

New Jazz WITH A SHORT SHOT OF COUNTRY

featuring:

Janelle Lucyk soprano

Peter-Anthony Togni piano

Jamie Gatti bass

with **Jeff Reilly** on bass clarinet and more surprise guests!

Wednesday Oct 10th

7:30 pm at St. David's Presbyterian Church

1544 Grafton Street (on Pizza Corner), Halifax

On Wednesday Oct 10th, new jazz of lyricist Robert Stevenson and composer Peter-Anthony Togni will be showcased at St. David's Presbyterian with soprano Janelle Lucyk alongside a stellar ensemble including Peter-Anthony Togni, Jamie Gatti, Jeff Reilly and other guests.

After a long day writing commissions for some of the most esteemed chamber choirs across Canada including Elmer Iseler Singers, Pro Coro Canada, and Luminous Voices, Peter-Anthony Togni relaxes at the piano and creates music for the many sets of lyrics Rob Stevenson has sent him over this past year. The special artistic alliance between composer, Togni and lyricist, Stevenson was formed across several annual Christmas Parties at Jeff Reilly's house. In jolly celebration and conversation, Togni requested to look at some of Stevenson's writings, as Stevenson had started to write down snippets of verse that popped into his mind, often when awaking, about 15 years ago. Stevenson began sending these lyrics to Togni, and writing more, sending Togni a total of 60 songs in 365 days!

Togni and Stevenson have shared these new Jazz songs with soprano Janelle Lucyk, whose refreshing perspective lights up themes of "nostalgia," "the gamble," and "loyalty." Think Monica Zetterlund with Bill Evans, or Blossom Dearie, but then add Erik Satie's mood, and a shot of Patsy Cline and now you have the kind of alchemy that sets this team apart.

On Wednesday Oct 10th, come enjoy New Jazz at St. David's Presbyterian, as timeless themes meet new interpretations producing a new and refreshing take on Jazz.

A note on the performers:

Janelle Lucyk

Janelle Lucyk (soprano) graduated in 2014 with distinction from the Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles in Belgium where she performed with three choirs, debuted *Lux Aeterna*, written for her and the Brussels Chamber Choir by Jan Moeyaert, and formed *Voces Desuper*, an ensemble performing regularly in the magnificent Cathédrale de Saints-Michel-et-Gudule, and especially at the *Te Deum* ceremony for the King and Queen of Belgium. Following, she completed her Masters in Management at Durham University in the UK and there she won the role of Susanna in Durham Opera Ensemble's 2015 performance of Mozart's *The Marriage of*

Figaro for which she was awarded the Best Soloist by Music Durham, and Best Female Soloist by her peers at the DOE.

Moving back to Canada, Janelle was captivated by Nova Scotia's flourishing music scene. Janelle has had the good fortune of working with Paul and Nick Halley, and the rare gem of Canadian choral excellence they have created. She featured in CPE Bach's Magnificat and Mozart's Laudate Pueri with Ensemble Regale and The King's Chorus, in addition to Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610 and Selva Morale e Spirituale with the Kings Chapel Choir. Winter 2017 brought performances of Messiah with the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra, Per Sonatori (SK) and performing Mary in the Boar's Head Festival. 2018 projects in Canada and the UK included Daniel Taylor's Trinity Choir & Theatre of Early Music, Tribute to Les Six with Simon Docking, and new arrangements of Nova Scotian Folk Song with Nick Veltmeyer's Aureas Voces.

Peter-Anthony Togni

Peter-Anthony's music is spiritually rooted and contemplative, ranging from the ethereally quiet to the explosive outer limits of contemplation. One of Canada's busiest contemporary composers, Juno nominated Togni has toured internationally and his music is regularly broadcast worldwide. Togni's works have been released on XXI Records, CBC Records, Hänssler Classics, Warner Classics UK and ECM. He is also a well-known Canadian broadcaster. Recent recordings include *Lamentatio Jeremiah Prophetae*, (bass clarinetist Jeff Reilly and the Elmer Iseler Singers – 2010), *Spatium* (Togni Trio – 2012), *Piano Alone* (solo piano – 2013) and *Estuary* (Sanctuary Trio – 2015, ECMA nomination 2016). *Responsio* (premiered 2013) won the 2014 Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Masterworks Arts Award, was released on ATMA classique (2015) and was nominated for a Juno Award (2016). *Warrior Songs*, for percussionist Jerry Granelli and choir, premiered in Boulder Colorado (2014), with its Canadian premiere in Toronto (2015).

Peter-Anthony played at the 53rd Magadino International Organ Festival (Switzerland – 2015), co-founded by his father the late Victor Togni. *Isis and Osiris, Gods of Egypt*, a new Canadian opera, premiered during *Opera in Concert's* 2016 season. *Sea Dreams*, for choir and two flutes, premiered in Calgary in 2018, and *Living Flame of Love* will premiere in Edmonton in 2019. Originally from Pembroke, Ontario, he currently resides in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, where he composes and teaches at Acadia University.

Rob Stevenson

Ontario born, Nova Scotian since the mid-70s, Rob Stevenson is 70 years old. He played drums in a high school rock band as a teenager, but has done nothing in music since. He has been a furniture designer/builder most of his life, in the midst of which he worked for 18 years as a furniture and wooden objects conservator with Parks Canada.

Having written no songs before the age of 69, has now cranked out some 70 of them in the last year and a half. He wishes he'd done this 40 years ago, but suspects he had nothing to say back then. His wife reminds him from time to time of former Canadian Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson's wife Maryon, who said "Behind every successful man, there stands a surprised woman." Rob hopes to surprise his wife for many years to come.

Jamie Gatti

Born in Truro, Nova Scotia, Jamie Gatti has a reputation for versatility in playing all musical styles from classical, to jazz, rock, Celtic and theatre. For 35 years, Gatti has toured and recorded with many artists from around the globe. He presently tours and records with the Barra MacNeils. As well as recording with other Canadian artists, he plays sessions at CBC, with Symphony Nova Scotia and at Neptune Theatre.

Since 1992 Gatti recorded 4 CDs, all solo bass themed with original tunes and rearranged standards. The last one 'Over Time,' was nominated in the Best Jazz Artist category in the 2007 East Coast Music Awards. Also nominated at the 2008 East Coast Music Awards was original music from his group, Tonic. Recipient of the 2007 Music Nova Scotia Musician of the year and Jazz Recording of the year, Gatti plays all styles of music that over the years has filtered into his writing, combining many of these simultaneously. Gatti's home base is Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Jeff Reilly

Jeff Reilly leads a multifaceted life as a bass clarinetist, composer, conductor, a CBC radio music producer, and as a radio documentary maker. A recording artist for the prestigious German label ECM, he has performed with choirs, orchestras and chamber groups, in music festivals, cathedrals and concert halls around the world – with his trio *Sanctuary* he has performed in Shanghai, Paris, London, New York, St Petersburg, Moscow, Riga, Sochi, Toronto, Montreal and more.

The pure emotional accessibility of his rich, lyrical performance and compositional style reminds us that extended techniques, avant-garde sonorities and complex forms of notation can be executed within the service of musicality and sensitivity. Receiving 4 Juno nominations, an ECMA award as well as 4 ECMA nominations, his approach to music blurs any simple distinctions between improvisation and composition, and does so with a musicality and sensitivity that reminds us that such distinctions are moot. Jeff has commissioned many large-scale works that feature bass clarinet, including Eriks Esenvalds, Christos Hatzis, David Mott, Peter-Anthony Togni, and Barry Guy.

Spanning 20 years, the wide ranging performance experience of Peter-Anthony Togni and Jeff Reilly in their duo, Blackwood, includes hundreds of concerts touring Russia, China, Europe and North America performing in a range of contexts: jazz, contemporary classical, choral, orchestral, string orchestra, and Gamelan orchestra. The glue that holds them together is a common love of improvisation, a passion for taking musical risks, and a deep desire to connect with their audience.

\$20. Tickets reserved by email: TokenReservations@gmail.com

Tickets also available at the door. For further details visit PETERTOGNI.com