



Generation2020 tour

A tour in two stages

Montreal, September 21, 2020 – The Ensemble contemporain de Montréal (ECM+), directed by Véronique Lacroix, presents the 11th edition of its legendary national project, the cross-Canada *Generation* tour, with a reworked itinerary due to COVID restrictions. The tour will visit seven cities in two stages: the season kicks off in the fall with performances in Montreal, Quebec City and Orford, and wraps up in the spring of 2021 with stops in Ottawa, Kitchener-Waterloo, Toronto and Vancouver. Once again, the ECM+ will offer electrifying interpretations of four new works by a new generation of Canadian composers, and composer-host Gabriel Dharmoo will guide the audience through these creations that are as unique as they are compelling.

Composers **Bekah Simms** (NL/ON), **Gabriel Dufour-Laperrière** (QC), **Stefan Maier** (BC) and **Matthew Ricketts** (BC/NY) were selected in the summer of 2019 by the national jury of *Generation2020*, one of the most important composition competitions in the country. Last February, each composer was able to benefit from the experience and excellence of the ECM+ musicians during workshops that provided an opportunity for in-depth musical experimentation leading up to the final works that will be performed on this tour.

The National Jury Award becomes the Steven R. Gerber Award

In recognition of the special contribution of the Steven R. Gerber Trust recently awarded to the ECM+, the Jury Award has been renamed the *Steven R. Gerber Generation National Jury Award*. As in previous years, this prestigious prize will be awarded based on the votes of a number of specialists in the Canadian music community and will be divided into two parts: a \$4,000 grant offered by the ECM+ and a commission from the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (valued at \$8,000) for a 10-minute orchestral work to be presented by the OSM during its 2021-2022 season. The *Generation National Audience Choice Award*, awarded by the cumulative votes of the audience throughout the tour, will be \$2,000.

Gone too soon, American composer Steven R. Gerber (1948- 2015) leaves as a legacy a vast repertoire of symphonic, choral and concertante works, which were released on NAXOS and other prestigious labels that contributed to his renown. Atonal and expressive with hints of classicism, his writing was progressively relieved from the constraints of serialism the composer had initially imposed on himself, and soon revealed an inclination for string instruments.

In the spirit of this new collaboration and to complement the program of these four new creations, featuring the notable addition of a second flute to the regular roster, the ECM+ will also present an original interpretation of Steven R. Gerber's *Duet* (2005), initially written for solo clarinet. Surprisingly polyphonic, *Duet* is presented here in a delicate arrangement for 2 flutes, gongs and vibraphone by composer Simon Gregorcic, in a commission by the ECM+.

NEW: Generation ECM+/Orford Composition Award

Following the 2020 Orford Musique's Summer Academy, where ECM+ chef teaches every summer, young composer **Jules Bastin-Fontaine** won the new *Generation ECM+/Orford Composition Award* for his work *L'Heure Joyeuse* for solo piano. The piece will be performed as part of the *Generation2020* concerts in Montreal, Quebec City and Orford.

Generation2020 Tour

Véronique Lacroix, direction | Gabriel Dharmoo, host | ECM+, 11 musicians

Programme 1h15 without intermission	Fall 2020 Tour	Spring 2021 Tour
Bekah Simms (NL/ ON) <i>From Void</i>	MONTREAL ** October 20, 7:30 p.m. Pierre-Mercure Hall 514 524-0173 info@ecm.qc.ca Info: www.ecm.qc.ca	OTTAWA May 6, 2021, 8:00 p.m. National Arts Centre Fourth Stage
Gabriel Dufour-Laperrière (QC) <i>Nimrod à tâtons</i>	QUEBEC October 21, 7:30 p.m. E27, Musiques Nouvelles The NEF Hall As part of Québec Musiques Parallèles	KITCHENER-WATERLOO May 14, 2021, 8:00 p.m. NUMUS Location to be confirmed
Stefan Maier (BC) <i>Grain, Vapor, Ray</i>	ORFORD October 29, 2:30 p.m. Orford Musique Gilles-Lefebvre concert Hall	TORONTO May 15, 2021, 8:00 p.m. New Music Concerts The Music Gallery, 918 Bathurst
Matthew Ricketts (BC/NY) <i>Anaphora</i>		VANCOUVER June 5, 2021, 7:30 p.m. Simon Fraser University Fei and Milton Wong Experimental Theatre
Steven R. Gerber <i>Duet</i>		
Jules Bastin-Fontaine <i>L'Heure Joyeuse *</i>		
* piece performed in Montreal, Quebec and Orford		

View the video interviews of the *Generation2020* composers on YouTube: [PLAYLIST](#)

** Places are limited for the Montreal concert. Please reserve your tickets in advance via the [online ticketing system](#). The duration of the concert is 1 hour 15 minutes, without intermission. All sanitary measures will be respected during the performance for both the audience and the musicians. Hydroalcoholic gel and masks will be available at the entrance to the hall.

The Generation project

Thinking about the bi-annual visit of ECM+ to Toronto reminds me of the times [...] when the Metropolitan Opera toured to Toronto.

Robert Aitken, New Music Concerts Founding Artistic Director

Initiated in 1994, the *Generation* project meets a need felt by researchers and artists in every discipline, to experiment ideas in real situations and optimal conditions. Every two years, four young composers selected by a national jury enjoy this opportunity for eighteen months with ECM+ musicians and conductor, Véronique Lacroix. The impressive number of repeat performances on tour takes this experimentation even further, making *Generation* concerts and workshops an opportunity for the audience to better understand the process surrounding the creation of a new music work today.

Generation has put at the forefront not less than fifty-seven composers, many of which now have forged a solid place in the Canadian and international music scene, such as now well-established personalities like Ana Sokolović, Jean-François Laporte, Nicole Lizée, Louis Dufort, Nicolas Gilbert, Anthony Tan, André Ristic, Gordon Fitzell, Paul Frehner and Taylor Brook.

The list of laureates of the Generation initiative reads like a "Who's Who" of today's most accomplished mid-career Canadian composers.

David Jaeger, CBC Radio Two producer (1978-2008)

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

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COMPOSERS

Bekah Simms (born in 1990, NL), Toronto



Bekah Simms' varied output has been heralded as “cacophonous, jarring, oppressive — and totally engrossing!” (CBC Music) and “tough, even gutsy...with a sure sense of original and vibrant colours” (Vancouver Sun). Propelled equally by fascination and terror toward the universe, her work is often filtered through the personal lens of her anxiety, resulting in nervous, messy, and frequently heavy musical landscapes.

Bekah hails from St. John's, Newfoundland but is currently Toronto-based. Her music has been widely performed across Canada, in over a dozen American states, and throughout Europe, and interpreted by a range of top-tier performers including Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Esprit Orchestra, Continuum, Ensemble Télémaque and Ensemble Paramirabo.

Bekah has been the recipient of over 25 awards and prizes, including the 2019 Barlow Prize and the 2017 Toronto Emerging Composer Award. Works from her debut album "impurity chains" were nominated in both 2019 and 2020 for the JUNO Award for Classical Composition of the Year. Her music has twice been included in the Canadian Section's official submission

to World Music Days (2016 & 2019).

Bekah holds a D.M.A. in music composition from the University of Toronto. Her principal teachers during academic studies were Gary Kulesha and Andrew Staniland, alongside significant private study with Clara Iannotta and Martin Bédard.

Gabriel Dufour-Laperrière (born in 1986, QC), Montréal



Originally from Chicoutimi, Gabriel Dufour-Laperrière lives and works as a composer in Montreal. In 2019, he completed a PhD in composition under Denys Bouliane at McGill University’s Schulich School of Music. His research is focused on the notion of control over the directionality of the musical discourse and the convergence of sound vectors to establish the dynamism of the form.

He is also dedicated to the study and transmission of aural sonology, a method developed by Norwegian composer Lasse Thoresen, which consists of analysis practices to describe, through phenomenology (purely by ear), dimensions of sound neglected by traditional music theory. Gabriel Dufour-Laperrière is a member of the ACTOR (Analysis, Creation, and Teaching of Orchestration) research project.

Among other awards, he has won the 2019 Fernand-Lindsay Prix d’Europe prize for Composition, the first prize in the 2010 Città di Udine competition in the Electroacoustic Music category for his piece *Plier-Déplier*, three SOCAN Foundation awards and an SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier scholarship. Gabriel’s music is published by BabelScores.

Stefan Maier (born in 1990, BC), Vancouver



Stefan Maier’s compositions, installations and performances examine emergent and historical sound technologies. Highlighting material instability and unruliness, his work explores the flows of sonic matter through sound systems, instruments, software and bodies, to uncover alternate modes of authorship and listening, possible within specific technologically-mediated situations.

His concert music has been performed by ensembles such as Talea Ensemble, Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, Vertixe Sonora and Redshift Music Society. As a performer of his solo electronic work, he has been presented by Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin), Ultima (Oslo), Kunsthall Aarhus, and the Chapel Performance Series (Seattle). He has performed alongside new music luminaries such as Jennifer Walshe, Morton Subotnik, and the Arditti String Quartet. Stefan has worked closely with Danish artist Ragnhild May since 2015. Their collaborative work *Music for Organs* was recognized as a composition of the year by the Danish Arts Council in 2017.

In 2017 he received a Mayor’s Art Award from the City of Vancouver and is a 2019 MacDowell Colony Fellow as well as a nominee for the Gaudeamus Prize in composition (2019). Stefan holds degrees in music and art from Bard College, Dartmouth College and the University of Victoria.

Matthew Ricketts (born in 1986, CB), New-York



Matthew Ricketts’ music moves from extremes of presence and absence, from clamor to quietude, at once reticent and flamboyant. It has been noted for its “effervescent and at times prickly sounds” and “hypnotically churning exploration of melody” (ICareIfYouListen) as well as its “tart harmonies and perky sputterings” (The New York Times). He is a 2020 Gaudeamus Award finalist and a 2019 Guggenheim Fellow.

His works have been performed internationally by the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, JACK Quartet, Mivos Quartet, the Fromm Players, Flux Quartet, Quatuor Bozzini, the Chiara String Quartet, Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, Talea Ensemble, etc. Matthew was Composer-Collaborator-In-Residence at East Carolina University from 2016-2018. In 2018 Ricketts’ multilingual opera *Chaakapesh: The Trickster’s Quest* opened the OSM’s 84th season to great critical acclaim.

Matthew is the recipient of fellowships from Civitella Ranieri (2020/2021), MacDowell (2019), the Tanglewood Music Center and the Aspen Music Festival (2017), in addition to the 2016 Lili Boulanger Memorial Fund Prize, the 2016 Jacob Druckman

Prize (Aspen Music Festival), the 2015 Salvatore Martirano Memorial Composition Award and eight prizes in the SOCAN Foundation’s Awards for Young Composers. Matthew holds degrees in music composition and theory from McGill University and Columbia University, where he was a Core Lecturer 2017-2020.

Jules Bastin-Fontaine (born in 2000, QC), Montreal

Jules Bastin-Fontaine is a composer and tuba player from Quebec City now studying these two disciplines at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal, under the supervision of composer Jimmie Leblanc. In 2019, his piece *Trio en hommage à Bruckner* was awarded the “Relève VVA 2019 Prize” by E27 musiques nouvelles within the Viens voir ailleurs Festival, as well as the SOCAN Foundation Serge Garant Young composer Prize for a Canadian chamber music work.

HOST

Gabriel Dharmoo, composer and multidisciplinary artist



Gabriel Dharmoo is a composer, vocalist, improviser and researcher. His works have been performed in Canada, the U.S.A, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain, Estonia, Poland, Australia, Singapore and South Africa. He has received many awards for his compositions, such as the Canada Council for the Arts Jules Léger Prize for his chamber work *Wanmansho* (2017) and the Conseil Québécois de la Musique Opus Award for his opera *À chaque ventre son monstre* (2018).

Having researched Carnatic music with 4 renowned masters in Chennai (India) in 2008 and 2011, his personal musical style encourages the fluidity between tradition and innovation. He has participated in many cross-cultural and intertraditional musical projects, many being led by Sandeep Bhagwati in Montreal (*Sound of Montreal, Ville étrange*) and in Berlin (*Zungenmusiken, Miyagi Haikus*).

As a vocalist and interdisciplinary artist, his career has led him to travel internationally, notably with his solo show “Anthropologies imaginaires” which was awarded at the Amsterdam Fringe Festival (2015) and the SummerWorks Performance Festival (2016). They also explore queer arts and drag artistry as Bijuriya (@bijuriya.drag). He is a PhD candidate at Concordia University's PhD "Individualized Program" with Sandeep Bhagwati (Music), Noah Drew (Theatre) and David Howes (Anthropology).