

# FREE CONCERT SERIES IN THE RICHARD BRADSHAW AMPHITHEATRE

PRESENTED BY



DANCE SERIES

April 17, 2024, 12 p.m.

## *SURRENDERED SPIRITS*

CinnaMoon Collective, presented by *dance* Immersion

Nickeshia Garrick, dancer and choreographer  
Irma Villafuerte, dancer and choreographer  
Timea Wharton-Suri, host

### THE PROGRAM

*SURRENDERED SPIRITS* is influenced and inspired by the impact of familial displacement and our upbringing as children of racialized, marginalized, and immigrant families. This work encompasses the relationship of two femme, queer, Black, and Brown women who face each other seeking to heal the inherited ancestral and familial wounds. They find support in their sisterhood and the power of collective care. Join the artists for a moving performance followed by a Q&A session with the audience.

Musical Composition: Brandon Valdivia  
Stage Manager: Jessica Zepeda

Photography, video, and audio recording are strictly prohibited during the performance.  
You are welcome to take photos before and after the performance and are encouraged to share with us on:



@CanadianOpera

#FreeConcertSeries

Programming is subject to change. For complete up-to-date listings, and to sign up for email updates, visit [coc.ca/FreeConcerts](http://coc.ca/FreeConcerts).

## COMING UP NEXT AT THE FREE CONCERT SERIES

Thu. Apr. 18, 2024 | 12-1 P.M.

INSTRUMENTAL SERIES

*2024 Festival Preview*

Toronto Summer Music Festival

Jonathan Crow, Artistic Director

Artistic Director Jonathan Crow presents a sneak preview of the 2024 Toronto Summer Music Festival, which provides music lovers with an opportunity to enjoy and deepen their knowledge of classical music by bringing audiences together with international artists and emerging professional musicians.

Tue. Apr. 23, 2024 | 12-1 P.M.

INSTRUMENTAL SERIES

*Ihnatowycz Piano Prizewinner Recital: A Piano Celebration*

Henry From, piano

Supported by Mr. Ian Ihnatowycz and Dr. Marta Witer, the Ihnatowycz Prize in Piano is awarded each year to a piano student with exceptional potential. Past recipients include internationally renowned performer and Deutsche Grammophon recording artist Jan Lisiecki, one of the finest and most highly sought-after pianists currently performing on international concert stages. Hear this year's prizewinner, Henry From, who was named among CBC's Top 30 Musicians Under 30 in 2019, and currently studies with John O'Connor at The Glenn Gould School's Ihnatowycz Piano Program.

## YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE...

Thu. Apr. 25, 2024 | 12-1 P.M.

INSTRUMENTAL SERIES

*Ebony and Ivory*

Luke Welch, piano

Pianist Luke Welch presents an exciting collection of works by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, highlighting rarely performed solo piano pieces by the famed Black British composer. Hailed by his contemporaries as the "African Mahler" for his musical excellence as a violinist, composer, and conductor, Coleridge-Taylor's music has been making a comeback in recent years including Welch's performances which are among the very first to ever feature his solo piano works.

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The Free Concert Series in the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre is supported by the Free Concert Series Endowment Fund, established in honour of Richard Bradshaw by an anonymous donor



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## CinnaMoon Collective

CinnaMoon Collective is founded by Irma Villafuerte and Nickeshia Garrick, a Central American and Afro-Caribbean contemporary dance duo that is dedicated to reclaiming and honouring ancestral stories from a decolonial perspective, with the mission to ignite collective healing and recontextualize identity through the lens of Black, Indigenous and racialized femme-presenting queer bodies. We are committed to forming part of the movement that is dedicated to magnifying the voices that have been silenced and erased. We aim to share works that reach our audiences and communities on a human level. Nickeshia and Irma have been collaborating as dance artists for over seven years through companies such as Victoria Mata Productions, Jaber Dance Theatre, and Kaeja d'Dance, to name a few. Most recently in the play *Pluto*, written and directed by Shaunga Tagore. Villafuerte and Garrick are mid-career dance artists and educators interested and passionate in reclaiming joys, cultural memory, and reconnecting to homeland. They are award-nominated and winning dance artists who have extensive training in dance, theatre, and voice work.

CinnaMoon Collective has nurtured their creative beginnings through residencies in El Salvador at the Centro de Arte para la Paz in Suchitoto (Arts Centre for Peace), through through Aluna Theatre which led to a work in progress presentation at Caminos Festival in 2023, and will be presenting the same work in progress at Aeris Korper's Prospects Evening of Dance and Discussion. The collective will be premiering their first collaborative full-length immersive dance-theatre work *Surrendered Spirits* from May 2-4, 2024, which is co-commissioned by *dance* Immersion and Kaeja d'Dance, and presented by *dance* Immersion.

## **dance Immersion**

*dance* Immersion is a charitable non-profit organization established by Vivine Scarlett in 1994 to produce, promote, and support dancers and dances of the African Diaspora. Their award-winning programs offer presentation, artistic skill development, and networking opportunities for Blacks in dance, serving artists who practice contemporary and traditional movement forms from Africa, the Caribbean, North America, South America, and Europe. With decades in service, *dance* Immersion experiences considerable success in connecting dance artists across Canada and around the world. *dance* Immersion, a charitable non-profit organization established in 1994 to produce, promote, and support dancers and dances of the African Diaspora.

[www.danceimmersion.ca](http://www.danceimmersion.ca)

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