

# Canadian New Music Network

## Réseau canadien pour les musiques nouvelles



CNMN - Bulletin - April 2008

Notes from your CNMN president, Tim Brady

- 1 - CBC Radio Orchestra Closure
- 2 - Election
- 3 - FORUM - May 2008 - Toronto
- 4 - Membership
- 5 - Chapelle historique victory
- 6 - CBC Composers' Project
- 7 - Canada Council Commissioning
- 8 - FORUM - February 2009 - Montréal

### 1 - CBC Radio Orchestra Closure

On March 27 CBC Radio 2 announced it was closing the CBC Radio Orchestra, based in Vancouver. This is a very bad sign for CBC Radio 2's commitment to creative music, as the CBC Radio Orchestra has been an important vehicle for new music for many years. There are also conflicting signals about what will happen to the money - some say it will go to other orchestras, other say it will go into general CBC funds (meaning less for creative concert music).

The CNMN has begun working with the Canadian League of Composers and the Vancouver-based Alliance for the Arts to push for meetings with high level officials at the CBC and at Heritage Canada to discuss what this means, to get CBC Radio 2 to revisit its position on the Radio Orchestra and other cuts, and to discuss creating a long-term, viable solution for the dissemination of creative concert music making in Canada.

We are reacting quickly, and hope to have meetings within weeks in order to underscore the urgency of this problem. In the mean time: WRITE the President of the CBC, WRITE your member of Parliament! Tell them: Creative Concert Music matters to Canadians; the

Canadian public needs access to a wide diversity of musical expression which includes the whole range of creative concert music. The CBC Radio Orchestra is an important part of this artistic diversity and must be reinstated.

Web links:

<http://savecbcorchestra.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=10103441879>

### 2 - ELECTION

Elections for the CNMN board of directors are on-going until May 1 (members eligible for voting should have received a ballot via e-mail by now). 9 candidates were acclaimed, and there are 4 candidates running for the 3 positions in Ontario.

Please make sure you fill out and mail in your ballot by May 1.

### 3 - FORUM 2008 - May 24 and 25, Toronto

This is going to be an amazing event, with international guests *Graham Mckenzie* (Huddersfield Festival), *Jarko Aikens* (Muziekgebouw, Amsterdam) and *David Lang* (Bang on a Can Festival). Many of Canada's top new music presenters, ensembles, players and creators will also be there.

You should have received the brochure for this event via email.

A registration form is included in the brochure, and it is only \$55 for members before May 9, or \$65 from May 10. Payment is made to Soundstreams Canada.

# Canadian New Music Network

---

## Réseau canadien pour les musiques nouvelles



Funding for the project has been confirmed thanks to the Canada Council and the SOCAN Foundation, so everything is on track for another successful FORUM. The Cool Drumming and soundaXis festivals are also taking place, so there will be lots of new music after the meetings.

#### **4 - MEMBERSHIP**

Our March 2008 membership drive continues, under the guidance of our membership administrator Emily Hall. Cheques and credit card membership dues are coming in, but please try to do this by May so we can have the best possible showing for the FORUM in Toronto.

The more members we have, the more people like the CBC President and the Heritage Minister will take us seriously - it is a numbers game to a considerable extent. Encourage your fellow music creators to consider becoming a member, or consider upgrade from free member to voting member. When the CBC starts doing things like cutting the Radio Orchestra, we see that a strong voice for Creative Concert Music in Canada is needed, and we hope the CNMN can be an important part of that voice. But we need your support.

#### **5 - CHAPELLE HISTORIQUE: VICTORY!!**

##### **A huge victory in Montréal shows the power of arts activism.**

In early March, the Service de la culture de la Ville de Montréal announced it would stop funding concerts at the Chapelle historique du Bon-Pasteur, Montréal's "maison de la culture" devoted to music. It is a place where all Montrealers, regardless of economic ability, can enjoy amazing free concerts of classical, jazz, world, and new music. Anyone who knows

Montreal knows what an amazing cultural resources this is for musicians and for all Montrealers. Marie-Chantal Leclair, artistic director of the Quasar Saxophone quartet (CNMN member), was so annoyed that she decided to "fight City Hall". She, in collaboration with the Conseil québécois de la musique, organized a public meeting within 3 days, and a meeting with the Mayor within 6 days. The media followed the protest very keenly - radio, TV, newspapers, and a Facebook page.

Within 10 days this coalition got the City of Montreal to reverse its decision and to reinstate the programming budget of the Chapelle historique! This is fantastic news from Montreal music makers and music lovers, and we owe a debt of gratitude to Ms. Leclair for her exceptional leadership on this issue. It also shows that well organized action can work. It is a lesson we are now going to have to apply to the more complex CBC situation.

#### **6 - CBC COMPOSERS' PROJECT**

For the past year and a half, CNMN has been in discussions with CBC about creating a new format for the now "invisible" CBC Young Composers' Competition. Discussions have been progressing and, in theory, a new project will be announced in the fall of 2008.

However, the potential discussions over the CBC Radio Orchestra may cause some friction on this account. However, the two projects are in no way related and we hope to continue having positive discussions with CBC Radio 2 about this composers' project.

# Canadian New Music Network

## Réseau canadien pour les musiques nouvelles



### **7 - CANADA COUNCIL COMMISSIONING PROGRAMME**

Over the past several years, there has been considerable grumbling both on the part of composers and ensembles about how the Canada Council Music Commissioning programme works. Recently, Marie-Chantal Leclair (yes, the one who helped save the Chapelle!) has spoken to me of wanting to organise an ad-hoc working group of ensembles who are dissatisfied with aspects of the programme in order to try to find a solution.

If this plan goes ahead, the CNMN will be contacting all members about this idea in late April. We encourage you to consider what your involvement might be.

### **8 - FORUM 2009, Montreal - Feb. 19-21, part of the SMCQ's MNM Festival: The Future for Creative Music: Education and Beyond**

Plans are underway for our biggest, most ambitious FORUM ever in 2009, in collaboration with the SMCQ's Montréal Nouvelles Musiques Festival and the 50th Anniversary of the Canadian Music Centre. The theme will be creative music and music education.

Our goal: every Canadian child should have the experience of composing, improvising and playing music at school as part of their curriculum (after we accomplish that, we'll solve the Middle East Crisis, stop Global Warming, etc....)

We are going to be working with all of Canada's music education associations for this project, as

well as music educators from the international world. We are also going to make connections with the 13 different Ministries of Education and Culture (all provinces and territories), federal officials, as well as orchestras, new music ensembles, and many individual artists.

The plan is for a 3-day event of very intense meetings and workshops, leading to a document and process that truly puts creative music education into the Canadian school system for the long term.

Tim Brady - president - CNMN  
*The creation of this Bulletin was funded  
in part by the SOCAN Foundation.*

*The creation of this Bulletin was funded  
in part by the SOCAN Foundation.*

FONDATION  
**SOCANI**  
FOUNDATION