



2024 MAY 30-JUNE 2

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

#OE24



FROM THE DIRECTOR

On behalf of our board of directors and general manager, I am excited to present to you our Open Ears Festival 2024 (#0E24). 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.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our audience for standing by us all these years. The arts have undergone some serious transformations in this region, including defunding and loss of cultural institutions, but as the dust settles, we continue to see an incredible resilience in our artists. Countries and cultures around the world have and continue to suffer losses, but I find myself returning to this quote from Leonard Bernstein - "This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before."

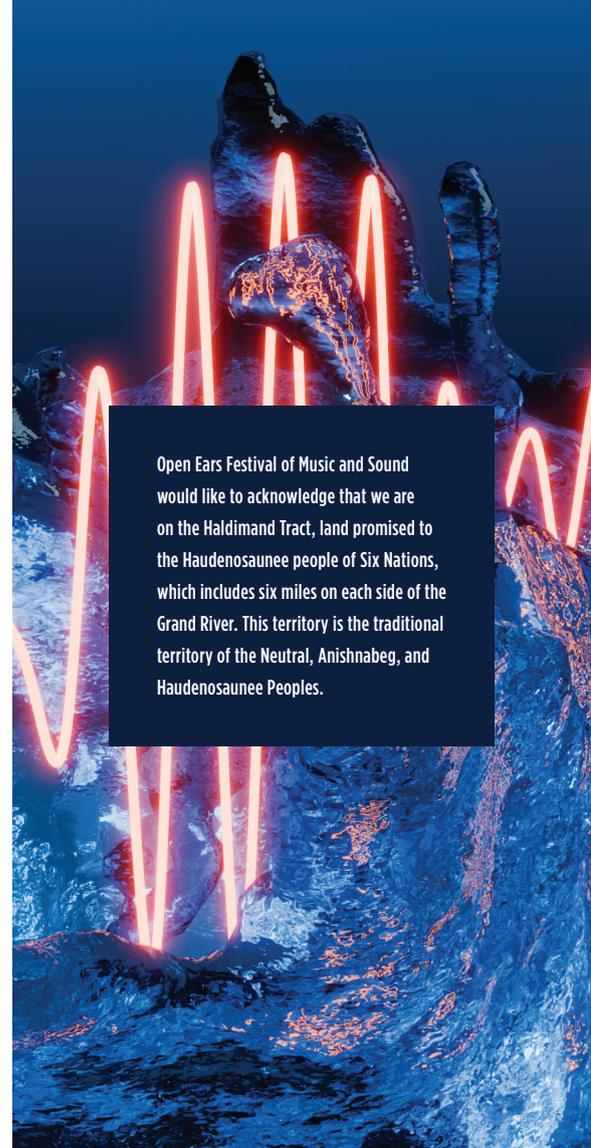
In 2024, we continue to engage with long-standing partners and supporters of Open Ears, while developing new relationships, new sponsors, and new donors. We are grateful for the ongoing support for Open Ears and for the shared belief and confidence in the future of the festival.

Open Ears will present numerous performances and workshops to appease your curiosity, and highlight the many cultural activities in our area, including the Canadian premiere of SIERRA performed by the one and only Vicki Chow, and the iconic experimental DJ Hieroglyphic Being. We also have more premiere performances including sound installations, multi-media, and a drag show.

I can't wait to see you in the audience 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.



THURS. May 30th. 5-6pm

Foley workshop with Michelle Hwu

FREE

Community Space, 44 Gaukel St., Kitchener, ON

Explore the world of Foley in hands-on workshops, where participants will learn the art of performing sound to moving picture using everyday objects. Foley is the reproduction of sounds that are recorded and added to films during post-production. A lot of sound effects are not actually recorded on a film set with the actors—for instance, fight scenes, alien creatures, and details in weather, are scenarios where sound is mostly added in post-production. The goal of Foley Artists is to come up with creative ways to produce sounds that match what we see on screen, and ultimately add nuance to the story and its characters. Over the course of the workshops, participants will learn how to enhance a scene by performing footsteps, cloth movements, and props to different actions. We will practice the movements to picture, record the audio, and learn how layering sounds work. Items will be provided, although participants are encouraged to bring objects that they would like to incorporate into a scene. The recorded materials from the first three workshops will be edited together and shared during the last workshop. Workshops are 60 minutes in length.

THURS. May 30th. 8pm

Vicky Chow presents *SIERRA*

\$25/\$5 student with ID

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

Composed by Jane Antonia Cornish

Immersive light design by Ben Toht

Live surround mix by Dan Bora

Introspective, multi-layered and quietly majestic, *Sierra* is a vivid meditation on how our deep connection to nature can move us to an inner stillness and awaken the creative impulse.

Sierra consists of five separate pieces composed for multiple pianos, ranging from the poignant solo excursion 'Last Light' to the cascading, undulating 'Ocean' for 6 pianos, and the epic 15-minute title piece, for 4 pianos. Performed with confidence and commitment by pianist Vicky Chow, whose ability to flex in different interpretive directions, depending on the composer's intention, is renowned in the modern classical community, *Sierra* captures a palette of subtle but insistent emotions — wonder, wistfulness, joy and awe — that can elevate and transport us with astonishing power.





FRI. May 31st. 5-6pm

Foley workshop with Michelle Hwu

FREE

Rehearsal Space, 44 Gaukel St., Kitchener, ON

Continuation of Foley workshop.

FRI. May 31st. 7pm

surface/tension (audio walk)

FREE

Willow River/Victoria Park to Courtland/Stirling, Kitchener, ON

Seven-station audio walk following Schneider Creek, south from Willow River/Victoria Park to Courtland/Stirling, mix of essay narration, field recordings, and musician sessions with creek* graphic score

FRI. May 31st. 8pm

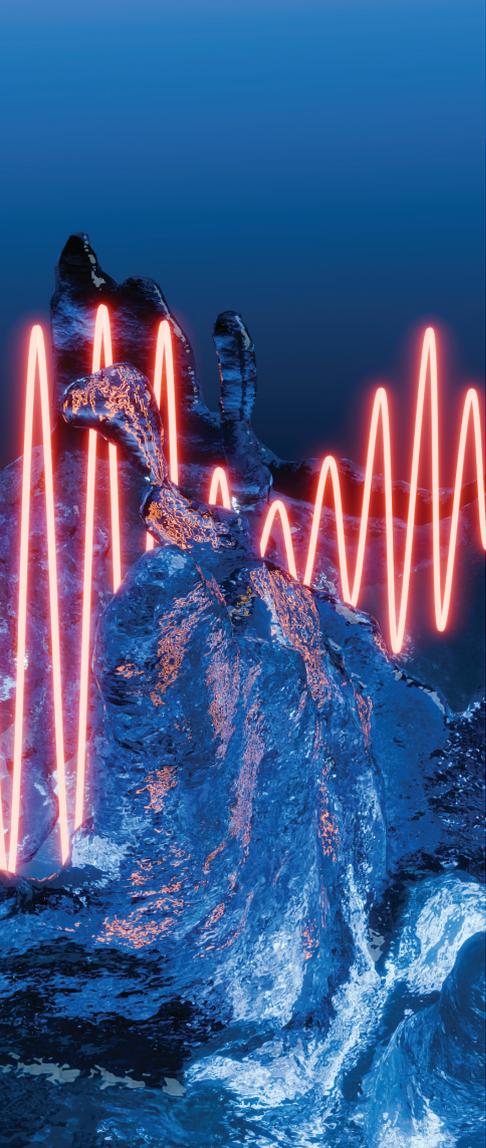
Bijuriya

\$25/\$5 student with ID

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

Gabriel Dharmoo is a music composer and experimental vocalist. Bijuriya is a drag artist engaging with South Asian culture. Gabriel values innovation and risk taking as he navigates Eurocentric artistic scenes. Bijuriya seeks to touch the hearts of fellow brown queers. Both of them have marginal practices, engaging very different audiences. Gabriel and Bijuriya are one person, coming on stage as one to negotiate their hybrid and multifaceted identity. Code-switching between drag performance, original songs, experimental sound design and the porosity between singing and lip-syncing, this piece celebrates the artist's brownness through an array of unexpected talents. A quirky yet vulnerable exploration of their inadequacy to fully represent the subcultures they seek to embrace.





SAT. June 1st. 11am

creek*

Free

Schneider Haus Amphitheatre, 466 Queen St. S, Kitchener, Ontario

*Deborah Carruthers, Composer

My current preoccupations are the rate of change in the environment and the solastalgia it engenders. Solastalgia— the distress that is experienced when our environment changes, but we are unable to leave —is experienced not only by humans, but also by the more-than-human. My scores often arise from questions of agency: in the case of creek*, how has Schneider Creek acted and reacted in response to its environment, and how did the creek record and communicate its agency? This is the primary story of creek*. All of the human histories that surround it are merely the footnotes (*) reflecting our concerns and our stories.

The graphic score and accompanying text is meant to let creek tell its story for itself; the score functions as a series of prompts, a structured improvisation, within which the musicians seek ways to voice the creek's narrative.

That profound environmental changes occur over time is not in question. However, the increasingly accelerated rates of change point to an environment whose balance has shifted towards an inevitably catastrophic decline if left unchecked. creek* asks: how can we prompt a deeper understanding of the intricate relationships in the environment, and what could that understanding contribute to meaningful discussions (and actions) around rapid environmental change?

It is my hope that creek* functions as a new type of opportunity or framework for structured collaborations between beings with differing backgrounds and philosophies...

SAT. June 1st. 1pm

Ben Diamond

\$25/\$5 student with ID

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

Voyage - music for guitar and electronics is a one of a kind project that culminates the successful combination of the acoustic classical guitar with electronic media. Ben Diamond has compiled works by Luke Blackmore, Andrew Staniland, Joe Donaghey, Marco Neri, Amy Brandon, Holly Winter, and Kristis Auznieks to feature a wide variety of soundscapes and experiences. Voyage is the name of Ben's newest album, just released this week. The program will also feature two works on his debut album recorded in 2020, "Prime". Both Prime and Voyage ferment Ben's place in the classical guitar and contemporary music community as a young ambassador for electroacoustic repertoire. The works feature inspiration from avant garde western techniques that also draw influence from popular genres, improvisation, political action, and daily life experiences. The program as a whole will transport audiences to places that they relate to while also exposing them to ideas they may have never heard before. Ben is thrilled to perform with open ears, and to share the Voyage that is his dream come to life.





SAT. June 1st. 3pm

Amber

\$25/\$5 student with ID

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

Lori Freedman (bass clarinet) and Scott Thomson (trombone) are both acclaimed solo performers and have been featured as soloists at the renowned Festival International de Musique Actuelle de Victoriaville, for instance. Separately, they delve deeply into the technical and expressive resources of their instruments to satisfyingly sustain long-form solo improvisations. However, the duo is markedly more than the combination of its soloist parts, and each agrees that the other impels him or her to thrilling, visceral music they simply would not play otherwise, an alchemy of group improvisation. Ranging crazily from quiet stasis to chops-throttled entropy, the duo's current music, made abundantly manifest on *Amber*, is richly reinvented in every vital incarnation.

SAT. June 1st. 5pm

shshcc

\$25/\$5 student with ID

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

Formed in 2020, shshcc is a trio of Michael Murphy and Wesley Shen on shō and Matti Pulkki on accordion. The seamless blend of free-reed instruments provide a richly distinct and evocative sound playground, allowing for musical experimentation from the meditative spacetime-transcendent to the visceral, energetic and overwhelming. Together, they look to explore all the possibilities of this unique instrumental combination, and also highlight their deeply-rooted connections to ancient and modern cultures from around the globe.

SAT. June 1st. 6pm

Foley workshop

FREE

Rehearsal Space, 44 Gaukel St., Kitchener, ON

Continuation of Foley workshop.





SAT. June 1st. 8:30pm

Hieroglyphic Being

\$25/\$5 student with ID

Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery, 101 Queen St. N, Kitchener, ON

Producer and boss of Mathematics records, Chicago's Jamal Moss a.k.a Hieroglyphic Being is a one-off musical explorer. Jamal's music takes cues from the EBM and House that played a huge part in the city's musical underground in the late eighties and early nineties, notably Ron Hardy and Adonis, but also Industrial, Avant-Jazz and Noise.

His tireless schedule of rough low-key releases over the last 12 years and his intense, very physical, psychedelic music, have made him a key exponent or maybe even a pioneer of what's recently come to be named 'Outsider House', although he prefers the more Sun-Ra like descriptors of 'Rhythmic Cubism' and 'Cosmic Be-Bop'.

His releases, much like his music, have straddled House labels and the more left-field avant garde electronic imprints with ease. However his deeply held Afrofuturist intent and the discipline of his radical designs set him apart from the pack. Always moving forward, his music is an ever-evolving transmission from his mind to our bodies, or as he sees it, a form of meditation that the supple, tuned listener will enjoy immensely.

SUN. June 2nd. 11am

creek*

Free

Schneider Haus Amphitheatre, 466 Queen St S, Kitchener, ON

Repeat performance

SUN. June 2nd. 1pm

Daniel Janke/Mark Fewer Duo

\$25/\$5 student with ID

The Mezz, Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty of Music, Waterloo, ON

Mark Fewer and Daniel Janke will be presenting repertoire from their CD release 'Celestial Blue' <https://cmccanada.org/shop/cd-cmccd-22816/> The music, composed by Janke for violin and prepared piano, is based on gospel and folk traditions. It is a mixture of through-composed and compromised music, and features the virtuosic playing of violinist Mark Fewer. The duet will also perform repertoire from Daniel's CD release 'Body In Motion,' <https://cmccanada.org/shop/cd-cmccd-29522/> This is a collection of works that Daniel Janke composed over the years for contemporary dance.





SUN. June 2nd. 3pm

Martin Daigle presents *Le Rage*

\$25/\$5 student with ID

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

The 2022 winner of Music NB's "Innovator of the Year" award, Martin Daigle is an interdisciplinary performer, composer, researcher, and producer from New Brunswick, Canada. Flourishing from creative foundations as a drummer and percussionist, his diverse work as a performer, composer and researcher pushes the boundaries between audio-visual and electro-acoustic art. Martin's innovative approach to percussion music utilizes electronic devices; notably, ongoing research in the development of an "augmented drum kit," which combines acoustic drum sounds, digital samples, and visual manipulations for a truly unique result.

DURATION OF FESTIVAL

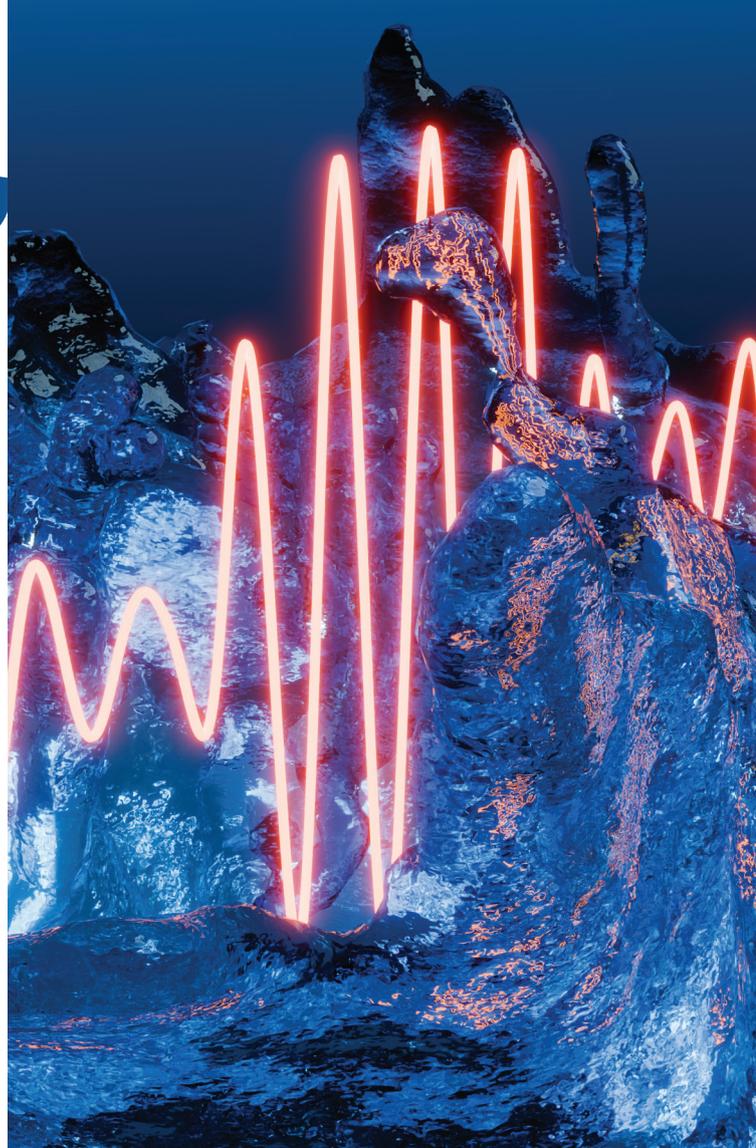
I Can Tell You About The River, Or We Could Just Get In

Free

Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery, 101 Queen St. N, Kitchener, ON

Digital Video & 2 Channel Sound

Aerial drone footage of the Willow River (colonially The Grand) juxtaposed with a sonic collage that counterpoints water sounds, field recorded river songs, and memory fragments/stories of the river. A meditation on flow and place.



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

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Information + Tickets: openears.ca

   [openearsfest](https://www.openears.ca)

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