

**School of Music**  
**Faculty of Fine Arts**  
University of Victoria

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**University  
of Victoria**  
School of  
Music

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UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA • SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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# ORION SERIES IN FINE ARTS

*presents*

## *Music That Speaks*

**Robyn Driedger-Klassen, soprano**  
&  
**Terence Dawson, piano**

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**Monday, February 15, 2016 • 8:00 p.m.**

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

MacLaurin Building, University of Victoria

Free admission

# **P R O G R A M**

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**Listen** (2013/2014)

Kevin Morse  
(b. 1980)

**De Profundis** (1992)

Frederic Rzewski  
(b. 1938)

Terence Dawson, piano

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## INTERMISSION

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**At the Statue of Venus** (2005)

Jake Heggie (b. 1961)

Text: Terrence McNally (b. 1938)

Robyn Driedger-Klassen, soprano

Terence Dawson, piano

## PROGRAM NOTES

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*Listen* is dedicated to Mr. Lowell Wood, an extremely skilled piano technician who, for over 40 years, maintained the pianos in the Department of Music at Mount Allison University, NB. Lowell took care of concert, school and home instruments all over the Maritime provinces for the length of his remarkable career.

Beginning with a series of repeated notes, the composition evokes the recognition of the procedure a technician adopts while listening to the temperament and sonority of various notes during a tuning. The listener is drawn into this repetition and expansion of pitch class, gradually focusing more on the emerging melodic and harmonic content. In choosing this piece, my hope is that it will prepare you for a kind of deep listening that will enhance your experience of the more extended work that follows: Frederic Rzewski's *De Profundis*.

*De Profundis* has been described as a 'melodramatic oratorio', in which the pianist recites text consisting of portions of Oscar Wilde's letter (*De Profundis*) to Lord Alfred Douglas ('Bosie'), which was written during the author's imprisonment in Reading Gaol. There, Wilde served a two-year sentence of hard labour in solitary confinement. Eight sections of rhythmically notated recitation are preceded by eight preludes, with the pianist directed to perform simultaneously as speaker, singer, whistler, and percussionist.

The composer says of *De Profundis*: "The music demands a combination of virtuoso technique and a total lack of inhibition on stage, thus virtually guaranteeing that no mediocre or conventional performer will dare to go near it."

Frederic Rzewski has taught throughout North America and Europe, including The Liège Conservatory in Belgium, The Conservatory of Den Haag, and The Yale School of Music. Many of Rzewski's compositions contain an underlying political commentary, and give musical expression to relevant social issues.

T. Dawson

*At The Statue of Venus* was inspired by the great concert scenes of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Britten. An attractive woman waits in a museum by a statue of the Goddess of Love to meet a man she has never seen. Her thoughts and emotions are a jumble of hope, uncertainty and self-doubt. Will he like her? Will she like him? Why did she — a proudly successful

modern woman, probably divorced — allow her friends to convince her that they found a Mister Right for her? We all know that Mr. Right doesn't exist — or does he? Nothing ventured, nothing gained. To be willing to be judged by another person — does anything make us more vulnerable but human, too?

We identified with Rose. We hope you will too.

J. Heggie and T. McNally

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Terence Dawson, piano**

British-born, Canadian pianist Terence Dawson has firmly established himself as one of British Columbia's most respected and versatile musicians. His reputation has resulted in repeat engagements from coast to coast across Canada, as well as in the USA, England and Asia. His many performances have garnered critical acclaim: "lucid" (Globe and Mail), "stunning" (Vancouver Sun), and possessing "trademark elegance and technical flair" (Georgia Straight).

He has appeared as concerto soloist with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, National Arts Centre Orchestra, CBC Curio Ensemble, and is the pianist of choice for numerous artists and ensembles. He has performed for the Ottawa Chamber Music Society, Vetta Chamber Music, The Coast Recital Society, Music on Main, The VSO Chamber Players, The Vancouver Chamber Choir, Phoenix Chamber Choir, and as a touring duo with both the Reside/ Dawson Duo and soprano Robyn Driedger-Klassen. His performances this season will include a series of solo recitals which feature Rzewski's *De Profundis* at universities and colleges from Vancouver Island to New Brunswick.

A dedicated teacher, Dr. Dawson has been invited to lecture, adjudicate and conduct master classes at many educational institutions, National Conferences of The Canadian Federation of Music Teachers and for their affiliated branches, The Canadian Music Competition and the Canada Council. He is a founding faculty member of the Vancouver International Song Institute and was in residence at the inaugural VSO Summer Institute at Whistler in 2015.

His graduate piano studies were with the lauded Canadian pianist, Jane Coop. Since 1991, he has taught piano and chamber music at the University of British Columbia, and in 2011 was appointed Chair of the Keyboard Division, succeeding his principal teacher.

## Robyn Driedger-Klassen, soprano

Robyn Driedger-Klassen has a passion for the performance of contemporary vocal repertoire. Some of her favourite living composers whose works she has performed include Leslie Uyeda, David McIntyre, Jeffrey Ryan, Jocelyn Morlock, Jake Heggie, Tom Cipullo, Kaaija Saariaho, Libby Larsen, Brian Current and Ana Sokolovic. This is an exciting time to be working with North American composers and Robyn is thrilled to make their songs come alive. Recently, The Georgia Straight said of her performance at the Modulus Festival of Kaija Saariaho's *Lonh*:

*Robyn Driedger-Klassen also excelled on the duet for soprano and electronics. We knew she was a powerhouse singer, but her nakedly emotional and unadorned reading of 12th-century poet Jaufré Rudel's Occitan text revealed another and arguably lovelier dimension to her voice.*

However, she will always make time to sing Mozart, Schubert, Britten or Richard Strauss!

Robyn is the Head of Voice at the Vancouver Academy of Music and is on the core faculty of the Vancouver International Song Institute. Robyn loves books, geraniums, hikes, canoes, cups of tea and a clean house. Robyn lives with her husband and two vocal critics under the age of five. She can bake a wicked loaf of bread and in recent times has learned a considerable amount about monster trucks, fast cars and dinosaurs.



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# ENSEMBLE SERIES

**SPRING 2016**

## ORCHESTRA

Ajtony Csaba, conductor  
University Centre Farquhar Auditorium | \$15/\$10/\$5

**Friday, January 29 • 8pm**

*Ch'io mi scordi di te?*: Strauss, Beethoven & Mozart  
With Samuel McNally, horn & Kelsey Wheatley, soprano  
(UVic Concerto Competition Winners)

## WIND SYMPHONY

Dr. Gerald King and Lt. Matthew Clark, conductors  
University Centre Farquhar Auditorium | \$15/\$10/\$5

**Friday, February 5 • 8pm**

*Winds of Change*: Mussorgsky & Giroux  
With the Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy

## CHORUS & ORCHESTRA

Adam Con & Ajtony Csaba, conductors  
University Centre Farquhar Auditorium | \$15/\$10/\$5

**Saturday, March 5 • 8pm**

*Duruflé Requiem & Shostakovich Symphony No. 5*

## WOMEN'S CHOIR

Susan Young, director  
St. Aidan's United Church (3703 St. Aidan's) | By donation

**Saturday, March 12 • 2:30pm**

*Of Spring and Eastertide*: Pergolesi *Stabat Mater*

## JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Dr. Patrick Boyle, director  
Phillip T. Young Recital Hall | \$15/\$10

**Saturday, March 12 • 8pm**

## WIND SYMPHONY

Dr. Gerald King, conductor  
University Centre Farquhar Auditorium | \$15/\$10/\$5

**Friday, March 18 • 8pm**

*Year End Spectacular*: Grainger, Wiedoeft & more!

## SONIC LAB

Ajtony Csaba, conductor  
Phillip T. Young Recital Hall | By donation

**Saturday, March 19 • 8pm**

*Hout*: Kurtág, Hall, Andriessen

## DON WRIGHT SYMPHONIC WINDS

Dr. Michael Keddy, conductor  
University Centre Farquhar Auditorium | \$15/\$10/\$5

**Thursday, March 31 • 8pm**

*Back to the Future*

## ORCHESTRA

Ajtony Csaba, conductor  
University Centre Farquhar Auditorium | \$15/\$10/\$5

**Saturday, April 2 • 8pm**

*Mythologic Zoo*: Debussy, Tchaikovsky & Bartók

## VOCAL JAZZ

Wendell Clanton, director  
Phillip T. Young Recital Hall | By donation

**Sunday, April 3 • 8pm**

*Spring Showcase: Dreams I Left Behind*



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Tickets available at the UVic Ticket Centre (250-721-8480), online ([www.tickets.uvic.ca](http://www.tickets.uvic.ca)) and at the door.

For concerts in the Farquhar Auditorium:

**FREE** tickets available for UVic students if reserved in advance, or \$5 at the door.

More information at: **250-721-8634** | [finearts.uvic.ca/music/events](http://finearts.uvic.ca/music/events)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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Tuesday, February 16, 12:30 p.m. (Admission by donation)

## **TUESDAYMUSIC**

Take an afternoon break to enjoy a concert of varied repertoire and instruments featuring School of Music students.

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

Friday, February 19, 12:30 p.m. (Admission by donation)

## **FRIDAYMUSIC**

Featuring School of Music woodwind students in a concert of varied repertoire.

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

Friday, February 19, 8:00 p.m. (Adults \$18 / Seniors, students & alumni \$14)

## **FACULTY CONCERT SERIES: Bruce Vogt, piano**

Internationally celebrated pianist Bruce Vogt performs the late sonatas of Ludwig van Beethoven.

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

Saturday, February 20, 2:30 p.m. (Admission by donation)

## **PIANO CLASS RECITAL**

Featuring students from the studio of Arthur Rowe.

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

Saturday, February 20, 8:00 p.m. (Admission by donation)

## **PIANO CLASS RECITAL**

Featuring students from the studio of Eva Solar-Kinderman.

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

Sunday, February 21, 2:00 p.m. (Admission by donation)

## **CLARINET CLASS RECITAL**

Featuring students from the studio of Patricia Kostek accompanied by members of the piano class.

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

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Tickets available at the UVic Ticket Centre (250-721-8480),  
online ([www.tickets.uvic.ca](http://www.tickets.uvic.ca)) and at the door.

To receive our *On the Pulse* brochure and newsletter  
by email, contact: [concert@uvic.ca](mailto:concert@uvic.ca)



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