique contemporaine (2012, 2013), the UNESCO International Rostrum of Composers’ Top 10 List (2008) and the 2002 Canada Council for the Arts Robert Fleming Prize for achievements in composition.

GABRIEL DHARMOO, compositeur

Gabriel Dharmoo’s musical practice encompasses composition, improvisation and the research of South Indian Carnatic music. Winner of many provincial and national prizes, his works have been performed in Canada, the U.S.A, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Australia, Singapore and South Africa.

Having researched Carnatic music with 4 renowned masters in Chennai (India) in 2008 and 2011, his personal style explores the theme of post-exotism and the interplay between tradition and novelty. As a vocalist, Gabriel has sung across Canada (Montreal, Québec, Vancouver, Banff), in Berlin and Köln (Germany) as well as in Amsterdam (Netherlands), with improvisation gigs and his multidisciplinary performance project *Anthropologies imaginaires*.

SIMON MARTIN, compositeur

Simon Martin completed his studies at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal in 2006. His student compositions garnered him three SOCAN Foundation awards. He was a finalist for the Jules Léger Prize (2008) and was among the composers whose work was selected by the Canadian Section of the International Society for Contemporary Music (2010). His music has been performed in Canada, the United States, Sweden, and Germany, as well as broadcast by CBC Radio 2.

His articles were published in several magazines and papers (*Circuit*, *Spirale*, *Argument*, *L’Action nationale*, *Le Devoir* and *Le Couac*). He is the founding director of *Projections libérantes* (2011), a concerts' production organization. Based on critical and philosophic reflection, his art aims to be a poetic and symbolic representation of the conciliation between man and matter.

KARA BLAKE, vidéaste

Kara Blake is a Montreal based filmmaker who focuses her creative energy on projects ranging from short films and music videos to installations and live projections. Both a director and editor with a keen attention to sound and music, Blake is dedicated to crafting an aesthetic that appropriately reflects the spirit of her subject matter and offers audiences a unique audio-visual experience.

She holds a Master’s of Fine Arts degree from Concordia University and has collaborated with a variety of artists and musicians including Peaches, The Besnard Lakes and composer Nicole Lizée. Blake’s award-winning work has been shown internationally at film festivals and arts venues including the Museum of Modern Art New York, Telluride Festival, Hot Docs, Bravo and the Independent Film Channel.

CORINNE MERRELL, vidéaste

Corinne Merrell creates work as a production designer for film, stop-motion animation and theatre. Her handcrafted sets create environments and spaces for storytelling. She was head stop-motion art director on the forthcoming animated feature *The Little Prince*, directed by Mark Osborne. She was also production designer on the National Film Board’s *The Fruit Hunters* by award winning director Yung Chang.

She worked on Wong Kar Wai’s *My Blueberry Nights* and Mary Stewart Masterson’s *The Cake Eaters*. Theatre credits include Broadway productions *Hairspray*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, and *Legally Blonde*. Her latest collaboration with director Kara Blake continues to explore the use of miniatures in film. Corinne holds a Master of Fine Arts in Design for Stage and Film from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. She is a faculty member in the Department of Theatre at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec.

CLAUDE ACCOLAS, lighting designer

Claude Accolas has been a lighting designer for theatre, ballet, opera, variety, television, multimedia and architecture since 1978. He has worked with most of the directors in Quebec and for numerous production companies at home and abroad, in such countries as Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, Scotland and France.

A valued collaborator with a multitude of stage directors and scenic artists since 1978, Claude Accolas has always demonstrated the highest level of creativity and professionalism in the fulfillment of his mandates.

JACQUES COLLIN, projection designer

Since 1979, Jacques Collin has collaborated with diverse Canadian artists who benefited from his expertise in the use of new media on stage. He is a founding member of the multimedia performance group *l’Écran Humain*, worked with composers Marcelle Deschênes and Alain Thibault, and did several collaborations with multidisciplinary artist Michel Lemieux. From 1990 to 2012 Jacques has worked as a multi-media designer for Robert Lepage’s production company, Ex Machina. Productions include *Lipsynch*, *1984*, *Le Moulin à Images*, *The Andersen Project*, *Dragon’s Trilogy*, *La Casa Azul/Apasionada*, *The Far Side of the Moon*, *Métissage*, *Jean-Sans-Nom*, *Geometry of Miracles*, *Elsinore*, *The Seven Streams of the River Ota*, *Needles and Opium*.

His other productions include *Constantinople* by Christos Hatzis with the Gryphon Trio, *A Tender Thing* from playwright Ben Powers with the Royal Shakespeare Company, *UKIUK* with the National Capital Commission of Ottawa, and *TAJ* by Sampraday Dance Creations, created within Toronto Luminato Festival in 2011.

MARIE-JOSÉE CHARTIER, staging advisor

A multi-faceted artist, Marie-Josée Chartier moves easily between the worlds of dance, music, opera and multi-media in the roles of choreographer, performer, director, vocalist, teacher or artistic advisor. Her choreographic works have been presented in festivals in Canada, Europe and Latin America and have been featured on documentary films. In 2003, she founded Chartier Danse in order to support her large scale creative collaborations notably with fabrik Potsdam, Danse-Cité and PPS Danse.

In the world of contemporary music, she directs several productions with the Queen of Puddings Music Theatre, Tapestry Opera Works, Toca Loca, Gryphon Trio, Arraymusic and since 2005 with ECM+. Recent performances include: *study for a crouching figure* for the Francis Bacon exhibit at the AGO, *petites danses* at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts (Toronto) and *Contes pour enfants pas sages* (tournée mexicaine). Selected Awards: K.M. Hunter for dance; Dora Mavor Moore Awards with 9 nominations and 3 prizes; Soulpepper Theatre Award for multi-disciplinary artist.

MAUDE GAREAU, assistant artistic director

Trained at the École supérieure de theatre de Montréal, Maude Gareau works as a stage director, artistic director and puppeteer. She specializes in shadow and object theatre with her company, Ombres Folles. Maude also studied music and adores merging her two passions in multidisciplinary works. She has had the pleasure of collaborating with ECM+ in these types of projects since 2011.

Since 2005, she has created a multitude of shows and has participated in a variety of productions, including *L’Ombre incongrue de F.* (Théâtre La Chapelle) and *Artères parallèles* (Théâtre Prospero), along with Ombres Folles’ presentations for young audiences *Les Tracas d’Oniria*, *Histoires cachées et ombres folles!* and *Les Routes ignorées*.