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BMO Financial Presents ART OF TIME ENSEMBLE: 2007-2008 SEASON

Mixing daring new works with familiar favourites

– *From Shakespeare to Schumann and George Crumb to Allen Ginsberg* –

Dance, Theatre, Film and Music with Peggy Baker, Phil Dwyer, Ted Dykstra, Andy Maize, Tom McCamus, Peter Mettler, Erika Raum, Martin Tielli, Monica Whicher, Justin Rutledge, Steven Dann, Kyrie Kristmanson, John Southworth and more!

“The Art of Time seems like a game of artistic hopscotch, in which everyone is invited to jump over the notional barriers between music, dance and visual art, and between high art and low. It’s a game worth playing.”

– Robert Everett-Green, *The Globe and Mail*, March 2007

The **Art of Time Ensemble** is pleased to announce the launch of its ninth season, sponsored by BMO Financial. Founder and Artistic Director **Andrew Burashko** collaborates with leading Canadian artists to produce unique and intimate concert experiences that bridge the worlds of classical music, popular music, film, literature and theatre. Envisioned and crafted by Burashko, Art of Time concerts are provocative, engaging and accessible to people unfamiliar with classical music, but also immensely fulfilling to aficionados looking for a unique musical experience. Art of Time’s Official Broadcast Partner, **CBC Radio Two**, will record the concerts for future broadcast.

Following the incredible success of last year, the 2007-2008 season lineup features four concerts: contemporary classical works by the Pulitzer Prize winning **George Crumb** juxtaposed with film, folk music and poetry (Allen Ginsberg’s *Howl* set to music by **Jonathan Goldsmith**); one of **Schumann’s** greatest works (*Piano Quintet Op. 44*) and brand-new pop songs inspired by it; several of **Shakespeare’s** most famous scenes with dance and music inspired by them; and, due to its sold-out popularity, the return of a program of **wild new arrangements** of classic contemporary songs.

This season’s special guest artists from other disciplines include top actors **Ted Dykstra** and **Tom McCamus**; outstanding dancers **Peggy Baker**, **Patrick Lavoie** and **Tanya Howard**; and acclaimed filmmaker **Peter Mettler**. Along with established musicians such as **Josh Finlayson**, **Andy Maize**, **Martin Tielli** and **David Wall**, the wonderfully eclectic **John Southworth**, brilliant young talent **Kyrie Kristmanson** and rising star **Justin Rutledge** add a boost of youthful energy. Finally, a host of Canada’s top classical and jazz musicians take centre stage including **Steven Dann**, **Phil Dwyer**, **David Hetherington**, **Rob Piltch**, **Erika Raum**, **Steven Sitariski** and **Monica Whicher**, as well as Artistic Director **Andrew Burashko**.

All concerts are at 8pm at the **Enwave Theatre** at Harbourfront Centre, 231 Queens Quay West. **Three-concert** and **four-concert subscription packages** are available through the **Harbourfront Centre Box Office** at **416-973-4000** (at \$97 and \$120 respectively) as are single tickets (at \$36). Discounts for seniors, students and artists are also available. Information: www.artoftimeensemble.com

America & the Black Angel

October 5 and 6, 2007

Inspired by the theme of contrast, this program includes two avant-garde classical works by **George Crumb** (1929-). *Vox Balaenae (Voice of the Whale)* for amplified piano, flute and cello was inspired by whale song, celebrating life and nature; *Black Angels* for electric string quartet is a reaction to death, the horrors of the Vietnam War and the race riots of the 60’s. and will be performed by special guests the **Tokai String Quartet**. Both works are distinctly other-worldly in their theatricality, the unusual way the music is played and the unique sounds that are created. Accompanying these contemporary pieces will be live-mixed film by **Peter Mettler** (cinematographer on *Manufactured Landscapes*).⁴

Juxtaposed with Crumb’s *Vox Balaenae* is **Allen Ginsberg’s** legendary poem *Howl*, recited by **Ted Dykstra** and set to music for a string quartet and jazz trumpet (**Michael White**) by Canadian composer **Jonathan Goldsmith**. Then, furthering the evening’s exploration of contrast, *Black Angels* will be preceded by protest songs by **Woody Guthrie** and **Bob Dylan**, performed by **Josh Finlayson** and **Andy Maize** of the roots pop band, The Skydiggers.

Following the smash success of last year's *Source & Inspiration*, Andrew Burashko has once again commissioned outstanding and creative musicians to write two songs each, inspired by and/or incorporating material of their choosing from a great classical work; this time from **Schumann's Piano Quintet Op. 44**.

Steven Sitarski and **Erika Raum** (violins), **Steven Dann** (viola), **David Hetherington** (cello) and **Andrew Burashko** (piano) perform the *Quintet*. Returning from last year are the wonderful singer/songwriters **John Southworth**, **Martin Tielli** and **Andy Maize** along with three new artists to the program: **Kyrie Kristmanson** (2007 Canadian Folk Music Awards Best Young Performer nomination), **Justin Rutledge** (named Best Artist at the Edmonton Folk Music Festival 2007) and **David Wall** (lead singer of The Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band) to perform their original works inspired by one of the best known and most admired works from the great German Romantic composer **Robert Schumann** (1810-1856).

Shakespeare: If Music Be... March 28 and 29, 2008

This evening features words, music and dance inspired by Shakespeare including: music by **John Cage**, **Erich Korngold**, **Sergei Prokofiev** and **Richard Strauss**; choreography by **Peggy Baker** and **James Kudelka**; and staged scenes from the plays of Shakespeare that inspired this music and dance. The program will open with a humorous collection of readings about Shakespeare by a wide array of writers/thinkers such as **Harold Pinter**, **Virginia Woolfe**, **Voltaire** and **Mel Gibson**, among others, and feature songs by **Erich Korngold**. The artists will then explore Ophelia from *Hamlet*, Beatrice and Benedict from *Much Ado About Nothing* and the star-crossed lovers from *Romeo and Juliet*; first through the original text and then by performing the subsequently-inspired musical and dance pieces.

Directed by **David Ferry**, the performers include musicians **Monica Whicher** (soprano), **Erika Raum** (violin) and **Andrew Burashko** (piano); dancers **Patrick Lavoie** and **Tanya Howard** (from the National Ballet of Canada) and the incomparable **Peggy Baker**, along with actors **Tom McCamus**, **Chick Reid** and others.

The Songbook II June 20 and 21, 2008

Building upon the sold-out success of last year's *Songbook* program with Sarah Slean, *The Songbook II* will reinvent a dozen popular songs chosen by the guest singer (tba). The arrangements will be created by some of Canada's most accomplished composers and arrangers. Two contemporary classical works will complete the program. A mixed ensemble of classical and jazz/pop musicians including **Andrew Burashko** (piano), **Phil Dwyer** (sax), **Rob Piltch** (guitar) and **Steven Sitarski** (violin) will accompany the singer.

Now in its ninth season, Art of Time is one of Toronto's most innovative and artistically sound music ensembles. The ensemble has attracted the interest and participation of some of Canada's best performers in creating new and exciting opportunities for collaborations between the performing arts; provoking, entertaining and breaking down barriers, revealing the vibrancy of classical music as a contemporary artistic expression and appealing to a range of audiences. Past projects include the North American premiere of Mauricio Kagel's multi-media *Variété*, called a "landmark in interdisciplinary arts in Toronto" (National Post), which played to sold out houses over five performances and received a 2004 Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Sound Design/Composition on behalf of Kagel. William Littler, former music critic of the *Toronto Star*, called Art of Time "one of Toronto's most imaginative musical enterprises." In May of 2006, Art of Time presented two of their programs in Moscow, Russia.

Andrew Burashko made his debut at the age of seventeen with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and has since established himself as one of the most sought-after soloists in Canada. Known for his eclectic repertoire and unique programming, Burashko has performed with most of the Canadian orchestras, including eight seasons with the Toronto Symphony, collaborating with conductors Marin Alsop, Andrew Davis, Jukka-Pekka Saraste and Pinchas Zukerman, among many others. As a soloist, he has performed extensively throughout Canada, the United States and Europe. As a chamber musician, he regularly collaborates with Canada's top artists and performs in festivals throughout Canada and Europe. Burashko has recorded for CBC SM5000, Naxos, and Centerdisc labels, and his recording of Prokofiev's *6th Sonata* and *Romeo and Juliet* suite has been released on the Opening Day label. He is regularly heard on CBC in Canada. A dedicated teacher, Mr. Burashko gives master classes throughout North America and is presently a member of the faculty at the Glenn Gould Professional School in Toronto. The fall of 2007 includes solo appearances with the Toronto Symphony and Esprit Orchestras.