

Orion Series in Fine Arts presents

COREY HAMM

PIANO

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024 | 8 PM

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall, MacLaurin Building
University of Victoria
Free admission

PROGRAM

Realignments (2023)*	Taylor Brook (b. 1985)
Puri Saren Agung (2021)*	Claude Lapalme
Ephemera, Echoes, Toccata (from Five)	Dorothy Chang (b. 1970)
Ether (1996)	Ronn Yedidia (b. 1960)

INTERMISSION

Sixth Political Agenda (2022)*	Michael Finnissy (b. 1946)
Avenoir (2022)*	John Psathas (b. 1966)
Scherzo (from Sonata No. 2, Op. 54) (1989)	Nikolai Kapustin (1937–2020)

**Written for Corey Hamm*

We acknowledge and respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

BIOGRAPHY

Pianist **Corey Hamm** has established a unique musical profile performing widely in North America and in Asia as both soloist and chamber musician. His CD of Frederic Rzewski's hour-long solo piano epic *The People United Will Never Be Defeated!* (Redshift Records) won Spotify's Best Classical Recording 2014, and Best Classical Recording at the 2014 Western Canadian Music Awards. He has performed the work over 80 times all over the world. Corey Hamm's extensive work in the 1990s with the great French composer Henri Dutilleux will come to fruition in his plan to record Dutilleux's complete works for solo piano and chamber with piano in the near future. Among his other recording plans are CDs of solo works written for Corey by Michael Finnissy, Frederic Rzewski, John Psathas, Alice Pingyee Ho, Adam Zolty, Claude Lapalme, Keith Hamel, Jocelyn Morlock, Jordan Nobles, Dorothy Chang, Ronn Yedidia, and Duncan Maunders, and a CD with Nu:BC.

Corey Hamm has commissioned, premiered and recorded over four hundred works by composers from all over the world. These commissions have been for solo piano, chamber music, and concerti. His most extensive collection of commissioned works includes over 80 pieces for PEP (Piano and Erhu Project) with whom he has toured China. To date the composers for the project come from China, Canada, UK, and the United States, and include Michael Finnissy, GAO Ping, Brian Cherney, among many others. The result is a new and flourishing catalogue of works for piano and erhu composed in the musical languages of the 21st century. PEP has released some of these works on their PEP CDs, Vols. 1, 2, and 3 (Redshift). Volume 2 was nominated for Best Classical Recording at the 2015 Western Canadian Music Awards.

Corey has commissioned over 50 works for The Nu:BC Collective and for Hammerhead Consort (two piano and two percussion). As pianist for The Nu:BC Collective he has released the critically acclaimed CD *Beyond Shadows* (Redshift), and as a founding member of Hammerhead Consort, he received the 1993 Sir Ernest Macmillan Memorial Foundation Chamber Music Award, and was winner of the 1992 National Chamber Music Competition.

In recent years, Corey Hamm has studied, recorded and toured one of the great piano works of the last decades, Frederic Rzewski's monumental hour-long solo piano epic, *The People United Will Never Be Defeated!*. This work, made up of a theme and 36 variations, has been recorded by a small number of pianists including Marc-André Hamelin, Ursula Oppens, and Stephen Drury. Frederic Rzewski received Corey Hamm's interpretation as one of the finest to date. "Excellent! Bravo! This may be the best recording."

Corey Hamm premiered Dorothy Chang's PEP Double Concerto for erhu and piano soloists, *Gateways*, with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (VSO), and was soloist in the World Premiere of Jordan Nobles' Piano Concerto with Bramwell Tovey and the VSO. He gave the World Premiere of Howard Bashaw's Concerto for Two Pianos and Percussion with conductor Grzegorz Nowak and the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, and has recent and upcoming performances of Prokofiev's Piano Concertos 2 and 3, Rachmaninoff's Piano Concertos 2 and 3, Bartok's Piano Concerto 2, Lutoslawski's Piano Concerto, Ravel's *Piano Concerto for the Left Hand*, Faure's *Fantasia Op. 111*, and Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

Dr. Hamm is Professor of Piano at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, where he was awarded the prestigious Killam Teaching Award, and the Dorothy Somerset Award for Artistic Excellence. He is on the Piano Faculty of the Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice (SICPP) at the New England Conservatory (NEC) in Boston, MusicFest Perugia (MFP) in Italy, and the Great Lakes International School of Music (GLISM). His beloved teachers include Lydia Artymiw, Marek Jablonski, Stéphane Lemelin, Ernesto Lejano, and Thelma Johannes O'Neill.

Dr. Hamm has given masterclasses, lectures, and recitals at the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory in Singapore, NYU, New England Conservatory, Rotterdam Conservatory of Music, Carpi Music Festival, Beijing Capitol Normal University, Central Conservatory of China, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Sichuan Conservatory of Music, Wuhan University, Soochow University, Washington University, Roosevelt University, McGill University, University of Toronto, Glenn Gould School, among many others.