

#OWF2022

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WELCOME TO THE OPEN WATERS FESTIVAL OF NEW AND IMPROVISED MUSIC 2022.

NEW MUSIC FOR THE NEW YEAR

THANK YOU to all our generous donors, members and patrons and the support of our public and private institutions. The Festival would not be a reality without your support. [Donate to Upstream](#) or [Become a Member](#).

We will be announcing the recipient of the Paul Cram Creation Award in March 2022. Hopefully in person. [Donate to the PCCA](#).

Our staff for the Festival: Lukas Pearse, Artistic Director, Gay Hauser, Administrator, Sebastien Bezeau, Publicist, Morgan Rogers, Designer, Andrew Coll, Alex Arnold, Janessa Strang, Mimosu Lee, Bethany Ingraham, Eddie Fisher at The Music Room, Dario Lozano-Thornton, and Annaka Gale for North Window Productions. Thanks to our production staff for the Herd of Pianos Peter Dykhuis, Wes Johnson, Sym Corrigan, and Frankie Macaulay at the Dalhousie University Art Gallery, Stonehouse Sound and Picnic Films. Soapbox Gallery in New York and le centre d'art la Chappell in Quebec have provided studios for our artists in those centres.

P.O. Box 36040
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 3S9
902-233-5042 - Lukas Pearse
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WWW.UPSTREAMMUSIC.ORG



FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

We respectfully acknowledge that the Open Waters Festival takes place at K'jipuktuk, in unceded Mi'Kmaq territory.

The Open Waters Festival (OWF) of New and Improvised Music is officially opening January 5th and ending on the 13th with events streamed online each day, and several events on several days.

Finding a way forward with Open Waters Festival in this abstracted online format offers inquisitive artists and curious audiences connections from which we all benefit.

Many presentations will be livestreams of musical groups both exploring new music as established ensembles as well as in groupings brought together for the first time, from the Music Room in Halifax, alongside livestreams from exciting artists in Quebec and New York, while others will be premieres of pre-recorded projects Upstream has been developing over the past year. These include the Herd of Pianos, which has seen a few installments through 2021 but now culminates in a long-form piece appropriate to the sweeping scale of the massing of pianos at the Dalhousie Art Gallery. Upstream's collaboration with Breaking Circus in 2021 UP in the Air resulted in multiple video miniatures which saw several posted online individually, and is now assembled for OWF 2022 into a long-form episodic piece highlighting the intense creative collaborations between a constellation of diverse musicians and circus artists exploring THE UNKNOWN. New as a format this festival is an outdoor, augmented reality piece—Collection: Recollection, to be experienced via one's own smartphone while walking outside on the site of the former St Pat's high school on Quinpool road. These technological framings of new music experienced in our community in ways unique to each attendee underscores the distant yet virtually connected nature of the contemporary moment.

While we all adjust our plans and stay prepared for the unexpected, the surprise offered by unfamiliar music reminds us that being open to the unanticipated can be filled with wonder.

New solutions with open ears, open minds and open hearts!

—Lukas Pearse
Artistic Director, Upstream Music Association

FROM THE BOARD

Greetings from the Upstream Board. We had planned to present this year's Open Waters Festival as a welcome celebration of the return to live performances where we could showcase the talent of our local musical community and an impressive array of talent from elsewhere in North America. This plan was a result of the generous support of our sponsors and from our volunteer group that sustains our activities. It will come as no surprise that events beyond our control made this plan impossible to achieve. Fortunately, the leadership of our Artistic Director, supported by our administration allowed us to pivot to an online format which will allow us to deliver, in a virtual form,

the essence of the musical array we had planned. We hope many of our community will avail themselves of this accessible way to virtually attend the impressive performances from near and far that will be offered. Our continuing inclusion of culturally diverse performers, cross genre offerings and the unique format of the “Herd of Pianos” film presentation are examples of the exploratory spirit that Upstream fosters and our Festival showcases. Please consider and review our program and attend as many performances as time allows. The cost is a real bargain. As always your continued support is central to our success. As Dickens wrote, “It was the best of times it was the worst of times...” Let’s focus on the former and enjoy the Festival.

—Tom Donovan
Chair, Upstream Music Association

SARAH MCCABE: REAL FAKE BIRDS

Co-presented with Scotia Festival of Music

Wednesday, January 5th | 7:30PM



We are delighted to team up once again this year with The Scotia Festival of Music, to present a concert in the Open Waters Festival. Violist Sarah McCabe, a former Young Artist at Scotia Festival, has spent recent years developing her repertoire as a composer, improviser and performance artist specializing in work with AI. Join us for a dramatic and fascinating concert of musical exploration.

Notes from Sarah:

Part composed and part improvised, this concert draws on my songs for viola and voice. They are woven together with improvisation and live sampling from Liam Elliot. Part live and part pre-filmed, it also draws on the performance technology that Liam, Jasperi Wirtanen, and I have been developing since the creation of the short film *Real Fake Birds* in 2020. In both live and pre-recorded segments, I duet with the program *Boids*, which uses an algorithm based on the flocking patterns of birds. This creates a ‘sentient’ looper with a mind of its own; it chooses what material to repeat and does so when it wants to. Duetting with *Boids* challenges the human performer to negotiate with a brain that responds in unexpected ways.

I have been thinking a lot about brains recently.

During the past year alone, three members of my family experienced traumatic brain events. I have watched them navigate their recovery processes, all the while reframing my own relationship with my brain. In 2020 I was diagnosed with severe ADHD and Developmental Coordination Disorder, and after a period of increasingly unstable mental health I checked myself into the hospital. Throughout this period of turbulence, I have used songwriting to explore my understanding of myself, my family, and the world around me. This is a love letter to our beautiful, unreliable brains.

—Sarah McCabe

Known professionally as HENDRA, **Sarah McCabe** is a violist from Tkarón:to (Toronto) now living in London, England. Her debut album will be released in 2022 and is funded by a generous grant from the Canada Council for the Arts. It will be co-produced by Juno-nominated folk singer Jenn Grant and two-time ECMA award winning producer Daniel Ledwell.

Sarah co-created the short film *Real Fake Birds* in 2020 with sound designer Liam Elliot and director Jasperi Wirtanen. This project involved the development of a ‘sentient’ looper based on a flocking algorithm; the film explores questions of agency when co-composing with non-human participants. Other multi-disciplinary projects include audiobook *Solace* with Susan McMaster and Liam Elliot (to be released by Borealis Press in 2022), audio/video collaboration *Bathtub* with 30Minutes (2021), audio/video collaboration *Bits* with Apart Together (2020), and sound sculpture *Sound/Box* with Liam Elliot (2018).

Sarah is currently a PhD Candidate at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama on the Barbican-Guildhall Studentship and is researching Queer open mics. She graduated with her MMUS in Viola Performance from Guildhall in 2017 and her BMUS from Acadia University in 2014. She has two unofficial cats named Gizmo and Mr. Prickles.

You can find her at sarahmccabemusic.com, on Spotify and iTunes under the name HENDRA, and on instagram @violamadness.

Liam Elliot is a composer and sound artist from Mohkínstsis (Calgary) currently living in Princeton, New Jersey. Liam’s work reflects a fascination with the sounds and processes of the natural world. He builds sound sculptures that directly transform natural processes into musical sound, and his acoustic and electroacoustic pieces for concert performance seek to create a sense of place. As an improviser, Liam builds physical and digital instruments to sample and transform the sounds of his collaborators.

Liam is a PhD Candidate in composition at Princeton University and is the Associate Director of the Princeton Laptop Orchestra (PLOrk). He completed a Bachelor of Music in Composition at Acadia University and an MPhil in Music Studies at the University of Cambridge. Liam has participated in several residencies at the Banff Centre for the Arts and has studied composition privately with Anna Thorvaldsdottir and Richard Rijnvos. His work has been performed and exhibited across Canada, as well as in the US, the UK, Germany, and Bulgaria.

Jasperi Wirtanen is filmmaker and composer living in London, England. Much of her work depends on collaborative translation of ideas between mediums, looking at a subject matter from synthesis of film, music, poetry, and performance art with the goal of achieving a more holistic perspective. Within her art, she is often drawn to work which she feels can make a meaningful impact, either through a socially engaged practice or productively exploring a subject she feels passionate about. She’s drawn to anything that can get the public to imagine a better future for themselves and the world or reinterpret the world as it stands. Jasperi co-created *Real Fake Birds* with Sarah McCabe and Liam Elliot in 2020—an experimental film exploring A.I. as a live collaborator and its relation to identity. Jasperi graduated from Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 2020 and has released music under the name SoyGirl and as part of the band Goth Hospital.

BEHROOZ MIHANKHAH

Thursday, January 6th | 7:30PM



Behrooz Mihankhah is an Iranian Canadian composer, pianist, and singer-songwriter based in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Behrooz Mihankhah and his ensemble will be presenting music from his debut album *Lydium*. Inspired by his migrations through Iran, India, and finally to Canada, Behrooz Mihankhah's debut full-length album "*Lydium*" takes impressionist and jazz

compositions and presents them in an Iranian instrumental context. This collection of original and pre-existing pieces fuses musical traditions of the past with contemporary concepts of composition and improvisation.

HERD OF PIANOS FULL-LENGTH FILM SCREENING

Friday, January 7th | 7:30PM



Extraordinary circumstances demand extraordinary art. With the 2020–21 renovation of the Dalhousie Arts Centre, ALL of the university's pianos huddled for shelter in the basement of the Dal Art Gallery. While the jackhammers reworked the building's structure, curator Peter Dykhuis invited Upstream to film multi-piano improvisations by improv piano virtuoso **Tim Crofts** and a

sextet of Halifax's finest pianists performing US composer Steve Reich's *Six Pianos* and Canadian-NZ composer Juliet Palmer's *Circus Dog*. Join us for a deep cinematic dive into a piano experience appropriate for these unprecedented conditions, with pianists **Simon Docking, Jennifer King, Tara Scott, Ian Bent, Mark Morton** and **Megan Thibeault**.

SUGARPLUME

Saturday, January 8th | 2:00PM



Rebecca Fairless, Carmel Farahbakhsh, India Gailey, and Kel Mansaray craft delicately layered soundbaths from the sonorous tones of various objects, stringed instruments, electronics, and vocal sounds. Together they form an aural landscape that is intricately spacious and melodious, with just enough grit.



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Rebecca Fairless, looper

Carmel Farahbakhsh, electric violin

India Gailey, cello

Kel Mansaray, violin

Rebecca Fairless is a music therapist, church musician, and songwriter living in Halifax. During the pandemic lockdown, she started experimenting with her looper pedal, layering voice and acoustic instruments to create meditative soundscapes. Rebecca's improvisations are informed by Gregorian chant, organ drones, the crackle of fire, the purring of cats, and the imagined folk music of outer space. She livestreams on Twitch @ blue_loops_

Carmel Farahbakhsh (Saydah Ruz) is a sound artist, composer, experimental violinist, and performer forever examining how to create multidimensional calls to pleasure inspired by Iranian classical music and queer ritual.

India Gailey is an American Canadian cellist, improviser, and composer who draws from many eras and genres, most often performing in the realms of classical and experimental music. She works as a solo artist, interdisciplinary collaborator, chamber musician, and member of the environmental quartet New Hermitage.

Kelvin Mansaray is a violinist and multi-instrumentalist from K'jipuktuk (Halifax). They work as an accompanying musician with Aquakultre, Michelle Sylliboy, Budi Band, and Surrounded and play an active role in local arts communities at RadStorm, the Creative Music Workshop and beyond.

AZULINE DUO

Saturday, January 8th | 3:00PM



Azuline Duo features award-winning musicians **Sara Traficante** (flute) and **Emma Rush** (guitar). This ensemble pushes the boundaries of their instruments and conventional programming with unusual and rarely heard repertoire, and a dynamic onstage presence that engages the audience from the first note. They tour regularly throughout North America and have a mission to bring live classical music

to rural Canada. Whether up north in the Yukon Territory or down south in Texas, Azuline Duo makes a lasting impression with their innovative performances on both traditional and unexpected stages.

UPSTRINGS

Saturday, January 8th | 8:30PM



Kelvin Mansaray is a violinist and multi-instrumentalist from K'jipuktuk (Halifax). They work as an accompanying musician with Aquakultre, Michelle Sylliboy, Budi Band, and Surrounded and play an active role in local arts communities at RadStorm, the Creative Music Workshop and beyond.

India Gailey (she/they) is a musician—cellist, composer, vocalist, and improviser—who crosses many eras and genres, most often performing the realms of classical and experimental music. She has worked with numerous contemporary composers, including Yaz Lancaster, Philip Glass, Nicole Lizée, and Michael Harrison. India is also member of the environmental quartet New Hermitage,

which recently released their fifth album, *Uneath*, to critical acclaim.

Norman Adams is a cellist the Artistic Director of suddenlyLISTEN Music and an organizer, collaborator and arty adventurer! Norman was Principal Cellist of Symphony Nova Scotia in Halifax, Canada from 1991 to 2017. Norman has been a soloist with SNS, and Les Jeunes Virtuoses de Montréal, and has been guest principal cellist of the

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National Arts Centre Orchestra. His performances have also been heard across the country on CBC Radio and on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Sarah McCabe is a violist originally from Bowmanville Canada, now living in London, England. Sarah specializes in the performance of new music, premièring many compositions by young composers on both sides of the Atlantic. She finds it incredibly fulfilling to be part of the birth of new pieces.

Lukas Pearse is a bassist who has worked with many of Halifax's most creative musicians across diverse genres for over 30 years. His love of both original and traditional music, and especially improvised music of all sorts, ensure that his ears are kept open wide. Balanced with his award-winning work as a film composer and sound designer, and as a video artist, Lukas is Artistic Director of the Upstream Music Association.

STRATA

Sunday, January 9th | 1:00PM



Strata is a duo of sound artists meeting in the fissure between music and noise. Strata combines cello, modular synthesis, processing, and objects to communicate a rare language formed from texture, pitch, scratch and hum. The message is listening and cooperation, while the negotiation is complex and very human.

The Re:Grain Project is an iteration of Strata, working with magnetic tape and digital granulator as a duo. Re:Grain carries the Strata ideal of performative "live installation" to a greater extreme. For Re:Grain Norm and Brandon are recording samples from OWF22 concerts to use as the source material for a long improvisation.

Brandon Auger is an artist, improviser and structural builder based in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Working with sound as a medium, his minimalistic work promotes the amplification of electronic idiosyncrasies and vibrational nuances in both acoustic and synthetic environments.

Along with being an active member of suddenlyLISTEN and the improvising community in Canada, Auger's main project pnl(a), has been a 20+ year study of tape/electronic music having released 7 albums to date. Brandon is also one half of the microsound group Strata and the founder of Northern Apparatus, an improvising trio with Andrew MacKelvie and Danielle Jakubiak.

He has also worked greatly with members of Mocean Dance and Kinetic Studios, fusing his approach to sound with various choreographers in both compositional and improvised constructs. His compositions, installations, live performances and collaborative projects have spanned across both Canada and the U.S.

Norman Adams is the Artistic Director of suddenlyLISTEN Music, and is a cellist, organizer, teacher and creator. Norm is a former Principal Cellist of Symphony Nova Scotia (1991–2018), has been guest Principal Cellist of the National Arts Centre Orchestra, and has performed chamber, new and improvised music throughout Canada, the US, Europe and the UK, (most recently at La Biennale di Venezia 2018).

Norman's passion is creating, performing and presenting new, improvised and electronic music. Through this work he has had opportunities to collaborate with many leading artists including Joëlle Léandre, Gerry Hemingway, Eddie Prévost, Lawrence Casserley, Pauline Oliveros, Sam Shalabi and Marilyn Crispell.

Norm currently performs and tours with Strata (with Brandon Auger), Chimera (with Francois Houle and Tim Crofts), Collateral (with Sam Shalabi and Tim Crofts) and Augmented Celli (with Nicola Baroni). He is also frequently heard with pianist Barbara Pritchard and fellow cellist India Gailey. normanadams.ca

UP IN THE AIR REDUX

Sunday, January 9th | 8:00PM



Upstream Music and **Breaking Circus** collaborate for Open Waters this year to continue their exploration of Up in the Air, a circus and music improvisational performance.

A series of short contemporary circus and improvisational music performances, featuring artists from a broad range of artistic backgrounds joining together to explore the idea of "The Unknown" in movement and sound.

Featuring: musicians **Linshan Sui, Mohammad Sahraei, Lukas Pearse, Evan Syliboy, Taral Naik, India Gailey, Ellen Gibling, Jacques Mindreau, and Ross Burns** with circus artists **Ryan Gray, Dawn Shepherd, Jayden Gigliotti, Aiyana Graham, and Kura Broadnax.**

CARL MAYOTTE TRIO

Sunday, January 9th | 9:00PM



Carl Mayotte and his group deliver a magical concert where solos and virtuoso flights of fancy follow one another like some kind of action film, keeping you on the edge of your seat, wide awake and alert. One of the main aims of this young jazzman is to democratize jazz by creating a concert where communication and the exchange of energy with the audience are fundamental. Sometimes complex, melodic, or even nostalgic, the music played by Radio-Canada's 2020 Révélation Jazz and his band is guaranteed to leave no one unmoved.




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Grand winner of the title Révélation Jazz Radio-Canada 2020-2021, **Carl Mayotte** is one of the most popular young bassists and jazzmen in Quebec and Canada at the moment. In 2019, he released his first album Fantosme, co-produced by the legendary Michel Cusson, which allowed him to travel throughout Quebec and to receive several invitations to go and play in France and Africa. He is also the recipient of the 2019 Rimouski Jazz Festival's emerging talent. He released in 2021 his new album: Pop de Ville Vol. 1. An elegy to car drive and city pop, a Japanese style of music.

Francis Grégoire (francis.grgoire@gmail.com) is a pianist and keyboardist from the Island of Orleans. He holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in music, jazz / pop interpretation, from Laval University, where he was able to learn from excellent and recognized jazz pianists such as Jean-François Lambert and Rafael Zaldivar. Francis works primarily in the musical field as a stage and studio musician, composer, arranger and teacher. Versatile musician, his musical interests oscillate between jazz, classical, pop, rock and even metal. He also co-founded the progressive rock / metal band Universe Effects, with whom he composed and co-produced two albums. He is also a keyboardist with the Carl Mayotte Fusion Quintet. Francis has also acted as Music Director and keyboardist of Prog Story, a British progressive rock music review show from the 1970s. He is currently working on composing original works with a view to producing and releasing a first solo album.

Internationally recognized as a drummer, clinician, educator and author, **Stéphane Chamberland** (global2steph@icloud.com) studied at the Conservatoire de musique de Québec and then in private lessons with Dom Famularo, Jim Chapin, Paul Brochu as well as at the Manhattan School of Music with John Riley and Bobby Sanabria. Stéphane works as a freelance drummer, accompanying groups and artists on tour and in the studio. To date, he has presented hundreds of drum clinics and master classes in the United States, Canada, Taiwan, Europe, Brazil as well as China. His interest in music writing and education led him to become active in the publishing world. Co-author of The Weaker Side, Drumset Duets and Pedal Control books. He regularly writes for Modern Drummer, Canadian Musician and Percussive Notes. Several other articles were also written and published in Drums Etc and Classic Drummer Magazines.

Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCsjTKWlw6A>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51kXo2BZPsQ>

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## COLLECTION : RECOLLECTION

Monday, January 10th | 4:30PM



This piece is available as a self-guided experience throughout the festival, but there will be a guided tour at 4:30 on Monday, January 10th.

### App is in the App Store and Google Play:

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<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/collection-recollection/id1602523742>

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<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.collectionrecollection.app>

Everything is on their website:

<https://www.collectionrc.com/>

**Collection : Recollection** is an augmented reality sound installation which maps 3D objects and surround soundscapes to the Quinpool / Windsor Quad in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where St. Patrick's school used to stand. Built on GPS-based AR technology, users see and hear AR augmentations (both visual and sound) which are mapped to the field, and the soundscape they hear alters based on their positioning as they walk through the field. The concept for the piece is centered on how machines and AI perceive the world differently than humans, as well as incorporating elements of time-shift, memory, and human/machine perception. Questions we are interested in investigating are as follows: How would machines experience a changing and evolving city? How is that different from human perception? How do these things interact? Does collecting and recollecting sound and image bring us closer to or further away from the environment? Machines help us perceive and remember things that may be lost or forgotten, but how do they translate human memories?

Visuals: Despo Sophocleous / Audio: Danielle Jakubiak / Programming: Amy Brandon

**Danielle Jakubiak** is a registered counseling and music therapist. She completed a Masters of Music Therapy (Concordia University) and a Masters of Ethnomusicology (University of Glasgow). She has taught at Acadia University and currently runs a private practice called Tin Drum Therapy, focused on adult mental health in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She also performs solo as and with improvisational and experimental music groups and has organized a seasonal music event called Bleep in the Dark. She has a particular interest in sound environments and field recording.

Born in Nova Scotia, **Despo Sophocleous** holds a BA Major in Philosophy and Minor in Anthropology from Cape Breton University and a BFA in Jewellery Design and Metalsmithing from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University. In 2008, she moved to Germany to pursue graduate studies at the Munich Academy of Fine Arts which she completed in 2015. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, featured in publications and can be found in the permanent collections of the Pinakothek der Moderne Museum (Germany), the CODA Museum (Netherlands)

and the Pureun Culture Foundation (South Korea). She is the recipient of several awards, including the Charlotte Wilson-Hammond / Visual Arts of Nova Scotia Award and the Lieutenant Governor Award from the Nova Scotia Talent Trust, the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst Graduate Scholarship (DAAD), the Herbert Hofmann Prize (Munich), and has received support for her work from the Canada Council for the Arts. Notions of time, place and movement are important themes throughout her practice, and fundamental to these investigations is the body. She creates jewellery to express and examine these ideas, and an important part of her creative process also involves moving into other directions and back to jewellery again. Walking, drawing, and altering maps, documenting and working with found materials and photographs, altogether these explorations allow her to engage directly with her surroundings and jewellery brings this research back to the body, the place where these explorations intersect and inform one another.

Composer and guitarist **Amy Brandon's** pieces have been described as "...gut wrenching and horrific" (Critipeg), and "otherworldly, a clashing of bleakness with beauty" (Minor Seventh). Her performances, installations and acoustic works have been presented at the Gaudeamus Festival (Screen Dive), National Sawdust (NYC), Trinity College (Dublin), the mise-en Festival, and the Winnipeg New Music Festival. She has received Canadian and international composition awards and honourable mentions including the Leo Brouwer Guitar Composition Competition (Grand Prize 2019) and a JACK Studio Artist commission. In addition to performance and composition, she is completing an interdisciplinary PhD examining augmented reality, motor control and guitar performance at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

## ALKALI COLLECTIVE

Monday, January 10th | 8:30PM



**Alkali Collective** is a new, artist-led ensemble dedicated to the creation, performance, documentation, and educational outreach of 21st-century music. This collective is open to musical and interdisciplinary projects spanning all artistic genres. We provide a voice for music concerning cultural, environmental, and political issues. We are an equitable group that invites all to create, appreciate and explore new art.

Alkali Collective is flexible in size and instrumentation, enabling us to meet the ever-changing needs of a contemporary performing ensemble. It is our mandate as a new music collective to be a driving force in the commissioning of new art and to be a platform for the voices of emerging composers to be heard. Our performances highlight both new and established composers as well as interdisciplinary artists from Nova Scotia, Canada, and abroad.

**Jack Chen**, flute: [iflutist@gmail.com](mailto:iflutist@gmail.com)  
**Jacob Caines**, bass clarinet: [jacob.caines@gmail.com](mailto:jacob.caines@gmail.com)  
**Andrew MacKelvie**, saxophone: [mackelvie.andrew@gmail.com](mailto:mackelvie.andrew@gmail.com)  
**Shauna DeGruchy**, trombone: [info@shaunadegruchy.com](mailto:info@shaunadegruchy.com)  
**Charna Matsushige**, violin: [charna.matsushige@gmail.com](mailto:charna.matsushige@gmail.com)  
**India Gailey**, cello: [india.y.gailey@gmail.com](mailto:india.y.gailey@gmail.com)  
**Megan Thibeault**, piano: [megthibeault@gmail.com](mailto:megthibeault@gmail.com)  
**François-Xavier Leroy**, percussion: [fx26leroy@gmail.com](mailto:fx26leroy@gmail.com)

## THE BONAFIDE TROMBONE QUARTET

Tuesday, January 11th | 8:30PM



New-Nova Scotian trombonists Tom Richards and Jill Stella join with Halifax's jazz trombone luminary Andrew Jackson and rising new music trombonist Shauna DeGurchy. Each brings a substantial yet very distinct trombone pedigree, and their combined forces promise a powerful low-brass-kicking.

**Jill Stella Richards** is a freelance trombonist, vocalist and marketing strategist. She graduated from Humber

College with a Bachelor's Degree in Music & Trombone Performance and has studied Sound Therapy at the Transformational Arts College. She has performed with bands in Toronto (before moving to Nova Scotia in 2021), including: Christine Duncan's Element Choir, The Woodshed Orchestra, Chelsea McBride's The Socialist Night School Big Band and many more. She's honoured to collaborate with so many incredible humans.

**Tom Richards** is a musician with a kaleidoscopic range of work. A low-brass specialist, pianist, composer, conductor, and producer, Tom performs with dozens of active projects and has recorded on well over a hundred records. As far as anyone can tell, Tom thoroughly enjoys life as a musician. A few highlights include performing and recording with the likes of The Human Rights, Roscoe Mitchell, Ron Sexsmith, Gregory Stafford, The Heavyweights Brass Band, Kevin Breit, Ben Caplan, Bruno Capinan, Friendly Rich, David Braid, The Wooden Sky, The Hidden Cameras, Rheostatics, Spoon, The Massey Hall Band, The Australian Art Orchestra, Theatre Columbus, Soulpepper Theatre, Kairo, Stoney, Jessie Reyetz, and Communism. Tom is the composer and producer of Unfolding River, a series of 81 compositions based on the Tao te Ching.

**Andrew Jackson** is an acclaimed Juno-nominated, ECMA award winning, trombonist and composer based in Halifax, Nova Scotia. His versatility and unique sound have made him one of the Maritimes first-call players. He is an artist constantly exploring new sounds and not afraid to blend genres.

**Shauna DeGruchy** is a Halifax-based trombonist who frequently performs as a soloist and in collaboration to create and present new music and interdisciplinary works. She is

a founding member and co-artistic director of contemporary chamber ensemble Alkali Collective.

## CARLOS MORAS AND FRIENDS

Wednesday, January 12th | 7:30PM



**Carlos A. Mora Baez** is an innovative and passionate musician trained in jazz, classical and popular music styles. Originally from Cuba, Carlos has over 20 years of experience performing for a variety of international audiences as a soloist as well as in groups and orchestras.

He now calls Halifax home, where he often plays with Persian-fusion group Open Borders, but here will present original and jazz compositions.

**Geordie Haley** - guitar

**Matt Gallant** - drums

**Lukas Pearse** - Bass

## THE UPSTREAM QUINTET WITH GUEST TOM RICHARDS

Wednesday, January 12th | 8:30PM



Performing this concert with **Matt Gallant** (Drums), **Geordie Haley** (Guitar), **Dawn Hatfield** (Woodwinds), and **Lukas Pearse** (Bass).

Upstream Music Association has a long history of inventing and reinventing ensembles, drawing upon both longtime members and drawing in new musicians on the scene. This 2022 Festival edition of the Upstream Quintet features new-Nova Scotian trombonist-composer Tom Richards

and scene stalwart Matt Gallant alongside some of Halifax's key creative improvisors Geordie Haley, Dawn Hatfield and Lukas Pearse, presenting a mixture of new and original compositions with unpredictable improvisations from this magical combination.

**Tom Richards** is a musician with a kaleidoscopic range of work. A low-brass specialist, pianist, composer, conductor, and producer, Tom performs with dozens of active projects and has recorded on well over a hundred records. Tom Richards brings his composer's approach to the trombone, drawing on his ample experience in both the improvised and brass band worlds.

**Matthew Gallant** has been playing drums and percussion for 25 years. As a musician in Halifax, he has worked with many great artists including Erin Costello, Amilia Curran,

Ben Caplan, Adam Baldwin, Dave Sampson, Krasnogorsk and The Brood. Matthew is a session musician, independent artist, music instructor at Long & McQuade, Dartmouth.

**Dawn Hatfield** – baritone sax, flute She has been the anchoring voice of many eastcoast ensembles including Upstream, Cocada, Shirley Jackson, Frank MacKay, and The Back Alley Big Band. Her desire to venture into many musical styles had made her a versatile musician, capable of going from theatre to nightclub with ease. Her own compositions reflect her wide range of musical interests.

**Geordie Haley:** Guitarist, Composer, Improviser has been a featured Artist with new music presenters 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 regularly collaborates with dancers and has played in the pit bands for Neptune Theatre, New Brunswick and Canadian Stage. As an accompanist Geordie has worked with Chrstine Duncan, Tena Palmer, Tanya Tagaq, Loiose Pitre and Measha Brueggergosman. As a leader Geordie has 6 albums of original music.

**Lukas Pearce** is a bassist who has worked with many of Halifax's most creative musicians across diverse genres for over 30 years. His love of both original and traditional music, and especially improvised music of all sorts, ensure that his ears are kept open wide. Balanced with his award-winning work as a film composer and sound designer, and as a video artist, Lukas is Artistic Director of the Upstream Music Association.

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## THE DROME TRIO

Thursday, January 13th | 9:00PM



The concert will consist of pieces from Palindrome Series #1 and Palindrome Series #2 from 2020. These pieces started as graphic scores that are played forwards then backwards creating the palindrome. They were then reinterpreted into conventional music notation and arranged into larger compositions that are linked together with improvisations, both structured and non-structured. The resulting music allows

for an organic flow to guide the pieces to different places each time they are performed.

**Michael Formanek** – Double Bass and Compositions

**Chet Doxas** – Tenor and Soprano Saxophones, Clarinet

**Vinnie Sperrazza** – Drums

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