



Bradyworks / Instruments of Happiness 2020 – 2021 Season: Virtually Unstoppable!

100 guitars, new operas, new albums

“The show must go on,” says artistic director Tim Brady. “It’s become our mantra in this extraordinary time. Adapting and redefining creative music making, that’s what our 2020-2021 season is all about.” We go almost completely virtual with a major new music creation (100 guitars), work on 3 album releases (Brady solo electric guitar; Instruments of Happiness quartet; Of Sound, Mind and Body ensemble) and a virtual mini-opera. Two concerts – one with the Instruments of Happiness quartet, one with Of Sound, Mind and Body, are open to an in-person audience, while behind the scenes we are pouring a lot of creation efforts on two new chamber operas with Black Theatre Workshop and Concordia University.

Backstage at Carnegie Hall: an opera about racism and the electric guitar

The season is built on many partnerships. The most important collaboration is between Bradyworks, Black Theatre Workshop and the **National Arts Centre** to develop a ground-breaking opera, **the first-ever, to our knowledge, Quebec opera with a majority black cast**, with libretto by Audrey Dwyer. The NAC’s major financial investment through its NAC Creation Fund means the opera will be workshopped extensively in 2020-2021 and premiered in 2021-2022.

New work for 100 virtual guitars

February 20, 2021 – online release: “100 Contacts: concerto virtuel” is a musical dialogue between the Instruments of Happiness electric guitar quartet and 100 community guitarists, recorded on smartphones and mixed together to create a massive virtual guitar orchestra. **Information on auditions now available online.**

A new virtual mini-opera

Spring 2021 – online release: a new opera by Tim Brady and librettist John Sobol, in collaboration with the Fine Arts Department of Concordia University. The opera explores the current pandemic and links to the Spanish Flu of 1918-19.

Back on stage winter/spring 2021: two concerts

Spring 2021 – Le Gesù, Quartier des spectacles: Instruments of Happiness electric guitar quartet performs in concert to an in-person audience, following all social distancing regulations. It will be a whole new program of music commissioned by the quartet.

Winter/Spring 2021 – Le Gesù, Quartier des spectacles: the improvisational ensemble Of Sound, Mind and Body presents a performance with special guest, jazz bass virtuoso Frédéric Alarie.

Available Now – New Video: excerpts from **Pam Reimer’s enthralling concert “Questions@50”**
<https://youtu.be/om1IMtiJ61k>

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