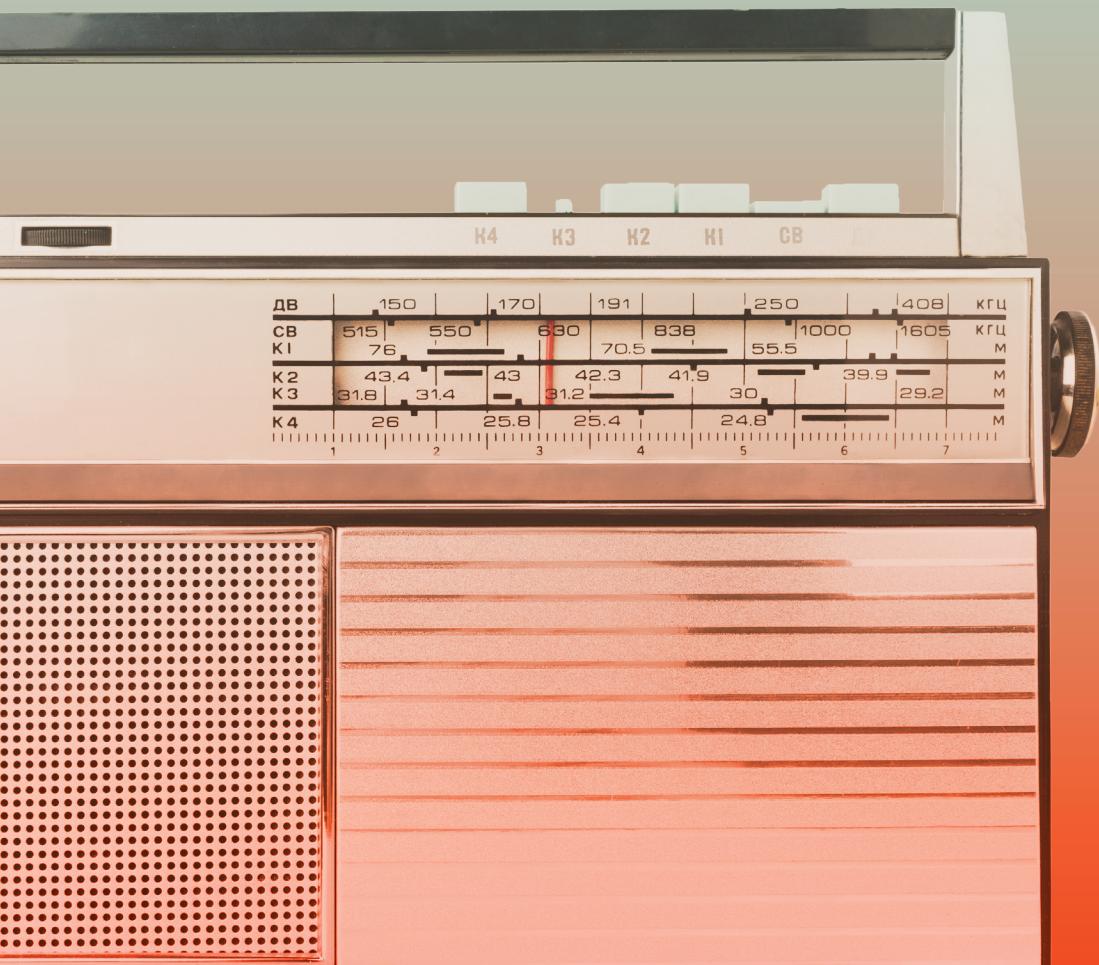


2021 JUNE 3-6

#OE21 [openears.ca](http://openears.ca)



# 2021 Strange Days

---

Well, what a year it has been and continues to be. We have been working diligently in the background to reimagine how we, the festival, can continue to transform while pivoting towards a digital focus. On behalf of our board of directors and general manager, I am incredibly excited to present to you our hybrid *Open Ears Festival 2021* (#OE21). Once again, this year's festival brings some of the world's highest caliber musicians to our region, featuring local, national and international award-winning soloists and ensembles.

In 2021, we continue to engage with long-standing partners and supporters of Open Ears, while developing new relationships, new sponsors and new donors. We are grateful for the ongoing support for Open Ears and for the shared belief and confidence in the future of the festival.

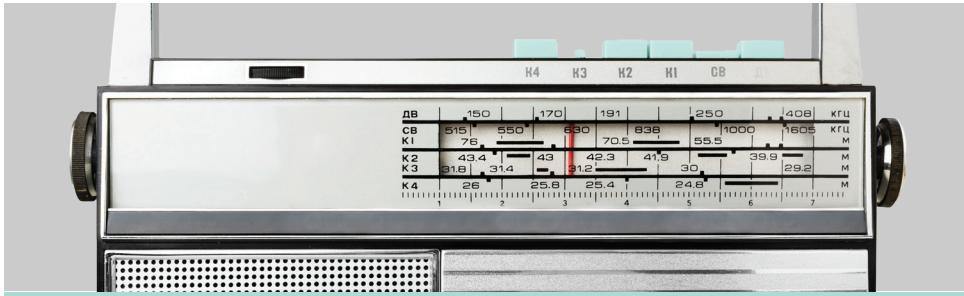
Open Ears will present numerous performances and workshops to appease your curiosity and highlight the many cultural activities in our area, including the internationally renowned pianist Eve Egoyan. We also have performances that include world premieres, sound installations, multi-media, player pianos, radios and newly invented instruments. There is a variety of music and sound to transform everyone.

I can't wait to see you online throughout the festival!



Richard Burrows  
*Artistic Director*

**Open Ears Festival of Music and Sound would like to acknowledge that we are on the Haldimand Tract, land promised to the Haudenosaunee people of Six Nations, which includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. This territory is the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnabeg and Haudenosaunee Peoples.**



## Open Ears Opening Ceremonies

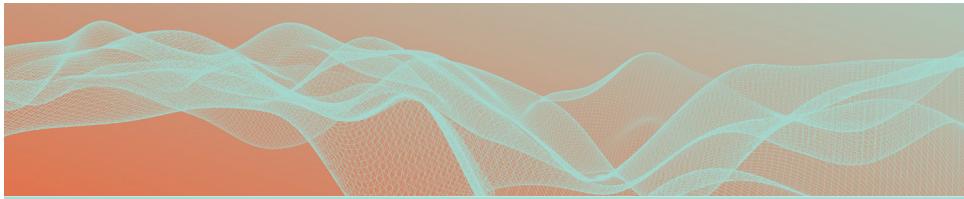
JUN 3

Thursday, 6 PM

FREE online access

The festival's opening event will include remarks from local political leaders and cultural ambassadors. Following the words of welcome, the Soundscape Workshop will begin, digitally celebrating the world premiere of *OpenEarsFM* radio featuring Andrew O'Connor of DISCO3000/Parkdale Pirate Radio fame and out-of-this-world music.

Stream Online



## Soundscape Workshop

JUN 3

Thursday, 7 PM

FREE access with signup

A workshop for all skill levels exploring soundscape recording and production, both from a technical and artistic perspective. Starting with a background in the Acoustic Ecology movement and the beginnings of soundscape composition, the class will be a guided tour through the process of listening to and composing with, the soundscapes we create and inhabit. The course will explore different techniques and approaches to soundscape recording, as well as the technical aspects of different microphones and recording devices. Once we have our soundscape recordings, the class will begin to focus on editing, production and mixing, working collectively on free audio editing software through the process of soundscape composition. Each participant at the end will have created their own work that will be broadcast on *OpenEarsFM* during the course of the festival.

Stream Online



## OpenEarsFM

**JUN 3**

**Thursday, 9 PM**

**➡ FREE online access**

Featuring Andrew O'Connor from Disco3000/Parkdale Pirate Radio.

Interviews, new music and info 24 hours a day for the duration of the festival.

DISCO 3000 is a weekly free form radio program hosted and produced by Andrew O'Connor as part of his long running clandestine radio project Parkdale Pirate Radio. The show is broadcast every Thursday night from Andrew's home studio to the radios of Parkdale Toronto, but to kick off this year's Open Ears Festival, DISCO 3000 is taking to the airwaves of downtown Kitchener for a special extended edition of the show.

Thursday night (June 3) tune your radios to 87.5FM to catch a very special 4 hour Open Ears edition of DISCO 3000 featuring live to air performances from left field beatmaker Black Taffy and improv legend Kevin Drumm, plus whole stack of curious and unclassifiable records from the DISCO 3000 vault.

Keep your radios tuned to 87.5 FM in downtown Kitchener (or streaming live anywhere through [openears.ca](http://openears.ca)) throughout the festival for special broadcasts, bonus content and pirate radio happenings. For updates and throughout the festival about special broadcasts follow on twitter @parkdalepirateradio or @openearsfest

   Stream Online



## Artist Interview: A Wake of Vultures

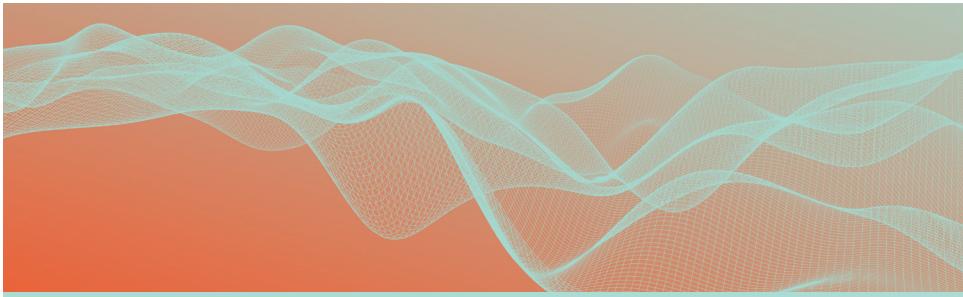
**JUN 4**

**Friday, 6 PM**

 **FREE online access OpenEarsFM**

Formed in 2013, *A Wake of Vultures* (WOV) is a project-based interdisciplinary performance company. WOV is a research, development and producing vehicle for the works of its three members: Nancy Tam (music, sound design, theatre), Daniel O'Shea (film, theatre) and Conor Wylie (theatre, clown).

 **Stream Online**



## Soundscape Workshop II (continuation)

JUN 4

Friday, 7 PM

➡ FREE access with signup

📍💻📺 Stream Online



Jasmine Chen and Donna Soares. Image provided by *A Wake of Vultures*.

## K BODY AND MIND

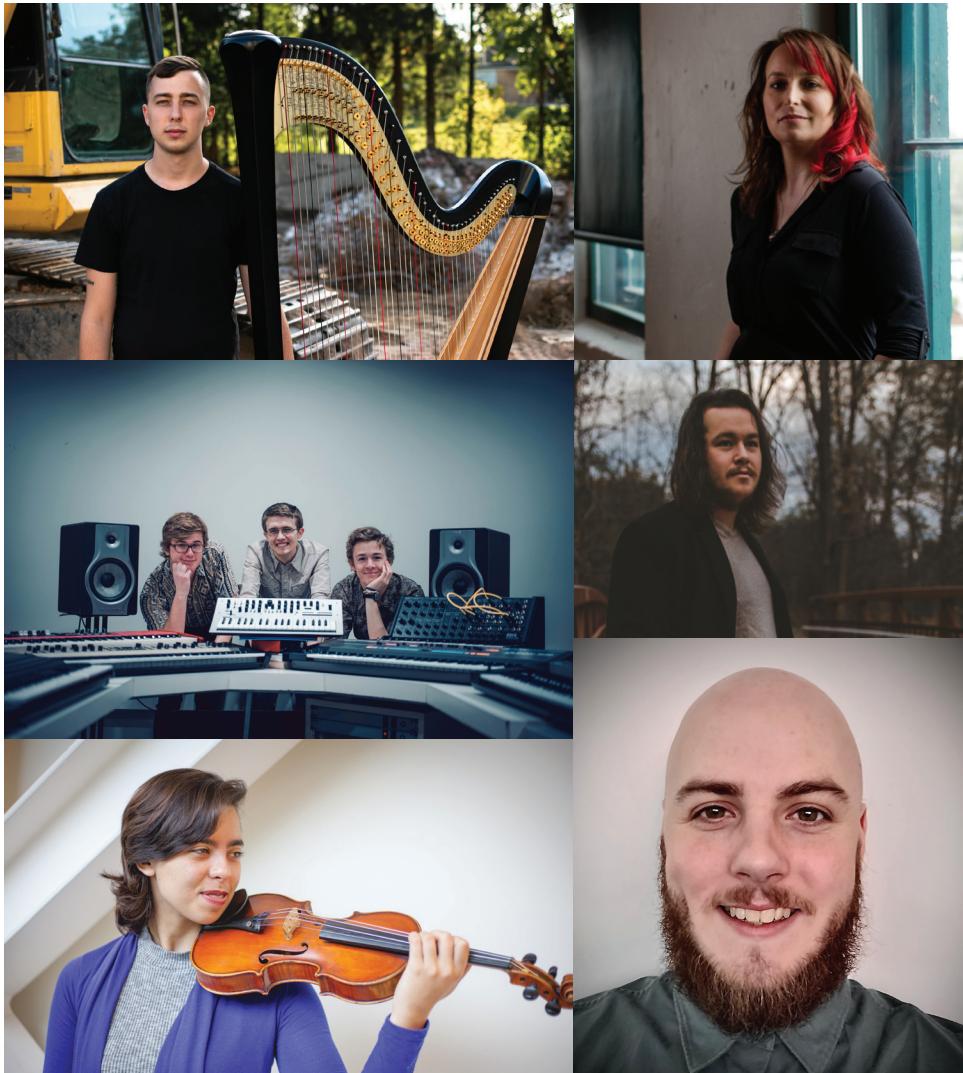
JUN 4

Friday, 8 PM

➡ #OE21 Online Access Pass

A new work of science fiction created by interdisciplinary performance collective *A Wake of Vultures*, led by Siminovitch Prize Protégé Conor Wylie. Originally planned as a live theatre performance, *K BODY AND MIND* has been re-envisioned as an episodic miniseries for viewing at home. Blending overloaded 90s anime and cyberpunk aesthetics with an off-kilter and mesmerizing minimalist performance style, *K BODY AND MIND* is an impossible sci-fi epic performed by two bodies in an abandoned 100-year-old theatre. Featuring intricately patterned lights, sound and choreography, this special 3-episode miniseries will be available for on-demand viewing.

📍💻📺 Stream Online



## KW Artists Array

**JUN 5**

**Saturday, 1 PM**

**#OE21 Online Access Pass**

Our artist array is a focus on local talent, from emerging to mid-career musicians. Some are veterans of the OE stage and some are performing for the first time. This variety show will be a cleansing palette for all of life's current obstacles. Unique performances are marbled together in a concert like nothing else at the festival. Featuring Veda Hingert-McDonald, Andrew Rinehart, Kathryn Ladano, Max Lindsay, Myke Phillips and Seagram Synth Ensemble.

   *Stream Online*



## multiPLAY

JUN 5

Saturday, 3 PM

#OE21 Online Access Pass

Directed by lead artist and project coordinator Rebecca Caines, the *multiPLAY* project partners with a range of community groups, festivals and galleries across Canada and has been ongoing since 2019. Open Ears will feature:

**Livestreamed Performance** The Remotions in Concert

Videos include:

**Sonic Blankets** by Rebecca Caines, Michelle Stewart and James Harley

**Plant Growth Sonification (title tbc)** by Ian Campbell

**Mannlicher Carcano (title tbc)** by Michael Waterman, video by John Campbell

**So Near and Yet So Far (title tbc)** by Helen Pridmore, and the The Big Sky Centre for Learning and Being Astonished, video by John Campbell

**Wishing We Were Together** By John Campbell

   Stream Online



## Duet for Solo Piano (Documentary)

JUN 5

Saturday, 6 PM

► #OE21 Online Access Pass

Eve Egoyan is one of the world's most sought-after interpreters of contemporary new music. The story unfolds over a one-year period wherein Eve develops new work that pushes the boundaries of her art, her instrument and herself. The film weaves the personal and the private with unexpected musical moments — each one exploring the events that have shaped Eve and left their mark on who she is today. Beautifully photographed and crisply edited, *DUET FOR SOLO PIANO* features collaborators and composers Nicole Lizée, John Oswald, David Rokeby, Linda Catlin Smith and Michael Snow.

68 minutes, 2020. Film website: [www.DuetforSoloTheFilm.com](http://www.DuetforSoloTheFilm.com)

📍🌐📺 Stream Online



## Soundscape Workshop III (continuation)

JUN 5

Saturday, 7 PM

► FREE access with signup

📍🌐📺 Stream Online



## Eve Egoyan

JUN 5

Saturday, 8 PM

 #OE21 Online Access Pass

As a pianist, Egoyan is always seeking ways to push the piano's limits and to find new ways to share this instrument she loves with audiences who might not traditionally attend a piano concert. Eve will be performing works that extend the piano visually and sonically, delving deeper into her dreams of what the piano can do today.

Surface Tension is a collaborative work created with media artist David Rokeby for piano and interactive video commissioned by the Open Ears Festival in 2009. In Surface Tension, Eve's performance is transformed and interpreted by a computer into live visual images. The visuals respond to a variety of performance parameters, including dynamics, pitch, the harmonic relation between pitches, the use of the sustain pedal, and the duration of individual notes. The improvisation is shaped partly by Eve's response to the system's visual response to her playing. All visual activity on the screen is directly responsive to Eve. The result is an extraordinary integration of sound and image in which neither of these elements dominate the other.

Eve will also perform world premières of three compositions she has created for augmented and acoustic piano, a newly imagined instrument that delves into the space between what a piano can do and what Eve has always wished a piano could do. The core of these works is the live acoustic sound of the physical piano she is playing, but through the delicate intervention of technology, she tests (teases) the edges of the piano's natural sound, ultimately pushing it beyond the familiar, through the impossible, and into the extraordinary.

This project was generously supported by the Canada Council for the Arts.

   Stream Online



## Benton Roark and members of Arkora

JUN 6

Sunday, 3PM

#OE21 Online Access Pass

After years growing from chamber group to full-fledged electric vocal consort Arkora brings it full circle with Cloud Chamber, a compact collaboration among five composer/performers who are central to the group's unique sound: Tova Kardonne (viola/voice/piano), Dan Morphy (percussion), Brendon Randall-Myers (electric guitar), Sharon Lee (electric violin) and Benton Roark (microtonal keyboards/fretless bass/pedal steel). Designed to roll with the challenges of our times, Cloud Chamber is an EP's worth of new work written and recorded completely via remote collaboration using layering, cellular development, improvisation and telephone-chain methods, as works go round the circle with each creator making their mark and passing it along. One of the many goals of the project is to deepen the artistic connection among the group and to nurture a trust when handing off an idea to another creator, an action which Kardonne calls "an exciting risk" and Randall-Myers describes as "liberating" (Musicworks, Fall 2020). Cloud Chamber was released via Redshift Records in June 2020. As a visual element, Toronto animator, artist and filmmaker Karly McCloskey offers an experimental film using analogue techniques inspired by the creative process to accompany the album's release.

   Stream Online

# **SONICA**

THE DIGITAL  
SOUND DYNAMICS  
EXPERIENCE 2021

What is sound? Is it something you see, hear, or feel?

These questions will be answered in THEMUSEUM's immersive exhibition, **SONICA | The Sound Experience**, part of **Digital Dynamics 2021**. The exhibition features both engaging and reflective works bringing together eight inspiring artists and collectives to interpret and explore sound.

Guests can immerse themselves in twelve unique installations and have the opportunity to share personal experiences with sound and even silence. **SONICA** will take what you think you know and challenge you to redefine what it means to you.



The Musagetes Fund



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal



**Packaging too**  
CUSTOM DESIGN PACKAGING SERVICE AND SUPPLIES



[THEMUSEUM.ca](http://THEMUSEUM.ca)

DOWNTOWN KITCHENER

**Open Ears Festival is grateful for the support of the following:**



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
an Ontario government agency  
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



KITCHENER  
WATERLOO  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

The Musagetes Fund



**Information + Tickets: [openears.ca](http://openears.ca)**

[openearsfest](#)

Festival events may be photographed or recorded. Please be advised that photographs and/or video may be taken at all events for use by Open Ears in ongoing print, online, web, social media marketing and promotion.

