

# Confluence

*presents*

## ***AT THE RIVER***



*featuring*

Cole Alvis, Larry Beckwith, Dylan Bell,  
Ian Cusson, James Meade, Marion Newman,  
Patricia O'Callaghan, Suba Sankaran, Bijan Sepanji,  
Jacqueline Teh, Giles Tomkins and Charis Wong

***St. Thomas's Church  
Toronto  
June 1, 2019***

# Confluence



## ***A message from Confluence Concerts' Artistic Producer, Larry Beckwith***

I am so pleased to welcome you to this, the final event of a busy first season for Confluence Concerts. In a sense, we are ending where we began, with a number of the same guests who joined us for our launch back on September 16, 2018, and in a mixed program that we hope gives off a “warm glow” from the stage, as well as reflects a wide range of musical and literary expression from a variety of backgrounds. The season has attempted to do this, featuring thematic evenings, with diverse offerings of music and words performed at a very high standard by some of the city’s most interesting and accomplished artists. In recent years, Toronto Masque Theatre presented mixed programs on the themes of trees and stars, with songs and readings inspired by those profound and lasting images. Tonight, we dive into rivers! The program has been compiled by all of the artists, and many of the arrangements are new and specially concocted for this evening’s event.

It’s been gratifying to have received such strong support for our new direction throughout this season. I’m grateful to those who have made donations, have told their friends about us and – most importantly – have come out to the concerts. You can find details about our 2019–20 subscription series on the back of this program, and I do hope that you’ll join us for another year of unique and interesting performances, driven by our artists and given for you!

Thinking back to our launch on September 16, I will always remember being tremendously moved by the performance of Giles Tomkins that day. His father had passed away the night before and yet Giles came to our event and sang, because – he said – he felt that his father would have wanted him to. His mother, wife and adorable son were with us as well. I have always had huge respect and admiration for Giles’ artistry and humanity, but that took it to another level.

We would like to dedicate this evening’s program to the memory of **Graham Henley Tomkins**.

# Confluence

## PROGRAM

O waly waly	Somerset folk song / arr. M. Hayes
Welcome / Land Acknowledgement	Larry Beckwith / Cole Alvis
Der Fluss, D. 693	Franz Schubert (1797-1829)
Make me cry	Jacob Collier (b. 1994) / arr. J. Teh
我住长江头 (wǒ zhù cháng jiāng tóu)	青主 (qīng zhǔ) (1893-1959)
I live at the head of the Yangtze River	
Quartet no. 3 "The Dry Salvages: Part I" <i>from Four Quartets</i>	Thomas Stearns Eliot (1888-1965)
Los peces en el río	Spanish traditional
Būye Jūye Mūliān (The Fragrance of Mūliān Brook)	Rūhollāh Khāleqi (1906-1965)
Washing of the water	Peter Gabriel (b. 1950) / arr. S. Sankaran
O waly way	Somerset folk song / arr. J. Rutter

### INTERMISSION

(WASHROOMS ARE LOCATED DOWNSTAIRS AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH)

Down in the river to pray	American traditional
Where the river bends	Matthew Barber (b. 1977) / arr. A. Downing
My Lagan Love	Irish traditional
A river story	Cole Alvis
Mi'kmaw water song	Traditional
Cry me a river	Arthur Hamilton (b. 1926)
Rivers of Canada	Bliss Carman (1861-1929)
River	Joni Mitchell (b. 1943) / arr. J. Teh
Come to the vale of the beautiful Don	Mrs. G. A. Gilbert / from arrangement by J. Beckwith
Liebesbotschaft <i>from Schwanengesang, D. 957</i>	Schubert
My river runs to thee	Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)
Riverman	Nick Drake (1948-1974) / arr. D. Bell

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SEASON-ENDING RECEPTION IN THE PARISH HALL AFTER THE CONCERT

## ***SELECTED TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS***

### **Der Fluß**

Wie rein Gesang sich windet  
Durch wunderbarer Saitenspiele Rauschen,  
Er selbst sich wiederfindet,  
Wie auch die Weisen tauschen,  
Daß neu entzückt die Hörer ewig lauschen.

So fließet mir gediegen  
Die Silbermasse, schlangengleich gewunden,  
Durch Büsche, die sich wiegen  
Vom Zauber süß gebunden,  
Weil sie im Spiegel neu sich selbst gefunden;

Wo Hügel sich so gerne  
Und helle Wolken leise schwankend zeigen,  
Wenn fern schon matte Sterne  
Aus blauer Tiefe steigen,  
Der Sonne trunkne Augen abwärts neigen.

So schimmern alle Wesen  
Den Umriß nach im kindlichen Gemüte,  
Das, zur Schönheit erlesen  
Durch milder Götter Güte,  
In dem Kristall bewahrt die flücht'ge Blüte.

### **The River**

As pure song winds its way  
Through the wondrous sound of strings,  
Finds itself again,  
In spite of the changing melodies  
So that listeners are ever newly enchanted.

So flows truly for me  
The silver stream, winding like a snake,  
Through bushes that sway  
Spellbound in sweet magic,  
Since they find themselves again in the reflection.

Where the hills and bright clouds would so  
Show themselves gently swaying,  
When afar the already dull stars  
Rise from the blue depths,  
The sun bows down his drunken eyes.

So all shimmers  
In the child-like mind  
That, chosen for beauty  
Through the goodness of the kindly gods,  
Keeps the fleeting blossom in the crystal stream.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **I live at the head of the Yangtze River**

I live at the head of the Yangtze River,  
You live at the tail of the Yangtze River.  
Day by day though I do not see you,  
Together we drink Yangtze's water.  
This water, when will it rest?  
This pain, when will it end?  
I can only hope your heart is like my heart,  
One that will not disappoint the other.

### **Los peces en el río (The fish in the river)**

The Virgin Mary combs her precious hair  
as she gives thanks for her baby.  
Even she cannot understand why  
God chose her to be a mother.  
But fishes in the river, they are so delighted.  
The fishes in the river, to see the birth of God.  
See how they swim and swim and then they swim some more.  
The fishes in the river, to see the Saviour born.

The Virgin Mary washes swaddling clothes  
and hangs them on the rose bush  
While birds of the air sing in praise  
and the roses begin their blooming.

The Virgin Mary washes precious hands,  
hands to take care of the baby  
How I'm in awe of those busy, busy hands,  
hands to take care of my Saviour.

### **Liebesbotschaft**

Rauschendes Bächlein, so silbern und hell,  
Eilst zur Geliebten so munter und schnell?  
Ach, trautes Bächlein, mein Bote sei du;  
Bringe die Grüße des Fernen ihr zu.

All' ihre Blumen im Garten gepflegt,  
Die sie so lieblich am Busen trägt,  
Und ihre Rosen in purpurner Glut,  
Bächlein, erquickte mit kühlender Flut.

Wenn sie am Ufer, in Träume versenkt,  
Meiner gedenkend, das Köpfchen hängt;  
Tröste die Süsse mit freundlichem Blick,  
Denn der Geliebte kehrt bald zurück.

Neigt sich die Sonne mit rötlichem Schein,  
Wiege das Liebchen in Schlummer ein.  
Rausche sie murmelnd in süsse Ruh,  
Flüstere ihr Träume der Liebe zu.

### **Love's message**

Murmuring brook, so silver and bright,  
do you hasten, so lively and swift, to my beloved?  
Ah, sweet brook, be my messenger.  
Bring her greetings from her distant lover.

All the flowers, tended in her garden,  
which she wears so charmingly on her breast,  
and her roses with their crimson glow:  
refresh them, brooklet, with your cooling waters.

When on your banks she inclines her head  
lost in dreams, thinking of me,  
comfort my sweetheart with a kindly glance,  
for her beloved will soon return.

When the sun sinks in a red flush,  
lull my sweetheart to sleep.  
With soft murmurings bring her sweet repose,  
and whisper dreams of love

## ***ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES***

**Cole Alvis** is a Métis theatre artist based in Tkarón:to with Chippewa, Irish and English heritage from the Turtle Mountains in Manitobah. They are one of the leaders of lemonTree creations, manidoons collective, Ad Hoc Assembly (AHA) and are the former executive director of the Indigenous Performing Arts Alliance (2013–2017). Cole has performed in Dora-nominated productions, including *Gorey Story (The Thistle Project)*, *Louis Riel* (Canadian Opera Company / National Arts Centre) and the Dora-winning new play *Body Politic* by Nick Green (lemonTree creations / Buddies in Bad Times Theatre). Recently, Cole participated in the 2017 artEquity Facilitator Training in Los Angeles and directed the world premiere of *bug* by Yolanda Bonnell at the 2018 Luminato Festival (manidoons collective). Cole just finished directing *Lilies: Or The Revival Of A Romantic Drama* by Michel Marc Bouchard for the Buddies in Bad Times Theatre 40th season, a co-production with Why Not Theatre and lemonTree creations.

Confluence Artistic Producer **Larry Beckwith** enjoys a successful and versatile career in the arts in and around Toronto. He vigorously pursues his interests in choral music, baroque music, theatre, contemporary music, radio, teaching and writing. He has lectured on music history for the universities of Toronto and Guelph, and has held positions as a producer for CBC Radio Music (1990–1997), general manager of Choirs Ontario (1997–2002), director of programming for the 2002 Joy of Singing Festival in Toronto and artistic director of Toronto Masque Theatre (2003–2018). In recent years, Larry has been active as a conductor with Opera in Concert, Toronto Operetta Theatre and the Festival of the Sound. A passionate educator, Larry teaches in the renowned arts program at Unionville High School and is the conductor of the Senior Mooredale Youth Orchestra.

In a word ... multifaceted. Juno-nominated **Dylan Bell**'s musical curiosity keeps him effortlessly crossing and blurring musical boundaries. Dylan is an international leader in a cappella music, having sung with many of Canada's premiere vocal ensembles such as FreePlay, Retrocity, Cadence, The Watch and Hampton Avenue. He also freelances as a keyboardist and bassist. Behind the mixing board, Dylan has produced several award-winning albums, including a Juno nomination for the Cadence album *Twenty For One; Ferris Wheels* with the world-renowned Swingles, and the Juno-nominated *Skin Tight* by a cappella legends The Nylons. Dylan's compositions and arrangements have garnered international recognition as winner of the John Lennon Songwriting Competition and Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards. When it comes to vocal arranging, Dylan wrote the book – literally. *A Cappella Arranging* (co-written with Deke Sharon) was published in 2013 to international acclaim.

**Ian Cusson** is a composer of Métis and French Canadian descent. His work explores Canadian Indigenous experience, including the history of the Métis people, the hybridity of mixed-racial identity, and the intersection of Western and Indigenous cultures. He has studied with Jake Heggie, Samuel Dolin, James Anagnoson and Johannes Debus. Ian is an inaugural Carrefour Composer-in-Residence with the National Arts Centre Orchestra for 2017–2019 and will be composer-in-residence for the Canadian Opera Company for 2019-2021. He is an associate composer of the Canadian Music Centre and a member of the Canadian League of Composers. He lives in Oakville with his wife and four children.

**James Meade**, who hails from the Caribbean island Montserrat, is a long-time parishioner of St. Thomas's church. He and his wife, Joan, who were married at St. Thomas 52 years ago, have three children, and four of their seven grandchildren were baptized at this church. One son, Vincent, serves as an acolyte. A retired educator, James served as the English department head at Sir John A. Macdonald Collegiate and L'Amoreaux Collegiate in Scarborough, and for many years he taught English in the Bridging Program at Woodsworth College, University of Toronto. James values the opportunity to give God thanks for the many blessings that He has bestowed on him and his family.

**Marion Newman**, Kwagiulth and Stó:lō First Nations, English, Irish and Scottish mezzo-soprano, is firmly established as one of Canada's most accomplished singers. Noted for her "sumptuous mezzo tone and impressive vocal agility," on the concert stage, Marion has performed with the best ensembles, symphonies and choirs across Canada. Her extensive repertoire ranges from Vivaldi to Vivier and includes Handel's *Messiah*, De Falla's *El Amor Brujo*, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* and Mozart's *Requiem*. Recent appearances include world premieres of several works, operas and concerts that speak to Marion's First Nations identity. She is much sought after as an advisor for arts organizations wishing to take an active and continuing role in reconciliation. Recent highlights for Marion included the role of Dr. Wilson in the premiere of *Missing* with City Opera Vancouver/Pacific Opera Victoria, *I Call Myself Princess* by Jani Lauzon and the title role in *Shawnadithit* for Tapestry Opera.

**Patricia O'Callaghan**'s career has taken her across genres and continents. As a speaker of French, Spanish and German, her concert and operatic repertoire is diverse. She has sung with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and Don Byron Quartet, and has performed in venues ranging from London's Royal Opera House to New York's Le Poisson Rouge. Patricia also writes songs and has had the honour of premiering

many new compositions from both the classical and pop worlds. She has worked with R. Murray Schafer, Dennis Lee, Christos Hatzis, Steve Reich, David Braid and Steven Page. As a resident artist at Toronto's Soulpepper Theatre for six years, her responsibilities included conducting, teaching, mentoring, producing, curating, performing and developing new work. She has five solo CDs and has collaborated on many others. Her newest albums are *Deepest December*, *Matador: The Songs of Leonard Cohen* and the recently JUNO nominated *Corona Divinae Misericordiae* by David Braid.

DORA award-winning, JUNO-nominated world/fusion vocalist **Suba Sankaran** effortlessly combines musical worlds, performing across North America, Europe, the UK, Asia, Australia and Africa with Autorickshaw, master drummer Trichy Sankaran, FreePlay and Retrocity. Highlights include performing for Peter Gabriel, Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and performing with Jane Siberry, Lorraine Segato, Bobby McFerrin and the Swingles. Recently, Suba made her acting debut at Stratford Festival, where she has served for two seasons as vocal coach/arranger and sound designer. Suba is in demand as a private teacher, educator, choral director, arranger, adjudicator and composer, and has given numerous workshops to choirs around the world.

Born in Tehran, **Bijan Sepanji** has been gaining recognition as an active performer, educator and mentor throughout Canada, United States and most recently in Iran. He is a member of the Toronto Concert Orchestra and has performed at venues such as the Rogers Centre, Roy Thomson Hall, Toronto Centre for the Arts, many more. Last year, alongside his professional string quartet - the Ton Beau - he gave masterclasses at the University of Toronto and Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Bijan also offered a workshop to the composition students of Tehran University in May 2018, together with the accomplished Iranian composer, Saman Shahi.

Vocalist, composer and educator **Jacqueline Teh** is a graduate of the University of Toronto Master's of Jazz Performance program. She has composed music for and performed with various U of T ensembles and is featured in the U of T Jazz 12tet's 2016 album *Trillium Falls*. Jacqueline is active in both the Toronto jazz and choral communities. Recently, Jacqueline's jazz/R&B ensemble, Moodset, was selected as part of TD Jazz Festival's Discovery Series Special Projects. Jacqueline is the director of U of T's Small Vocal Jazz Ensemble, the conductor of the St. James Children's Choir, an assistant conductor with the Toronto Children's Chorus Kindernotes, and a faculty member at Ovation! Performing Arts.

Canadian/British bass-baritone **Giles Tomkins** is widely praised for his vocal virtuosity and lyricism in an impressive range of repertoire. His rich, resonant voice brings "authority and power" to the concert and operatic stage. Recent concert engagements include Handel's *Messiah* with Elmer Iseler Singers, Dvorak's *Stabat Mater* with Vancouver Symphony and Bach's *Peasant Cantata* with Toronto Masque Theatre. In 2018–19, Giles returned to Manitoba Opera as Don Basilio (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*), and sang the role of Dr. Grenvil in both Edmonton Opera and Pacific Opera Victoria's production of *La Traviata*. Giles recently portrayed Gandalf in Dean Burry's *The Hobbit* with Canadian Children's Opera Company. Future engagements for Giles include *Messiah* with Regina Symphony and Zuniga (*Carmen*) with Manitoba Opera in 2020.

**Charis Wong** recently graduated from the University of Toronto's Voice Performance program, and is looking forward to beginning a master's program at U of T, studying with Dr. Darryl Edwards. With COSI Connection, she has performed roles such as Rose Maybud in *Ruddigore*, and recently covered the role of Mrs. Fiorentino in Kurt Weill's *Street Scene* with the U of T Opera Undergrad program. She is currently working on the role of Galatea in Dean Burry's one-act opera *Il Giudizio di Pigmalione*, also with COSI Connection. Besides performing, she also enjoys volunteering at music camps and working with young children. Having received her ARCT in Piano Performance, studying under Dr. Michael Esch, she is a vital assistant to the choir director of her local church, and helps in leading and accompanying the choir. She is very excited to be participating for the first time in one of Confluence's Concerts!

## About Confluence

Confluence – “an act or process of merging” – is a company of diverse creative artists dedicated to intimate, thought-provoking, entertaining and moving presentations with a focus on:

- Cabarets curated by a wide cross-section of Toronto's leading musicians
- A focus on the work of Indigenous artists and artists of colour
- Anniversary programs celebrating important figures in music
- Salons and lectures on a wide variety of musical topics
- Commissions of new works by Canadian creative artists
- Special programs of rarely-performed sacred and spiritual music
- The launch of a new podcast series, entitled “Confluence: The Podcast” on and about music to be housed on the brand-new Confluence website

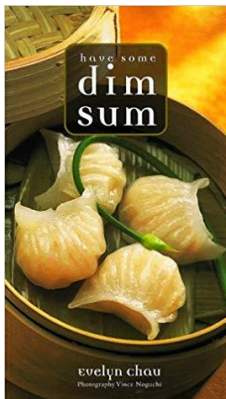
In addition, Confluence is a platform for young artists, students and pre-professionals, to interact with seasoned pros.

Artistic Producer Larry Beckwith has been ably assisted in planning this new mandate by a whole host of outstanding and diverse figures from Toronto's amazing music scene, most notably 2018-19 curators and associates Marion Newman, Cole Alvis, Tom Allen, Patricia O'Callaghan and Andrew Downing.

Confluence has grown out of Beckwith's work with Toronto Masque Theatre from 2003-2018. TMT was an interdisciplinary performing arts company that presented over 65 critically-acclaimed programs of music theatre, commissioned nine premieres from leading Canadian creative artists and was known far and wide for its innovative programming.

Tonight's concert is taking place on the traditional Indigenous territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and most recently, the territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit. This territory is part of the Dish with One Spoon Treaty, an agreement between the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. This territory is also covered by the Upper Canada Treaties. We are grateful to have the opportunity to meet and work on this territory.

# Do You Love Dim Sum?



Dim Sum means “touch the heart.” It's the perfect food to show your affection to loved ones. Get your copy of *Have Some Dim Sum* - your guide to eating and making these delicious, fun and interesting little packets of food. Photos and illustrations in full colour.

All proceeds go to St. Thomas's Heritage Building Fund.

**Sale price: \$20**

AUTHOR EVELYN CHAU WILL BE SELLING COPIES  
IN THE PARISH HALL AFTER TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE

## Confluence Board of Directors

Julia Armstrong, Larry Beckwith, Wesley Hui, Anna Kennedy (Treasurer),  
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# Confluence

Join us for our 2019–20 Subscription Series

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## Celebrating Clara Schumann

Saturday, September 28, 2019

St. Thomas's Church

*Tom Allen hosts an interactive, dynamic celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of this exceptional pianist/composer.*

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## An Evening with Marion Newman

November 26 & 27, 2019

Heliconian Hall

*The celebrated Kwagiulth and Stó:lo First Nations, English, Irish and Scottish mezzo-soprano curates a special program asking the question "What is classical Indigenous music?"*

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## Hugo and Willie: Songs of the Soul

Saturday, January 25, 2020

St. Thomas's Church

*Baritone Giles Tomkins steps to stage centre to showcase the lieder of Hugo Wolf and the songs of the Canadian iconoclast Willie P. Bennett, with a whole host of guest musicians and actor Martin Julien.*

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## Bullet Train / Witch on Thin Ice

February 20 & 21, 2020

Location TBA

*Courtney Ch'ng Lancaster and Gregory Oh are featured in a dynamic reading of Madeleine Thien's short story **Bullet Train**, partnered with the world premiere of **Witch on Thin Ice**, inspired by the life and work of Yoko Ono, by Alice Ping Ye Ho and performed by superstar percussionist Beverley Johnston.*

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## Baroque Music By Candlelight

Monday, April 6, 2020

St. Thomas's Church

*An annual Holy Week tradition, this season featuring a complete performance of Dietrich Buxtehude's masterpiece **Membra Nostri Jesu** (This is a co-presentation with St. Thomas's Church. A freewill offering is taken during the concert.)*

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## Second Annual Walter Unger Salon

Monday, April 27, 2020, 7:30 pm

The Shaftesbury Atrium

*Celebrated authors and educators Linda and Michael Hutcheon curate a salon based on their recent book **Four Last Songs: Aging and Creativity in Verdi, Strauss, Messiaen, and Britten***

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## The Mandala

Saturday, May 16, 2020

St. Thomas's Church

*A powerful season-ending show curated by Suba Sankaran with words and music inspired by a most enduring image.*

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**All concerts begin at 8:00 pm, unless otherwise noted.**

**Special early-bird subscription rates until June 15, 2019:**

Regular	\$145
Senior	\$120
Student	\$95

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Forms are available at the back of the church tonight.  
Speak to a Confluence representative for more information.

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## **Confluence thanks its generous donors**

Mark Andrews, Hugh and Betty Anne Anson-Cartwright, John Beckwith,  
Larry Beckwith and Teri Dunn, Doug Bodley, Richard Earls, Jean Edwards,  
Heinrich von Fintel, Peter Hobbs, Linda and Michael Hutcheon,  
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June Pinkney, Ian Spears, Catherine Spence, John and Ellen Spears, Marina Unger  
and one anonymous donor.

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## **Donate and/or volunteer**

We are happy to receive your support in any and all ways! To find out how you can make a donation or sign up to volunteer with the organization, please contact us by post, e-mail or phone at the co-ordinates below. We are grateful for your generous support!

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## **Confluence Concerts**

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