

**For Immediate Release: August 18, 2016**

**Esprit Orchestra – POWER ON  
A Tribute to R. Murray Schafer**

**Esprit Orchestra's Opening Concert** of the **2016/17 Season**, titled ***Power On***, takes place on **October 23, 2016 at Koerner Hall**. The program, conducted by Esprit's **Founding Music Director and Conductor Alex Pauk**, features a tribute to renowned Canadian composer **R. Murray Schafer** with performances of three of his most important works for the concert stage – ***Scorpius***, an orchestral work originally commissioned by Esprit, ***Adieu Robert Schumann*** for voice and orchestra plus Schafer's ***Flute Concerto***. The program highlights the long musical friendship and working relationship Esprit has had with Schafer and reflects the respect and admiration Esprit has for the composer's work along with Schafer's complete trust in Esprit to give his music its best performances.

The concert includes guest performances by some of Canada's most outstanding, internationally acclaimed soloists including **mezzo soprano Krisztina Szabo**, champion of new music and **flutist Robert Aitken** and **percussionist Ryan Scott**.

Esprit last programmed *Adieu Robert Schumann* in 1990 with the legendary Maureen Forrester (for whom the piece was written) as vocalist. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> this highly dramatic, passionate account of Clara Schumann's thoughts lives on through Szabo who herself is now established as a pre-eminent singer. The *Flute Concerto*, one of the most important composed anywhere during the past century, will have its virtuosic, multi-coloured solo lines played by the flutist for whom they were composed. This marks Esprit's fifth performance of the work. The bold and daring *Scorpius* is an Esprit touchstone that provides the musical sparks and excitement to open Esprit's concert and 34<sup>th</sup> season.

American composer **Andrew Norman's** full blast percussion concerto ***Switch*** also appears on the program with Esprit's principal percussionist Ryan Scott as soloist. The performance will more than satisfy the desire of so many Esprit audience members, enthralled with hearing Norman's ***Play*** during our last season, to experience yet another mind-blowing piece from this young, rising-star creator.

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# Esprit Orchestra – POWER ON

## Sunday October 23, 2016

**Alex Pauk** – conductor

**Ryan Scott** – percussion / **Robert Aitken** – flute / **Krisztina Szabo** – mezzo soprano

Pre-concert chat moderated by composer **Alexina Louie**

### Programme:

**R. Murray Schafer** (Canada)                      *Concerto for Flute and Orchestra* (1984)

**R. Murray Schafer** (Canada)                      *Scorpius* (1990)\*

**R. Murray Schafer** (Canada)                      *Adieu Robert Schumann* (1976)

**Andrew Norman** (U.S.A.)                      *Switch* for percussion and orchestra (2015)\*\*

\*Previously commissioned and premiered by Esprit

\*\*Canadian Premiere

Concert Sponsor:

Esprit Orchestra's performance of R. Murray Schafer's music is  
generously supported by:



**The Koerner Foundation**

**Power On, Sunday October 23, 2016, Koerner Hall**  
**8:00PM Concert | 7:15PM Pre-Concert Chat**

**Royal Conservatory of Music TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning**  
**273 Bloor Street West, Toronto**

**Individual concert tickets start at:** Adult \$40; Senior 65+ \$40; Under 30 \$22; Student \$20  
**Please call (416) 408 0208 or visit [espritorchestra.com](http://espritorchestra.com)**



Esprit Orchestra is Canada's only full-sized orchestra devoted exclusively to performing and promoting new orchestral music. Esprit Orchestra gratefully acknowledges Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Foundation, SOCAN Foundation, The Koerner Foundation, The Hal Jackman Foundation, The Mary-Margaret Webb Foundation, Timothy & Frances Price, Judy & Wilnot Matthews, and The Max Clarkson Family Foundation for their generous support.

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