

# ESPRIT ORCHESTRA

Canada's leader in new orchestral music

Alex Pauk, Music Director & Conductor

**For Immediate Release: October 19, 2017**

## **An Eventful November for Esprit Orchestra**

On **November 19, 2017**, Esprit Orchestra will perform its second concert of the 2017/18 season, lead by **Founding Music Director and Conductor, Alex Pauk**. The concert will take place at **Koerner Hall at 8:00pm**.

The concert is titled after Icelandic composer **Daniél Bjarnason's** piece, ***Emergence***. This work sweeps listeners up in a kind of stream-of-consciousness that reflects Bjarnason's wide-ranging experience working in pop and classical new music.

Fabulous violinist **Véronique Mathieu** returns to the Esprit stage after her spellbinding performance at the end of last season to perform as guest soloist in the **Canadian premiere of Marc-André Dalbavie's *Concerto for Violin and Orchestra***. The concerto's spectacular virtuosity combined with distribution of the orchestra throughout the hall, exhibits the full power, intellect, and engaging capacity of Dalbavie's music.

***Just a stranger here myself...*** by Canadian composer **Doug Schmidt**, previously commissioned and premiered by Esprit, will have its second performance. The work delivers a panorama of musical episodes immersing listeners in sonic visions of world-wide places that have influenced Schmidt's music. The piece provides a unique take on what it means to be 'home'.

**Ana Sokolovic's *Ringelspiel***, with its brilliantly inventive orchestration, completes the November program. Full of verve, the piece is an evocative reverie from childhood, inspired by the merry-go-round.

In addition to the subscription concert series, Esprit will be expanding education and outreach programming in major ways for the 2017/18 season. The cornerstone project this season will be **Ontario Resonance**, a free student mentorship program to mark the **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ontario**. Running from September to November, the program focuses on the creation of new music by students with the theme of Ontario places, sounds, and cultural ties. Professional composers will mentor students in six schools in the GTA region, providing them with hands-on performance and composition opportunities. The program incorporates multiple artistic disciplines, and includes students from diverse backgrounds. Each participating school will host a concert in November, during which the students' compositions will be performed by a combination of student musicians and members of Esprit Orchestra. For a full list of school concerts, please visit our website.

Ontario Resonance Mentor Composers have been commissioned by Esprit to compose short pieces under the same Ontario theme as their students. These pieces will all be premiered at the **Ontario Resonance** finale concert on **November 23, 2017** at **Trinity St. Paul's Church**. This concert will be free of charge and open to the general public.

**35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON  
ESPRIT ORCHESTRA 2017/18**

**Sunday November 19, 2017 | Esprit Orchestra Presents: *Emergence***

Pre-Concert Chat Moderated by composer **Alexina Louie**.

**Alex Pauk** – conductor  
**Véronique Mathieu** – violin

**Programme:**

<b>Daniél Bjarnason</b> (Iceland)	<b><i>Emergence</i></b> (2011)
<b>Marc-André Dalbavie</b> (France)	<b><i>Concerto for Violin and Orchestra</i></b> (1996)*
<b>Douglas Schmidt</b> (Canada)	<b><i>Just a stranger here myself...</i></b> (2014)**
<b>Ana Sokolovic</b> (Canada)	<b><i>Ringelspiel</i></b> (2013)

\*Canadian Premiere

\*\*Previously commissioned and premiered by Esprit

Concert Sponsor:

**The Max Clarkson Family Foundation**

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**Royal Conservatory of Music TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning  
273 Bloor Street West, Toronto  
8:00pm Concert | 7:15pm Pre Concert Chat  
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 & Wilmot Matthews, and The Max Clarkson Family Foundation for their generous support.

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