

ESPRIT ORCHESTRA

Canada's leader in new orchestral music

Alex Pauk, Music Director & Conductor

For Immediate Release: March 20, 2018

TAIKO PLUS!

Esprit Orchestra's 35th Anniversary Season Finale

April 15, 2018 will mark the finale of **Esprit Orchestra's 35th Anniversary Season** with ***Taiko Plus!*** in **Koerner Hall at 8:00pm**. With two **World Premieres**, and two **Canadian Premieres** of works by leading Asian composers, the 2017/18 season finale strongly reflects the dynamic artistic vision that has always been at the core of Esprit's programming. **Founding Music Director & Conductor, Alex Pauk** and the orchestra will be joined by outstanding guest soloists: soprano **Shannon Mercer** and the Japanese taiko drumming ensemble, **Nagata Shachu**. The concert will be preceded at **7:15pm** by an engaging pre-concert chat with the composers and a scientist from the CERN Large Hadron Collider.

The program includes **Maki Ishii's** spectacular, electrifying ***Mono-Prism***, combining Toronto's Japanese taiko drumming ensemble, **Nagata Shachu** with Esprit. The title, *Mono-Prism*, refers to the intermingling of monochromatic sounds from the taiko drums and the prismatic tonal quality of the Western orchestra. The nearly inaudible sounds produced by the drums at the outset of *Mono-Prism* are intended to represent a challenge to the traditions of Asian drumming. The work blends western orchestral sound with the intoxicating rhythms of the drums to create a pulsing, energetic soundscape.

In keeping with the Asian threads running through the season, Esprit will give the **Canadian premiere of Chinese composer Fuhong Shi's *Concentric Circles***. This work is scored for large orchestra, and draws inspiration from the I-Ching, an ancient Chinese treatise on divination and philosophy. The work's careful balance between silence and sound represents the aesthetics of Chinese calligraphy.

World Premieres of two new works by Canadian composers are also on this program. Chris Paul Harman's work returns to the Esprit stage for the second season in a row with the premiere of his new piece ***...with silver bells and cockle shells...*** for **soprano Shannon Mercer** and orchestra. The work is infused with the delicacy and wit of nursery rhymes.

Scott Wilson's newly commissioned multi-media work, ***Dark Matter***, will transform scientific data from the CERN Large Hadron Collider – the world's largest particle accelerator – into sonic representations and video projections. The audience will be immersed in evocative visualizations derived from the violent yet beautiful patterns of particle collisions, and electroacoustic/orchestral interpretations of real-time data.

35th ANNIVERSARY
ESPRIT ORCHESTRA 2017/18 CONCERT SEASON

Sunday April 15, 2018 | Esprit Orchestra Presents: *Taiko Plus!*

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

Alex Pauk – conductor

Shannon Mercer – soprano

Nagata Shachu – Japanese taiko drumming ensemble

Chris Paul Harman (Canada)

Maki Ishii (Japan)

Fuhong Shi (China)

Scott Wilson (Canada)

...with silver bells and cockle shells... (2018)**

Mono-Prism (1976)*

Concentric Circles (2009)*

Dark Matter (2018)**

*Canadian Premiere

**World Premiere commissioned with generous support from the Koerner Foundation

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Individual concert tickets start at: Adult \$40; Senior 65+ \$40; Under 30 \$22; Student \$20

Please call (416) 408 0208 or visit 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 150, 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.

Media Contact:

Amber Melhado / Marketing & Outreach Coordinator

amber@espritorchestra.com

(416) 815-7887