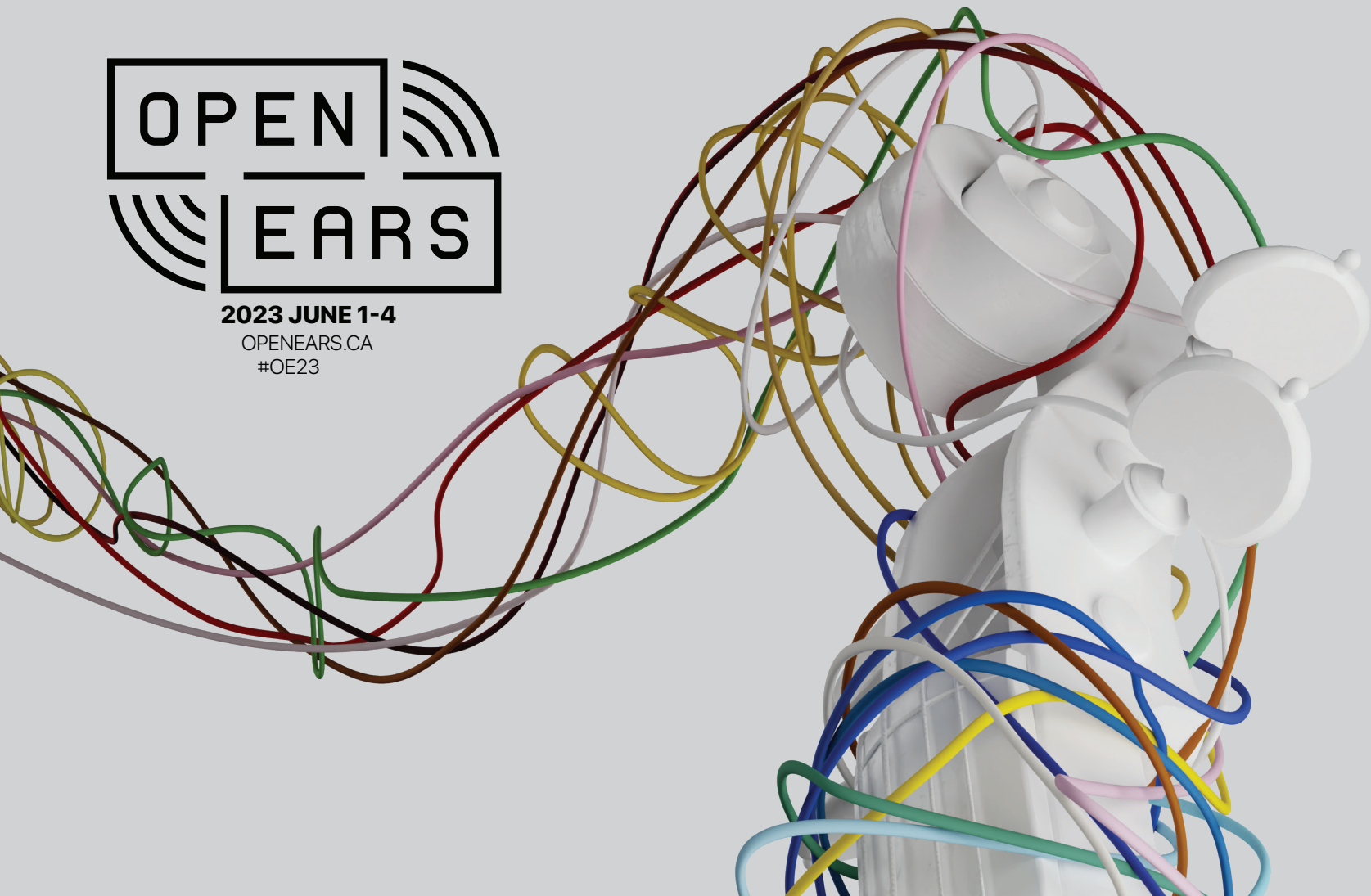


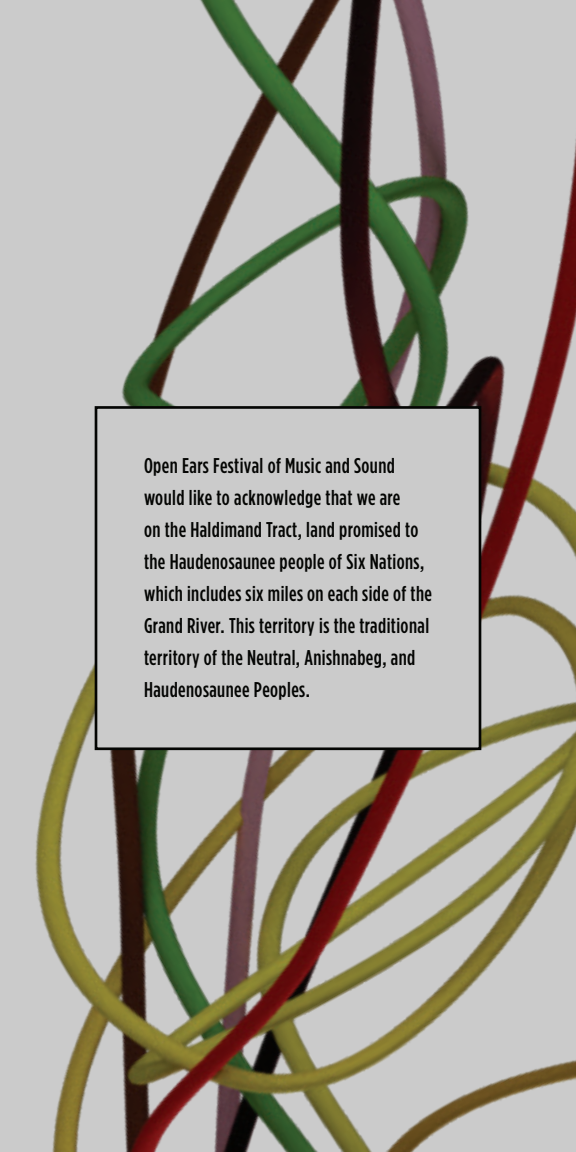


2023 JUNE 1-4

[OPENEARS.CA](https://openears.ca)

#OE23





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.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we celebrate Open Ears 25th anniversary I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for supporting the arts, and specifically the people that keep this quirky festival running. Our director emeritus Peter Hatch had a vision of creating a festival centered on the art of listening, and to this day we continue to present transformative listening experiences for our region. It has not been without challenges, but we continue to evolve and celebrate contemporary music and sound in unique ways. We are proud to be a part of the cultural fabric in Waterloo region and can't wait to hear what the future brings.

On behalf of our board of directors and general manager, I am incredibly excited to present to you our **Open Ears Festival 2023** (#OE23). 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.

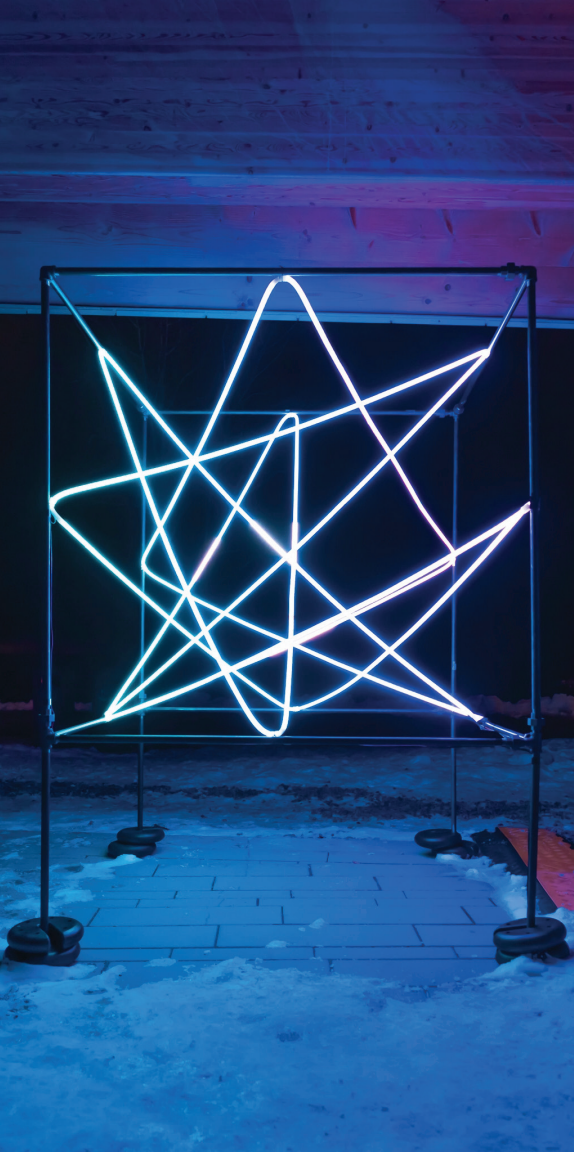
In 2023, we continue to engage with long-standing partners and supporters of Open Ears, while developing new relationships, new sponsors and new donors. We are grateful for the ongoing support for Open Ears and for the shared belief and confidence in the future of the festival.

Open Ears will present numerous performances and workshops to appease your curiosity, and highlight the many cultural activities in our area, including the world premiere of Yang Chen's new album **longing for _**, and renowned violist Melody McKiver. We also have more premiere performances including sound installations, multi-media, dance, and newly-invented instruments.

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

Richard Burrows

Richard Burrows, Artistic Director



DURATION OF FESTIVAL

Luxonus

Admission to THEMUSEUM

All of life balances on a delicate string. While the universe expands and then contracts on a continuum, time is a construct based on our observations as temporary, living beings. On a universal scale, we rarely become aware of the ways in which light dictates our experience of time. Light traveling from a distant star allows us to gaze into the past. The prospect of traveling at the speed of light gives us a hint of what may be possible in the distant future. Linear time takes the shape of a wave when we begin to understand the elegant particle at the center of our experience.

Luxonus is a multimedia installation using luminescence and tempo to draw attention to this fundamental universal relationship. Thin, oscillating bands of light, reacting in perfect synchrony with evocative sounds, are revealed as they move along an intricate string sculpture. Elastic twine suspended within a black cube captures and reveals passing light, appearing as a wondrous web for audiences to explore. The resulting patterns offer a representation of time as non-linear and governed by our perception. Through this reflection, the audience may arrive at a deeper connection to their role in crafting time.

Originally conceived at Berklee College of Music Valencia, two iterations of Luxonus have already been shown as part of INOCON at Centro del Carmen de Cultura Contemporánea in Valencia, Spain, and at LUMEN Festival in Waterloo, Canada. Luxonus is site-specific, redesigned specifically to best fit the site of each installation

THEMUSEUM, 10 King St. W, Kitchener, ON



photo by Sean Howard

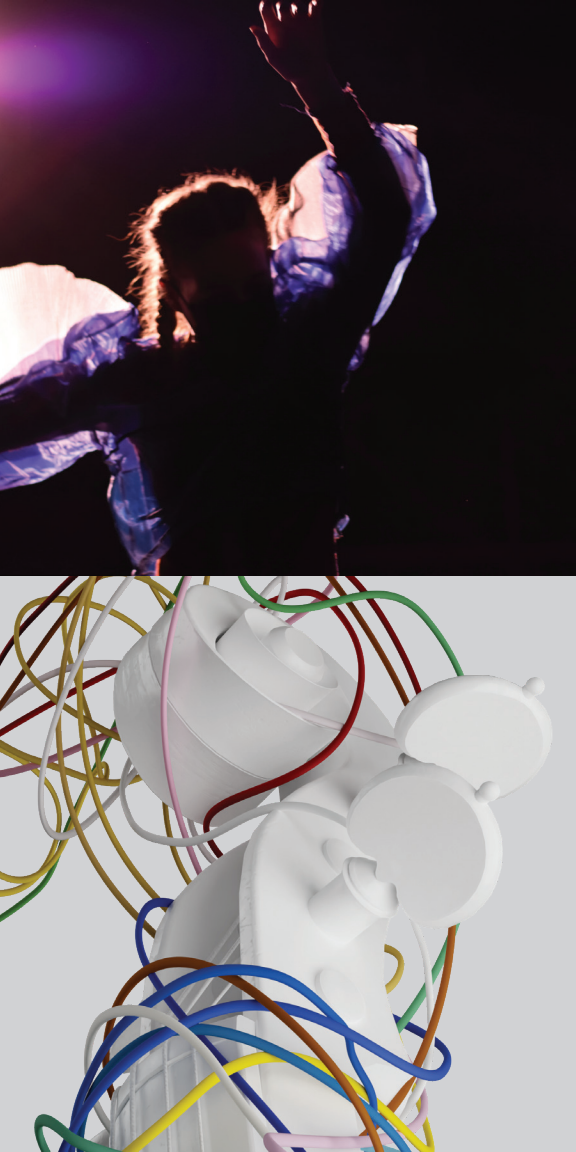
THURS. June 1st. 5-6pm

Hear Here Workshop with Yvonne Ng (tiger princess dance projects)

FREE

MINING THE SOURCE: Develop your movement vocabulary and find the dance in the memories and stories inside ourselves. Led by Yvonne Ng, participants will be guided in an improvisational setting using imagery as a tool to weave together various ways to warm the body and the imagination into a ready state of physicality. This will allow the participants to uncover and originate movement focusing and building on their impulses and personal histories found in their physical self. Using the choreographic vocabulary that each participant has generated, Yvonne will guide the participants with strategies to develop their choreographic voice, and with a practiced eye will gently mitigate the natural tendencies to fall back on learned or derivative choreography. This work celebrates diversity, collaboration, and individual creative empowerment: free of inhibition, accessing intuitive knowing, and inviting the mind to collaborate. A remarkably effective and revolutionary way of learning, the Open Source Forms approach can catalyze learning and transformation in many kinds of practices, in movement as well as voice, acting, and other fields of learning and creation. Hear Here Workshops are 60 min in length and are for all ages and stages of development.

44 Gaukel St., Rehearsal Space, Kitchener, ON



THURS. June 1st. 8pm

Portal Dance presents The Returned

\$25/\$5 student with ID

Featuring music by Ben Grossman and Jeff Bird, The Returned is a new contemporary dance work that seeks to understand the time and place in which we currently live, as well as the time that came before. Portal Dance dancers uncover these “fossil memories” by exploring shades of memory, forms of recovery, cellular history, individual body maps and what haunts us as humans. The Returned is curious about the cyclical nature of time and how what we see & know to be true in this moment is perhaps merely a frame within a revolving timeline that weaves but ultimately circles synthesizing us to returning atoms, molecules of memories.....

The Registry Theatre, 122 Frederick St, Kitchener, ON

THURS. June 1st 9pm

25th Anniversary Celebration

FREE

Come hang with the staff and board of Open Ears as we celebrate the opening of the festival. Artists will also be in attendance at this social gathering. We are pleased to partner with AOK Arcade and Bar as the official bar for #OE23

AOK Arcade and Bar



photo by Ben Lariviere

FRI. June 2nd. 5-6pm

Hear Here Workshop with Lori Gemmell and guests

FREE

LISTENING HEARING SOUNDING: Harpist Lori Gemmell and Percussionist Erin Donovan are both multi-instrumentalists, performers, teachers and show creators. Joined by choreographer Yvonne Ng, in this workshop (for all skill levels from absolute beginner to accomplished sound artists or listeners) just bring an open-mind, a journal and pen, an instrument or your voice or just your ears to participate. Inspired by influential listeners and leaders like Pauline Oliveros, Hildegard Westerkamp and John Cage, Lori and Erin (along with mover and listener and choreographer Yvonne Ng) will create a fun and safe space to listen and sound in. Hear Here Workshops are 60 min in length.

44 Gaukel St, Rehearsal Space, Kitchener, ON



FRI. June 2nd. 7pm

Yang Chen and guests presents

\$25/\$5 student with ID

longing for _, the debut album of Toronto-based percussionist Yang Chen manages to do the unthinkable: showcase their audacious eclecticism, sharp curatorial sensibility, and exceptional skill all at the same time. As such, Chen is right at home on the celebrated cross-border imprint People Places Records, a label known for embracing young, vibrant artists operating loosely within the bounds of contemporary composition.

longing for _ includes collaborations with one of People Places' head honchos, guitarist-composer Andrew Noseworthy alongside other respected (and largely emerging) talent such as Yaz Lancaster, Connie Li, Jason Doell, Sara Constant, Sarian Sankoh, Stephanie Orlando and Charles Lutvak. On it, Chen performs on everything from bicycle to steel pan evoking styles that span elegiac R&B to full-on electroacoustic abstraction.

*The Registry Theatre, 122 Frederick St,
Kitchener, ON*



FRI. June 2nd. 9pm

ce qui nous traverse

\$25/\$5 student with ID

–ce qui nous traverse– is a Montreal ensemble seeking to capture the intensive vibrations that compose the surrounding ambiances. The group is performing *Le sacre de Sainte-Barbe* (Cuchabata Records, 2021), a concept album focused on their singular relation to a small town in Quebec that emerged from a process of research-creation with members of the local community. *Le sacre de Sainte-Barbe* is an experimental study on the affective tonalities that could be perceived in rural North America. –ce qui nous traverse– proposes a multidisciplinary performance mixing live sonic experimentations with the work of the video artists Guillaume Vallée and Larissa Corriveau.

THEMUSEUM, 10 King St. W, Kitchener, ON



SAT. June 3rd. 1pm

Medusa

\$25/\$5 student with ID

Medusa is a unique chamber-folk quartet that blends the Western string quartet (violin, viola and cello), with Polish knee fiddles, Greek lira, and Swedish Nyckelharpa. We intertwine the sounds of Middle Eastern, Scandinavian, Celtic, and Eastern European music to create something entirely new. The instruments we play on are incredibly rare around the world. There is no other string band in existence with this highly unusual combination of instruments or with such a wide range of repertoire. Made up of musicians both classically trained and immersed in traditional music from different cultures, Medusa brings you an experience like no other.

Medusa made its debut at the Small World Music Festival in 2020, and has since been enthralling and delighting audiences at the BLOK Eastern European Festival (Toronto), the 4elements Living Arts Festival (Manitoulin Island), the Hidden Kingdom Festival (livestream from Bhutan), and the TSO 100th Anniversary Open House at Roy Thomson Hall, among others. Medusa EP is coming out this spring

The Registry Theatre, 122 Frederick St, Kitchener, ON



SAT. June 3rd. 3pm

Peter Hatch presents Lecture on Nothing, by John Cage, with special guests Gregory Oh and Richard Burrows

\$25/\$5 student with ID

One of the 20th century's most important composers, John Cage is renowned as the composer of the piece 4'33", which consisted only of silence. Cage was a constant explorer and invented such things as the prepared piano, multi-media 'happenings' and "chance" elements applied to his work. He was a frequent lecturer and published several books around his lectures. The 1949 'Lecture on Nothing' visits favorite topics of his: noise vs music, tonality vs atonality, the twelve tone technique of composing. Cage was one of the first artists to embrace the Zen Buddhism that was introduced into North America in the 1940s. The ideas of mindfulness, emptiness, and nothingness attracted him greatly and began to influence his work. The Lecture on Nothing "is a composed talk, for I am making it just as I make a piece of music." The lecture is meant to be read in a 'musical' manner -rhythmically, "but with the rubato which one uses in everyday speech."

During the 1940s Cage was preoccupied with musical form or structure. Cage refers to the rhythmic structure in this piece as 'micro-macrocosmic'. Its five large parts are divided into 48 units, using the proportions 7 6 14 14 7. Each of these units is divided into 48 'small' parts using the same proportions. My interpretation makes use of visual dials to highlight the structural layers as they unfold and to draw attention to our experience of the passing of time while this happens. In the spirit of Cage, this performance includes extra sonic material, drawing from sounds and music mentioned in the text. This performance includes simultaneous performances of other works, a practice Cage developed in his own work starting shortly after writing his lecture. The appearance and disappearance of visual and sonic elements were determined by chance techniques, a practice Cage used in almost all of his mature work.

- Peter Hatch

Kitchener Public Library Theatre, 85 Queen St N, Kitchener, ON



SAT. June 3rd. 5pm

Lithophonica & Earth Ether Ensemble

\$25/\$5 student with ID

Lithophonica is Improvised music for instruments of stones, strings, and wood, processed and spatialized in real time. Earth Ether Ensemble is a group of friends exploring the sounds of the world and beyond through improvisation and listening along the 'space/time continuum' (Pauline Oliveros). Instruments and environmental sounds are drawn from different locations and traditions.

Trillium Lutheran Church, 22 Willow St., Waterloo, ON



SAT. June 3rd. 6pm

Hear Here Workshop with Erin Donovan and guests

FREE

THIS TREE LISTENS (WORKSHOP) Erin Donovan creates interdisciplinary site-specific shows through her organization Hear Here Productions (hearhereproductions.ca). In this workshop Erin, along with her creative team for Open Ears, Yvonne Ng (movement) and Lori Gemmell (music), will share her process of working across disciplines and often outdoors including some of the lessons, challenges and rewards of this process. In this workshop, participants of any and all backgrounds (movers, listeners, sounders, visual artists, writers or just curious people) will get a chance to explore a mini-process of listening and observing (both inwardly and outwardly) and then make a mini interdisciplinary piece together. *Note: Participants of any or all workshops may be invited to participate in the Sunday June 4th performance in Victoria park, This Tree Listens

44 Gaukel St, Rehearsal Space, Kitchener, ON

photo by Courtney Mac



SAT. June 3rd. 8pm

Melody McKiver

\$25/\$5 student with ID

Melody McKiver is a electro-violist and composer based in Treaty #1, Winnipeg Manitoba.

They are an Assistant Professor of Indigenous Music in the Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba, and a member of Obishikokaang First Nation in neighbouring Treaty #3.

Quoted by the CBC as “the Anishinaabe musician changing the way we think about the viola.” Melody will bring their unique sounds to the Open Ears stage in an evening of original material.

The Registry Theatre, 122 Frederick St, Kitchener, ON

SUN. June 4th. 1pm

Counterstasis Trio with special guest Kathryn Ladano

\$25/\$5 student with ID

Counterstasis is a collaborative improvisation trio formed in 2016, featuring Glen Hall (woodwinds, electroacoustics), Bill Gilliam (piano, prepared piano) and Joe Sorbara (drums, percussion). We work to counter stasis, to foster change, to create a music in which our individual voices can be refracted through the sounds of our co-conspirators.

Our spontaneously composed explorations of gestures and sonorities are connected to new chamber music, free jazz, sound art, experimental, and other creative music traditions. Counterstasis draws on a wide variety of traditional and extended techniques and employs both conventional and bent approaches to melodicism, groove, and chromatic harmony.

In 2019, we released our inaugural CD "Counterstasis - Refracted Voices", produced with the support of the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council. Our music has been featured by All That Jazz, Electric Sense, One Man's Jazz radio and Dispersion Lab. As a trio and collaborating with other improvising musicians, we have performed at venues in Toronto and Montreal including shows with guest improvisors such as clarinetist Lori Freedman and vocalist Christine Duncan.

Dr. Kathryn Ladano has established herself as one of Canada's foremost bass clarinetists. As a specialist of contemporary music and free improvisation, Ladano is a dynamic soloist and in-demand collaborator. She is currently the Artistic Director of NUMUS concerts, the Director of ICE (Improvisation Concerts Ensemble) and instructor of improvisation at Wilfrid Laurier University. Kathryn has released two solo albums, "Open" (2010) and "Masked" (2019).

The Registry Theatre, 122 Frederick St, Kitchener, ON





SUN. June 4th. 4pm

Hear Here Productions

FREE

Hear Here Productions presents

This *Tree Listens*, a site-specific one-hour family friendly presentation created by Erin Donovan (artistic director/musician), Yvonne Ng (choreographer) and Lori Gemmell (musician) with improvising movers and musicians. Audiences and performers will move through a series of performances and meditations throughout Victoria Park at a gentle pace, deeply listening to what is around us in new and unusual ways. While taking in the sights and sounds in the park, can we imagine that the trees—one tree in particular—may also be listening to us?

*Canoe sculpture at Victoria Park/Willow River Park
(see website for park map)*

listening

photo by Courtney Mac



SUN. June 4th. 5:30pm

Daniel Ramjattan presents Inspirations: New Music for Solo Guitar

\$25/\$5 student with ID

This concert will feature live performances from Daniel Ramjattan's debut solo album, *Inspirations: New Music for Solo Guitar*, which was conceived in 2019 and released in January 2022. All of these solo guitar compositions were composed by living composers based in Canada with a special connection to the soloist. Named after John Gordon Armstrong's title track, this project consists of substantial and virtuosic contributions to the solo guitar repertoire, and deals broadly with themes related to mental health, spirituality, transcendence, resilience, and our symbiotic relationship with technology. Each one of these compositions was written relatively recently, and three of the works were written expressly for this project.

AOK Craft Beer and Arcade
165 King St W Unit B03, Kitchener, ON N2G 1A7

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

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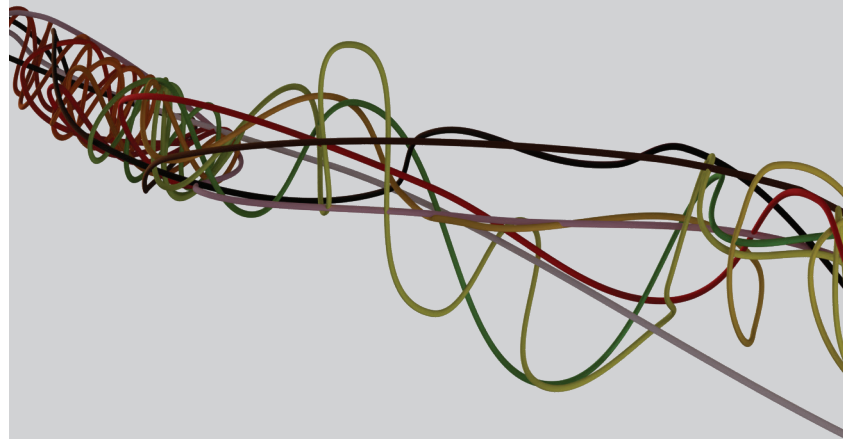
downtown
Kitchener



FONDATION
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The Musagetes Fund



Information + Tickets: openears.ca

   [openearsfest](https://www.openearsfest.com)

Open Ears is a registered Canadian charity under the Income Tax Act, registration number 81852 8861 RR0001.

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