



Instruments of Happiness is the name of the electric guitar ensembles produced by Bradyworks under the direction of Tim Brady. This ambitious project is dedicated to the performance of new music and includes a **quartet**, a professional **orchestra of 20 guitarists** and a **100-strong community-focused ensemble**.

Instruments of Happiness is clearly obsessed with the electric guitar. We only have electric guitars on stage, and we hope fans of the instrument will find a sympathetic resonance with our concerts. However, we also hope to move beyond the guitar, creating new projects and concerts that are unique, imaginative and passionate musical events, all prepared with the greatest care for the quality of sound and the performance of the music. We hope to be not just guitarists, but musicians. We hope to bring you some happiness with our instruments.

The Quartet

The Instruments of Happiness quartet focuses on chamber music performed by high-level professionals, and is also designed to encourage the creation of new repertoire for this instrumentation. We think the electric guitar is a major contender for new chamber music and can contribute significantly to the future of chamber music in the 21st century.

The quartet first performed in 2014. In early 2016 they released their eponymous debut album on Starkland Records to great reviews in the USA, with premiere recordings of compositions by Tim Brady, Antoine Berthiaume and Rainer Weins. Available for purchase from Naxos: <http://bit.ly/1MixVdg>

Their performances – such as their “Art of Fugue” show at the Montreal Baroque Festival (June 2016) and album selections at St. John’s International Sound Symposium (July 2016) – reveal a boundless curiosity and deft ability in covering a wide terrain. Their first major tour saw them perform across Canada in March/April 2017 to premiere 6 new works by Canadian composers Jordan Nobles, Tim Brady, Scott Godin, Gordon Fitzell, Maxime McKinley and Emily Hall. Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxKivulQCAI>

In March 2018 the quartet toured Canada again, presenting the project “The Lioness of Iran”, a concept concert featuring 6 newly commissioned works based on the poetry of the dissident Iranian poet Simin Behbahani. The tour was in collaboration with the mezzo-soprano Marie-Annick Béliveau. Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=657tFkTRCio&t=1001s>

The group’s next CD, entitled “IoH Two” will be released in February 2019, again on the US-based Starkland Records, followed by a short US and Canadian tour.

The following guitarists have played in the quartet: Tim Brady, Gary Schwartz, Antoine Berthiaume, Michel Héroux, Marc-Olivier Lamontagne, Jonathan Barriault, Simon Duchesne and François Brunet-Turcotte.

The Orchestra (20 Professional Guitarists)

The Instruments of Happiness orchestra showcases 20 of Montreal's most talented professional guitarists.

Their début performance in April 2016, Montreal, featured a major commission from musique actuelle visionary Joane Héту as well as the first performance in 14 years in Montreal of Tim Brady's prize-winning multi-guitar manifesto: "20 Quarter Inch Jacks." The repertoire has toured to St. John's and Halifax.

Instruments of Happiness – 100 guitares électriques

Playing new music on the guitar is fun no matter who you are. Playing new music with 99 other musicians is 99 times more fun! The ensemble includes 20 professional guitarists as well as a group of about 80 guitar enthusiasts of all ages from all corners of Montréal. That makes 100 guitars...or more. This group is all about large-scale, spatialized projects that focus on community participation within highly professional, featured productions.

The début in 2015 was a huge success. They played to an audience of 2,400+ as part of the Montréal/New Music international festival, with a spectacular performance celebrating the 100th birthday of legendary guitarist and innovator, Les Paul. The public space of the Complexe Desjardins was charged with electricity for Tim Brady's larger-than-life composition "100 Very Good Reasons Why_" which splits the ensemble into 4 different groups around the atrium fountain. YouTube: <https://youtu.be/KO-IVk6LqR8>

The second edition in April 2016 at the church of Le Gesù celebrated the 100 years of musical revolutionary Charlie Christian. The sold-out show premiered Tim Brady's work "100 questions, 100 réponses," which places the 100 guitarists in every nook and cranny of this massive church, creating an interactive, explorative, surround-sound experience. YouTube: <https://youtu.be/4m1odH2XFyg>

Satellite projects featuring local talent are beginning to happen, such as at the Modulus Festival (Vancouver, November 2016) and the Stratford Summer Music Festival (July 2017).

The third edition returned in full force to the Complexe Desjardins in April 2017 in honour of Jimi Hendrix's 75th birthday, this time featuring a new work by emerging composer Alexandre David.

In June 2018 the 100 guitars was featured at Toronto's prestigious Luminato Festival, presenting a newly commissioned work by director Tim Brady, with Brady himself as featured soloist, with an orchestra of 99 guitars: Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3M_4_FTW1wY

Notes from Artistic Director Tim Brady

"I have played guitar since 1967, electric guitar since 1972. My interest in the instrument really began on February 9th, 1964, when The Beatles appeared on the Ed Sullivan show for the first time. The guitar (and the music) is created to make us happy, sad, contemplative, ecstatic...frankly, one is never indifferent in the face of music. According to two legendary guitar manufacturers, Robert Godin and Paul Reed Smith (my 2 favourites), you can never be sad with a guitar in your hands. Absolutely. The guitar is an "instrument of happiness," hence our name.

Since 1984 I have been exploring a new approach to the electric guitar vision as both a composer and a guitarist. It is a vision that does not ignore our roots in jazz, blues, rock and noise, but it is a vision which seeks to extend the boundaries of the electric guitar, incorporating chamber music, electroacoustics, orchestral music, opera, the-sky's-the-limit.... "Instruments of Happiness" is simply the next step in this evolution."

~ Tim Brady (Sept. 2018)

www.timbrady.ca