HOUSE PROGRAMME

CROW'S presents SOUNDSTREAMS

ELECTRIC MESSIAH

Stage director Rob Kempson | Music director Adam Scime

DECEMBER 22 to 24, 2022

CROW'S THEATRE PRESENTS
SOUNDSTREAMS

ELECTRIC MESSIAH

INSPIRED BY HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*

DECEMBER 22 to DECEMBER 24, 2022
GULOIEN THEATRE

THE COMPANY

George Frideric Handel	Composer
Lieke van der Voort	Composer
Adam Scime	Music Director
Rob Kempson*	Stage Director
Lawrence Cherney	Soprano
Lindsay McIntyre	Soprano
Elizabeth Shepherd	Mezzo-Soprano
Andrew Adridge*	Baritone
Sharang Sharma	Tenor
Libydo	Dancer
Sophie Dow	Dancer
SlowPitchSound	Turntablist
Joel Schwartz	Guitar
Wesley Shen	Harpsichord
Dafydd Hughes	Electric Organ, Keyboard
Adam Scime	Electronics
Jackie Chau	Costume and Set Designer
Jareth Li	Lighting Designer
Sebastian Marzuli	Production Manager
Adam Scime	Sound Designer
SlowPitchSound	Sound Designer
Tamara Vuckovic*	Stage Manager

*The participation of these Artists are arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance Opera Theatre Policy (DOT).

ELECTRIC MESSIAH is part of our
Dundas and Carlaw Holiday Corner programming
and is supported by Reconnect Ontario.

Ontario

Crow's Theatre is a proud member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA). We engage professional artists under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement (CTA) with Canadian Actors' Equity Association (CAEA), and the Toronto Musicians Association (TMA).

SET LIST

Comfort Ye
Handel/Arranged by Kyle Brenders

Every Valley
Handel/Arranged by Kyle Brenders

Hallelujah Interruption
SlowPitchSound

Interlude
Dafydd Hughes

Lion's Den
Elizabeth Shepherd

He Was Despised
Handel/Arranged by Elizabeth Shepherd

Behold The Lamb of God
Handel/Arranged by Kyle Brenders

All We Like Sheep
Adam Scime

The People That Walked in Darkness
Handel, with spoken word by Andrew Adridge

Pastoral Symphony
SlowPitchSound

Body
Lieke van der Voort

Harpsichord Solo
Wesley Shen

How Beautiful Are The Feet
Handel/Arranged by Christopher Bagan

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth
Handel/Arranged by Wesley Shen and Lindsay McIntyre

Hallelujah Introduction
Handel/Arranged by Adam Scime

Hallelujah Chorus
Handel

Running time of ELECTRIC MESSIAH is 2 hours with intermission.

WELCOME TO CROW'S THEATRE

Welcome to Streetcar Crowsnest and to Crow's Theatre's presentation of Soundstreams' *Electric Messiah*. It's been a busy fall with back to back openings of *Uncle Vanya*, *The Shape of Home*, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, *Red Velvet*, and Canadian tours of last season's *Mixtape* and *As You Like It*. The response to our fall programming has been tremendous.

Soundstreams was last seen at Crow's Theatre with their acclaimed production of Claude Vivier's *Musik Für Das Ende*, directed by Chris Abraham, as part of our 2017-18 season. We're thrilled to be welcoming them back and closing our 2022-23 fall season in the Guloien Theatre with their thrilling contemporary spin on Handel's holiday classic.

This year, we wanted to give Torontonians unmissable reasons to plan a great night out. With our two busy venues, our fabulous restaurant Core de l'Est offering the best pre-show prix fixe menu in town, and our lobby bar (open pre- and post-show) featuring music, comedy, and cabaret, the theatre will be full of delights all year long.

Although the season has already kicked off, we still have something for everyone, and a flexible array of subscription offerings to match. Still to come this season are new takes on Ovid's Metamorphoses and the myth of Odysseus; the Toronto premiere of American playwright Lloyd Suh's *The Chinese Lady*; world premieres of Canadian playwright Alex Bulmer's *Perceptual Archaeology* and Paolo Santalucia's *Prodigal*; not to mention Stephen Sondheim's masterful musical, *Merrily We Roll Along*.

Audiences at Streetcar Crowsnest are treated to a performing arts space that is constantly transforming—something we take pride in at Crow's Theatre. With each production, you will be immersed in a new world, you will encounter life in a new way, and you will experience humanity from a new perspective.

'Tis the season to rediscover your love of theatre!

For more information about each of our shows please visit www.crowstheatre.com.

CHRIS ABRAHAM, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
SHERRIE JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CROW'S

SOUND STREAMS 40th SEASON

Welcome to Soundstreams' *Electric Messiah* for the first time at Crow's Theatre!

Never the same two years in a row, *Electric Messiah* is a reimagining of Handel's great masterpiece. Though inspired by music you will recognize, some of it will be new to you, reflecting on Handel's universal themes through the lens of our time and place. For example, Lieke van der Voort's composition, *Body*, shifts our focus from the purely spiritual to embrace the physical.

Dancer Libydo is a veteran of *Electric Messiah* since its inception eight years ago; this year being joined by dancer Sophie Dow. Turntablist SlowPitchSound (aka composer Sheldon Paterson) is another veteran who will join Soundstreams again in May 2023 composing and performing in an interactive exploration of SAMPLING. Soprano Lindsay McIntyre will be featured in Steve Reich *Then and Now* celebrating the legendary American composer's 86th birthday in March 2023.

Soundstreams is celebrating its 40th Anniversary connecting audiences with compelling Canadian creations performed by this country and the worlds' finest interpreters. We play a central role in the commissioning, development and production of this work.

Our annual season has two aspects: the main stage which includes the productions of *Electric Messiah* and *Steve Reich: Then and Now*; and Encounters, whose themes engage audiences with music and discussion that resonates in our communities.

Our staged productions appear on the world's stages. Most recently, in May 2022, Musik für das Ende was the Inchpin in a Claude Vivier Festival at London's Southbank Centre, as well as productions in Berlin and Hamburg. *Two Odysseys: Pimooteewin / Gallábaratt*, a double-bill premiered in 2019 featuring the first Cree and Sami language operas, led by an Indigenous creative team. *Two Odysseys* has been invited to appear in the Nordic countries in 2024.

Electric Messiah embodies the adventurous and thought-provoking spirit of Soundstreams. To learn more visit www.soundstreams.ca

Enjoy!

SOUNDSTREAMS STAFF

Lawrence Cherney	Artistic Director
Beth Brown	Executive Director
Graham Cozzubbo	Manager of Artistic Planning
Deborah Egan	Company & Programs Manager
Zoe Lin	Manager of Advancement and Patron Engagement
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THE CAST

LINDSAY MCINTYRE
SOPRANO

Alberta-born soprano Lindsay McIntyre has been hailed as "stunning" (The Whole Note) for her work in concert and on the stage. Recent performances include Claude Vivier's *Love Songs* and *Musik für das Ende* at the Southbank Centre in London, UK; *Garden of Vanished Pleasures, Love Songs*, and two seasons of *Electric Messiah* with Soundstreams; Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and Toronto Symphony Orchestra; *Buxtehude's Membra Jesu Nostri* and Craig Hella Johnson's *Considering Matthew Sheppard* with the Grand Philharmonic Chamber Choir; Handel's *Dixit Dominus* and *BWV 4* & *BWV 165* with the Theatre of Early Music; and Steve Reich's contemporary masterwork *Music for 18 Musicians* at the University of Toronto New Music Festival. Lindsay is completing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at U of T, and was recently named winner of the 2022 DMA Recital Competition and Shalom Ben-Uri Graduate Recital Prize.

ELIZABETH SHEPHERD
MEZZO-SOPRANO

Velvety-voiced pianist Elizabeth Shepherd arrived on the international scene in 2006 when her debut album *Start To Move* was voted one of the top albums of the year by the listeners of the influential Gilles Peterson Show on BBC Radio Worldwide. Since then, the Quebec-based soul-jazz innovator has established herself as one of the most alluring and imaginative artists on the scene today. Elizabeth has been hailed as "a jazz virtuoso blessed with a pop sensibility" and praised by critics worldwide for her arrestingly original writing and soulful delivery. The six-time Juno nominee and two-time Polaris-Prize nominee has released seven widely acclaimed records, featuring collaborations with such musicians as Lionel Loueke and UK producer Nostalgia 7. She has toured extensively in North America, Europe, Japan and Mexico, sharing the stage with such great diverse acts as Christian MacBride, Branford Marsalis, Spankie Wilson, Victor Wooten, the Quantic Soul Orchestra and Bonobo, and Jamie Cullum. www.elizabethshepherd.com

ANDREW ADRIDGE
BARITONE

Andrew Adridge (he/him) is a multidisciplinary artist and opera producer based in Toronto with a passion for equity and industry reform. He is a graduate of the University of Toronto holding both a Bachelor of Music Performance in Voice and a Master of Music in Opera. He has been featured as an ensemble soloist both at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto and the Kennedy Centre in Washington, D.C. Andrew has participated in several young artist programs including The Chautauqua Institution Voice Program, and the Banff Opera program. This season, Andrew will be the Assistant Director on *Carmen* with the Canadian Opera Company, and will be featured in UrbanVessel's *RiverMOUTH* project, contributing voice and original spoken word. Andrew has been the baritone soloist in Soundstreams' *Electric Messiah* for the past two iterations and is excited to be featured again this season. www.andrewadridge.com

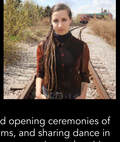
SHARANG SHARMA
TENOR

Sharang is choral music director and lecturer at Huron University College in London, Ontario. He received a Bachelor of Music at Western University and went on to read historical musicology at Oriel College, University of Oxford. Sharang regularly performs with ensembles in Canada and the UK. While lay clerk at The Queen's College, Sharang sang with numerous Oxford- and London-based ensembles like the Academy of Ancient Music, and Instruments of Time and Truth. He has built his choral and operatic repertoire through performances with The Strand Consort, Fount & Origin, Spectra Ensemble, King's College London Chapel Choir, and various semi-professional choral societies in the UK. In Canada, he sings with the Elmer Iseler Singers, Tafelmusik Baroque Chamber Choir, Soundstreams Choir 21, Kammerchor London, and numerous London- and Toronto-based ensembles of all levels. Since 2019, Sharang has also taught at The Canadian Renaissance Music Summer School in London, Ontario.

LIBYDO
DANCER

Libydo is a collaborative dance performance artist based in Toronto. He established himself early in his career in the breakdance scene both competitively and showcasing which allowed him to appear on stages, music videos, art galleries, museums, and at schools across the country. He continues to crossover many genres in music and art through dance with a focus on his own unique approach to movement and expression, always remaining open to new concepts and exploring expansive opportunities in performance art that take on different cultural narratives and experiences. Libydo also serves on the board of directors for Wavelength Music Series in Toronto, and is involved in the curation of shows in venues throughout the city highlighting emerging Canadian artists.

SOPHIE DOW
DANCER



Treaty 1-born Sophie Dow is a multidisciplinary creative, inspired by dance, music, film, collaboration, and Métis/Assiniboine plus French/Ukrainian roots. An avid adventurer, Sophie exudes passion for busking, yoga and traveling, on top of holding a degree in Dance Performance and Choreography from York University. Highlights of Sophie's Turtle Island touring journeys include choreographing and performing at Burning Man and opening ceremonies of BC's Shambhala Music Festival, filming with Vero Films, and sharing dance in many rural and urban school contexts throughout the mountains and prairies. Sophie presently fulfills roles as creative director of Prince Edward County's Flight Festival, artistic associate of Chimera Dance Theatre and O.Dela Arts, musician with The Honeycomb Flyers, licensed practitioner of traditional Thai massage, student of BreathWave, freelance dancer/choreographer/sound designer, and a puddle jumping trickster.

SLOWPITCHSOUND
TURNTABLIST AND SOUND DESIGN

SlowPitchSound (Cheldon Paterson) is an award-winning Toronto-based composer, mentor, and explorer of sounds and visuals. He has collaborated with creators from a wide range of disciplines including opera, jazz, classical, electronic music, theatre, and dance. His unique style of music production, self-proclaimed as scifi-turntablism, has graced stages around the world including Canada, Australia, USA, United Kingdom, and Sweden. With a passion for depth and detail in his work, Cheldon is heavily inspired by nature, outer space, and dystopian sci-fi. Cheldon's unique approach to making music includes turntablism, sample manipulation, and field recordings. Making a shift into the world of live theatre, Cheldon has been nominated for a 2022 Dora award for Outstanding Sound Design / Composition, and has a collective win for Best New Theatre Production with *Italian Mime Suicide*, produced by Bad New Days. Cheldon has also composed music for the TIFF People's Choice award winning documentary *Black Ice* by Oscar nominated director Hubert Davis.

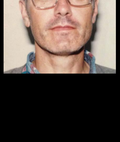
JOEL SCHWARTZ
GUITAR

Joel Schwartz is a music producer, guitarist, and founder of The Studio Songwriter Community. The recordings Joel has produced have won or been nominated for numerous awards including the Junos, Canadian Folk Music Awards, Ontario Folk Music Awards, Maple Blues Awards, and Blues and Roots Radio Awards. Joel was a long-time member of Birds of Chicago (Allison Russell), and also performed with Amelia Curran, Matthew and Jill Barber, Great Lake Swimmers, Royal Wood, Jessica Mitchell, Aviva Chernick, Dione Taylor, Lydia Persaud, Jadea Kelly and many other Canadian artists. This is Joel's fifth season with Soundstreams and he is proud to collaborate with the incredible musicians and artists in the 2022 *Messiah*.

WESLEY SHEN
HARPSICHORD

Wesley Shen is a Toronto-based pianist and harpsichordist specializing in contemporary music. He collaborates regularly with composers to commission and perform brand-new works. He is a member of Freesound Music, and performs often with Continuum Contemporary Music, Soundstreams, and New Music Concerts.

DAFYDD HUGHES
ELECTRIC ORGAN, KEYBOARD



Dafydd Hughes is a musician, artist, programmer and educator based in Toronto. He has performed and recorded with some of Canada's most notable artists and is active in Toronto's jazz, pop and experimental music scenes through solo work and various collaborations. He has contributed sound design and scores to several interactive and theatrical documentaries, including the NFB's *The Universe Within*, and 2017 Peabody Award winner, *The Space We Hold*.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

LIEKE VAN DER VOORT
COMPOSER

Composer and vocalist Lieke van der Voort's works have been described as having "rare dramatic intensity," "a strong signature," and "a voice that is important within the new generation of composers," (Neomemoire, 2019). She focuses heavily on improvisation, physical theatrical gesture, and vocal use. Lieke frequently uses her own text, confronting the emotional-psychological impact of ongoing social issues. Her works have been commissioned and performed by Soundstreams, Continuum Contemporary Music, Jumblies Theatre, Cheryl Duvall, Émilie Girard-Charest, Thin Edge New Music Collective, and others. She leads and vocalizes in Kontraband Kollektif, an art music collective, with its debut EP *Atropos* having been released in January 2018. Her voice can also be heard in multiple Toronto-based projects as well as Veryan Weston's *Make*; soundtracks of movies *The Witch*, *Clara*, *Tumbbad*, *In the Tall Grass*, and various Tanya Tagaq shows with Christine Duncan's Element Choir.

ADAM SCIME
MUSIC DIRECTOR, SOUND DESIGNER, ELECTRONICS

Adam Scime is a composer, performer, writer, and educator, living in Toronto/Tkarón:to who works in varying collaborative environments related to opera, theatre, music, and sound. Adam's work is rooted in learning from his collaborators so that open, safe, and supportive environments are created collectively and in tandem with the evolving needs of individual artists and the wider community. Adam's music has been performed widely across Canada, Europe, and Asia and described as "Astounding, the musical result was incredible" (icareifyoulisten.com) and "a fantastic success" (CBC). He is regularly hired as a music director, composer, and performer to work with some of the most notable organizations, ensembles, and soloists in the classical and contemporary arts landscapes. As Music Director of FAWN Chamber Creative, Adam enjoys the ongoing collaborative journey to foster new experimental Canadian opera. At FAWN, he works together with artistic teams toward collective innovation in anti-hierarchical creation processes. Adam has completed the Dandelion Initiative Equity and Anti-Harassment Program; the Certificate in Leadership and Inclusion from the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion; the Non-Profit Leadership for Impact Professional Certificate from The University of Toronto; and the Narratives of Memory, Xenophobia and Migration in the European Union and Canada field study from The University of Victoria; in addition to holding a Doctorate of Music, from University of Toronto.

ROB KEMPSON
STAGE DIRECTOR

Rob Kempson is a theatre artist and educator, working primarily as a director and playwright, and the Artistic Director of the Capitol Theatre in Port Hope. **Selected Writer/Director:** *Trigonometry* (timeshare/Factory); *Mockingbird* (Next Stage Theatre Festival); *SHANNON 10:40* (timeshare/Videofag); *explicit* (Rhubarb Festival); *#legacy* (Harbourfront Centre); *The HV Project* (Community). **Selected Director:** *Box 4901* (timeshare/Buddies), *The Places We Are* (Theatre Erindale), *The Snow Queen* (Canadian Children's Opera Company), *Electric Messiah* (Soundstreams), *The Little Mermaid* (St. Lawrence College), *9 to 5: The Musical* (Randolph College), *The Ballad of Stompin' Tom* (Sudbury Theatre Centre), *Box 4901* (SummerWorks, foldA Festival); *The Canadian, Maggie and Pierre, Million Dollar Quartet, Daisy Amazed Me, Violet's the Pilot, Rose's Clothes* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Robert* (co-directed with Briana Brown, Toronto Fringe); *Songs for a New World* (Claude Watson). **Writer/Composer/Performer:** *The Way Back To Thursday* (Theatre Passe Muraille/Touchstone Theatre – Dora Nomination: Outstanding New Musical). Rob has been a member of the Stratford Festival Playwrights' Retreat, a Resident Artist Educator at Young People's Theatre, and the RBC Intern Director for The Musical Stage Co. He is the past Artistic Producer of the Paprika Festival, the past Associate Artistic Producer at Theatre Passe Muraille, and the past Associate Artistic Director at the Thousand Islands Playhouse. Rob is also the Co-Artistic Director of ARC, a Toronto-based company. More info at robkempson.com or on twitter at @rob_kempson.

JACKIE CHAU
COSTUME AND SET DESIGNER

Jackie has worked as a set and costume designer in over 200 productions and her work has toured internationally. In addition, she is a production designer and art director for film and television. Selected theatre design credits include companies such as: Theatre Aquarius, Native Earth Performing Arts, One Little Goat, New Harlem Productions, Factory Theatre, Theatre Passe Muraille, Fu-Gen Theatre Company, The Second City Chicago/Toronto, Expect Theatre, Buddies in Bad Times, Soulpepper, and Stratford Festival. Jackie was named in NOW magazine's Top 10 Theatre Artists of 2009, nominated for the Virginia and Myrtle Cooper Award in Costume Design, nominated for a Saskatoon Area Theatre (SAT) award, two Broadway World awards, and has received nine Dora nominations for outstanding set and costume design. Jackie has been a resident artist with ARC since 2013. She currently teaches Theatrical Design at the University of Toronto. **Upcoming:** *Martyr* (ARC Theatre), *The Gig* (Theatre Aquarius).

JARETH LI
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Born in Singapore, Jareth is a stage designer now based in Toronto by way of Calgary. He has a love for new work that examines identity politics, culture, and heritage. He is excited to be bringing live theatre to you again. Select credits include: *Every Little Nookie* (Stratford Festival); *Peter's Final Flight* (Ross Petty Productions); *The Hours That Remain* (Theatre Aquarius), *Three Women of Swatow* (Tarragon Theatre), *The Home Project*, *The Wolves*, *Casimir and Caroline*, *Punk Rock* (The Howland Company); *Ring of Fire* (Citadel Theatre). In addition to his artistic practice, he is a member of The Howland Company, as well as a stagecraft instructor at York University. Upcoming: *Controlled Damage* (Grand Theatre); *Prince Caspian* (Shaw Festival)

TAMARA VUCKOVIC
STAGE MANAGER

Tamara is a Toronto based stage manager, producer and director in primarily theatre and opera. Her work has taken her across Canada, from Toronto to Vancouver, Montreal, Edmonton, London, and Halifax; to the US, and overseas. Tamara is the managing producer and resident stage manager of indie performance company ARC, and the stage manager of opera performance company Off Centre Music Salon. Selected stage management credits include: *The Shape of Home* (Crow's Theatre and Festival Players); *Gloria* (ARC); *HMS Pinafore* (Vancouver Opera); *Prototüüpe* (ZOU Theatre); *Handel's The Resurrection* (Opera Atelier); *Old Man and The River* (WeeFestival Tour); *Beneath Springhill: The Maurice Ruddick Story* (Festival Players); *Oil* (ARC); *Marjorie Prime* (Coal Mine Theatre); *Hell's Fury* (Soundstreams); *The Winter's Tale* (Shakespeare in the Ruff); *Human Animals and Dissidents* (ARC); *The Glass Menagerie* (Grand Theatre).

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