Barrie Concert Association

November 25, 2023
COLLECTIF9 - RITUÆLS
A grand artistic ceremony that brings together works from the Middle Ages to the 21st century.

SHOW DESCRIPTION

Montreal string nonet **collectif9** presents *Rituæls*, a grand artistic ceremony bringing together works dating from the Middle Ages to the 21st century with music by **Hildegard von Bingen**, **Arvo Pärt**, **Michael Tippett**, **Nicole Lizée**, **Bryce Dessner**, and **Jocelyn Morlock**. Throughout the show, the musicians occupy several spaces in a way that echoes the grandeur and the depth of the pieces on the program. The lighting, scenography and staging contribute to creating a succession of moments that transport and invite contemplation, creating a moment of connection and introspection.

The music begins with a murmuring drone, from which the monodic chant of medieval composer Hildegard von Bingen slowly appears. From there, it moves seamlessly into the music of Arvo Pärt before experiencing the serene, yet intensely detailed world of Nicole Lizée inspired by stop-motion animation, within which "the impossible becomes possible — souls emerge from where once there were none." The journey between and beyond darkness and light guides us through the music of Bryce Dessner.

Michael Tippett's *Lament* expresses grief using Purcell's aria *Ah! Belinda*, during which a solo violin comments with a barely recognizable variation on an Irish popular tune of the Renaissance, while Jocelyn Morlock's *Exaudi*, also an expression of grief, includes hope: "the music moves us from an inability to comprehend our loss to passionate cries of anguish, to acceptance and angelic reassurance."

PROGRAMME INFO (without intermission)

Drone (collectif9)
O vis æternitatis (Hildegard von Bingen, 12th century)
Psalom (Arvo Pärt, 1985)
Another Living Soul (Nicole Lizée, 2016) * #
Lament (Michael Tippett, 1952)
Aheym (Bryce Dessner, 2009)
The Beatitudes (Arvo Pärt, 1990)
Summa (Arvo Pärt, 1977)
Exaudi (Jocelyn Morlock, 2004) *
Tenebre (Bryce Dessner, 2011) *

* arrangement by Thibault Bertin-Maghit
\# written for Kronos Performing Arts Association's Fifty for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire

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ON STAGE (2023.11)

collectif9
Chloé Chabanole, violin
John Corban, violin
Robert Margaryan, violin
TJ Skinner, violin
Cynthia Blanchon, viola
Xavier Lepage-Brault, viola
Jérémie Cloutier, cello
Andrea Stewart, cello
Thibault Bertin-Maghit, double bass

OFF STAGE

Thibault Bertin-Maghit, artistic direction and staging
Andrea Stewart, associate direction and communication
Joëlle Harbec, set design
Renaud Pettigrew, lighting design

Andrea Stewart performs on the 1824 McConnell Nicolaus Gagliano II cello, on loan by the Canada Council for the Arts Musical Instrument Bank.

COLLECTIF9

Known for their innovative programming and approach to chamber music, Juno-nominated Montreal string ensemble collectif9 performs "with an infectious energy and vigour that grabs an audience's attention" (The WholeNote). Since their 2011 debut, collectif9 has performed numerous concerts across North America, Europe, and Asia. As performers of classical and contemporary music, the ensemble combines the power of an orchestra with the agility of a chamber ensemble. collectif9 operates on the premise that a change of context can influence communication and experience.