

# NUMUS CONCERTS 2018-2019 MAIN SERIES



FRIDAY MARCH 15, 2019 8:00PM  
KW LITTLE THEATRE  
WATERLOO, ON

Conseil des arts  
et des lettres  
Québec



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts  
du Canada

CARREFOUR  
DES MUSIQUES  
NOUVELLES  
LE VIVIER



phthensemble



phthensemble@gmail.com

Special shout-out to Sarah Pearson for hosting some Phthers in her home!

# PROGRAM

*A Folk Song Collection, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2*  
arr. 7 voices - 2011/2016

**Jennifer Walshe**

*Did I mention alliteration*  
6 voices - 2018

**Kathy Kennedy**

*Improvisations*

*Bol-Ki-Sangit - Fire V*  
excerpt from Atish-E-Zaban  
arr. 7 voices - 2006

**Sandeep Bhagwati**

*Myself on*  
8 voices - 2019 (premiere)

**Vahram Sarkissian**

## - INTERMISSION -

*Je suis ici*  
texts by Lewis Carroll, Pat Capponi,  
Ciria Pereira et al.  
7 voices - 2019 (premiere)

**Elizabeth Lima**

*Vaai Irlandu*  
arr. 2 voices and ensemble - 2009/arr. 2019

**Gabriel Dharmoo**

*Love Songs*  
7 voices - 1977

**Claude Vivier**

## PROGRAM NOTES

Phth proposes a program exploring the overlap between speech and song, between soundscape and storytelling. Jennifer Walshe's punchy *Folk Song Collection* features snippets of text fished from overheard public conversations; everyday preoccupations of the modern-city dweller. Kathy Kennedy's *Did I mention alliteration* explores a spatialization of the phonemes in the title phrase. This is followed by two improvisations! Sandeep Bhagwati's *Bol-Ki-Sangit* decontextualizes rhythmic elements of Indian vocal percussion techniques. Vahram Sarkissian's *Myself on* explores the combination of notated modal music and a situation where performers don't know what they are doing next.

Opening the second half of the concert, Elizabeth Lima's *Je suis ici* plays on different perceptions and perspectives of madness: an ode to those who never got out of Wonderland. Gabriel Dharmoo's *Vaai Irandu* creates the illusion of having two mouths, one vocalizing around an imaginary meta-raga, the other adding percussive touches and flourishes. Finally, in Claude Vivier's masterpiece *Love Songs* we draw heavily on our Phthness to highlight the strange evocations of longing, loss, love and death. The composer's own words below have inspired us to approach the piece with a sense of freedom and care.

### love Songs

To be staged or not

To be felt not understood

Let tones from the others inspire your own.

let the music flow out of you as if you were a kid.

CLAUDE VIVIER 1977

# BIOGRAPHY

Vocal collective **Phth** features some of the most adventurous vocalists in Canadian contemporary music with practices spanning from extended voice to noise, early music, experimental theatre and interdisciplinary arts.

On stage tonight: Sarah Albu, David Cronkite, Gabriel Dharmoo, Kathy Kennedy, Elizabeth Lima, Vahram Sarkissian and Andrea Young (not in photo).



© Jonathan Goulet

Guest artist:

**Priya Shah** is a musician, music therapist, and vocal instructor currently based in Toronto, ON. Born in Calgary, with roots in India and branches all over the world, she is compelled by the ability of music to comfort, arouse, express and soothe the emotions that arise within the human condition. A recent graduate of the Master of Music Therapy program at Wilfrid Laurier University, she has experience working in mental health, oncology, and palliative care settings. In addition to music therapy, she is currently teaching voice and piano in Toronto, and working on an EP to be released this spring! She is an avid vocal improviser and member of ICE (Improvising Concerts Ensemble) at Laurier.



© Alice Hong

---

SUPPORT WAS GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY:



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
an Ontario government agency  
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ont.



Canada Council  
for the Arts  
Conseil des arts  
du Canada

Funded by the  
Government  
of Canada

Canada

Long & McQuade  
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS  
long-mcquade.com

THE CITY OF  
Waterloo



KITCHENER