



TAPESTRY
OPERA

20/21

50th
Anniversary
Season

New Music Concerts and
Tapestry Opera Presents

Love Songs

Co-Artistic Directors

Robert Aitken and
Brian Current

50th Season

— 409th Event

Nov.28.20

Broadcast Online from
the Ernest Balmer Studio

Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge the diversity of the First Peoples of this area and honour the stewardship of the Mississaugas of the New Credit, the Anishinaabe, the Iroquois-Haudenosaunee and the Huron-Wendat. Today Toronto is still home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island and around the world and we are grateful to have the opportunity to meet, work and live on this land.

Love Songs — A Saxophony

Online Broadcast - 8pm

50th Season
— 409th Event

Nov.28.20
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from the Ernest
Balmer Studio

By **Ana Sokolovic**

STARRING

Xin Wang - Soprano

Wallace Halladay - Saxophone

Michael Hidetoshi Mori - Direction/Concept

Xin Wang - Co-Development

Creative Team

Noah Feaver - Lighting Designer

Taylor Long - Videographer

Dennis Patterson - Sound Engineer

Production Team

Shawn Henry - Production Manager

Kristin McCollum - Stage Manager

Artist Biographies

Xin Wang — Soprano



Xin Wang was born in Yunnan, a South western province of China. She arrived alone in Canada at the age of eighteen to study singing. Her path took her from Winnipeg to Toronto where she settled and built her home of three beautifully loud children and a charismatic husband with many saxophones.

Xin is most interested in the mechanism of the singing body and is most stimulated by the learning of intricate music. This has led her to the world of contemporary repertoire.

The learning of complex contemporary repertoire has been a gift. These musical puzzles push her towards her threshold while building her up from within, a similar experience as motherhood.

Wallace Halladay

— Saxophone



Canadian saxophonist Wallace Halladay captures the qualities of the modern virtuoso, being at home in numerous styles, from the traditional to jazz and beyond. A specialist in the performance of contemporary music, Wallace has commissioned and premiered numerous works for saxophone. In addition to performances of concerti by Ibert, Schmitt, Glazunov, Denisov, Husa, Muldowney, Kancheli, Yoshimatsu, Scelsi and Donatoni, he has worked with composers Michael Colgrass, Mauricio Kagel, Erik Ross and Scott Good on the Canadian premieres of their concerti, and with Philippe Leroux in 2011 on the North American premiere of his saxophone concerto in Montreal. Wallace also inaugurated the Intersections Series with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony in

an entire concert of music for saxophone and orchestra entitled "The Story of the Saxophone". Wallace made his debut as soloist with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra: the Globe and Mail called him "phenomenal" and "so riveting...that not much can compete against it."

Wallace recorded the two saxophone *Sequenzas* of Luciano Berio and the Colgrass concerto for NAXOS Records. He has been presented by and performed with new music groups across the Canada and the USA and is the Artistic Director of Toronto New Music Projects, which has presented portrait concerts of Scelsi, Donatoni, Gubaidulina, Wolpe, and partnering to bring Philippe Leroux, Vinko Globokar, and Salvatore Sciarrino to Toronto.

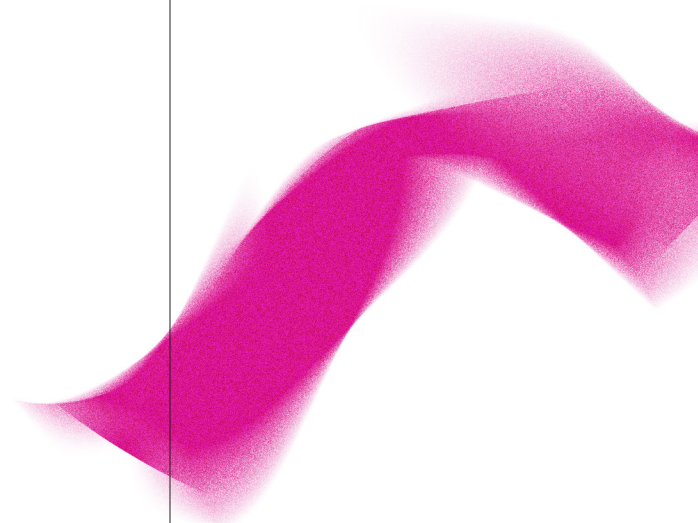
Wallace Halladay Continued

He can also be heard with the Toronto Symphony, Canadian Opera Company, and National Ballet Orchestras.

Wallace holds a doctorate from the Eastman School of Music, and studied at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam Arno Bornkamp. He has previously taught at Memorial University of Newfoundland and the Eastman School of Music, and is presently Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto, where he directs the Contemporary Music Ensemble, and is Chair of the Woodwind Department.

Wallace was the 2009 winner of the Virginia Parker Prize from the Canada Council for the Arts. Awarded for outstanding musicianship, Wallace remains the only woodwind player to receive the prize in its 30 year history, and he joins such luminary Canadian laureates as Jon Kimura Parker, James Ehnes, and Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

Wallace is a Conn-Selmer Artist and plays Selmer (Paris) saxophones.



Michael Hidetoshi Mori



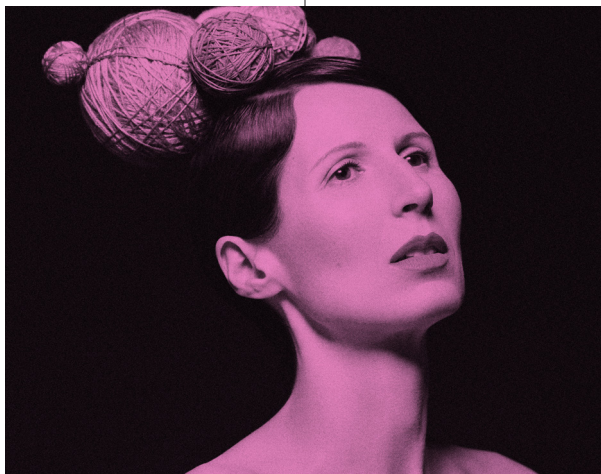
An award-winning Canadian/American stage director, and the General Director of Tapestry Opera, Michael Hidetoshi Mori is frequently sought as a director, dramaturge, producer and speaker. Michael's leadership at Tapestry Opera has led to the *Globe and Mail* naming Tapestry as the "Leader of the Canadian opera pack" (2019).

Michael is a versatile stage director, working both in site-specific settings and conventional theatres. Recent directing credits include *Jacqueline* and *TAP:EX Augmented Opera* with Tapestry Opera, *Maada'ookii Songlines* for The Luminato Festival, co-directing *Shanawdithit* for

Tapestry Opera and *Opera on the Avalon*; *Pomegranate at Buddies in Bad Times*; Puccini's *Rigoletto* for Sacramento Opera; a new production of David T. Little and Royce Vavrek's *Vinkensport* for Opera Saratoga; and Puccini's *Il Trittico* for West Bay Opera in Palo Alto.

Ana Sokolovic

— *Love Songs*



Program Note

Love has always been and always will be the inexhaustible inspiration of human creativity. Love follows us everywhere; love is the cause and the result. Love evokes the strongest human emotions: love has led people to wars, but it has also inspired the most beautiful poems. All the languages sing about love the same way. Every happiness, worry, sadness, and tenderness is similar to one another. *Love Songs* is an intimate story about love in five thematic movements: pure love, tender love, child's love, mature love and love for a person we lost. The lyrics are sung in five languages : English, French, Serbian, Irish, and Latin. There are interludes between the movements with the phrase "I Love You" said in one hundred languages. While the movements are lyrical, the interludes are more rhythmical, and inspired by the colours of a hundred languages, with the

singer using various unconventional vocal techniques. *Love Songs* was commissioned by Queen of Puddings Music Theatre with funding by the Québec Arts Council. This work is dedicated to my children, Eva and Gustave.

— Ana Sokolovic

Biography

An important figure in contemporary music, Quebec-based composer Ana Sokolović has distinguished herself internationally through her imaginative, rhythm-driven music, with repertoire that ranges from critically acclaimed operas and orchestra works to powerful solo and chamber pieces.

Originally from Serbia, Sokolović immersed herself in art from an early age, beginning with classical ballet, followed by music and theatre. After studying with

Ana Sokolovic Continued

Dušan Radić in Novi Sad and Zoran Erić in Belgrade, she moved to Montreal to complete a master's degree at the University of Montreal, where she studied with José Evangelista. Her fascination with different artforms is evident across her broad range of concert and stage works, and has led to prominent collaborations with choreographer Louise Lecavalier, conductor Teodor Currentzis, director Denis Marlot, and playwright Stéphanie Jasmin. Most notably, she collaborated with Oscar-nominated filmmaker Theodore Ushev for the film *Troisième page après le soleil*.

Sokolović's colorful sound world is often inspired by Balkan folklore and its festive, asymmetrical rhythms. Her four operas have been performed internationally, from Montreal to San Francisco and Luxembourg to Hannover. Her 2010 opera *Svadba* for six female voices has been presented by Opera Philadelphia, San Francisco Opera, and Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, and has won the Dora Mavor Moore Award for "Outstanding New Opera." *Le Monde* described it as a "Rite of Spring 'miniature'" that invents "a universal phonetics of the human heart." Sokolović's first opera *The Midnight Court*, which has been presented at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, was lauded by *Opera News* for its "refreshing sound world of wildly inventive playfulness, filled with the joy of life." She is currently working on *The Old Fools*, a new opera for the Canadian Opera Company, scheduled for premiere in 2022.

Sokolović recently won two back-to-back JUNO Awards for "Classical Composition of the Year" for her concert works: in 2019 for *Golden Slumbers Kiss Your Eyes* for countertenor, chorus, and orchestra; and in 2020 for *Evtá*, a concerto for violin and large ensemble. Her music has been

championed by renowned orchestras including the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (Kent Nagano, Charles Dutoit), National Arts Centre Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, and Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2011–2012, the Société de musique contemporaine du Québec (SMCQ) devoted its "Série Hommage" to her music, with over 200 performances and community engagement events around Canada. She has also won the Quebec Music Council's Prix Opus, SOCAN's Jan V. Matejcek Prize, the Émile-Nelligan Foundation's Prix Serge-Garant Prize, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra Award for Composers, which has included a series of commissions and teaching residencies.

Sokolović's music has been recorded on more than 20 albums, including recordings by several prominent ensembles and champions of her music: Ensemble contemporain de Montréal, SMCQ, Quatuor Bozzini, Ensemble Transmission, Turning Point Ensemble, and Aventa Ensemble. Festivals around the world have also presented her works, including Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Festival Présences in Paris, Nordic Music Days in Reykjavik, Venice Music Biennale, Music Biennale Zagreb, Holland Festival in Amsterdam, aDevantgarde festival in Munich, El Cervantino in Mexico, Diaghilev Festival in Perm, Beijing Music Festival, and ISCM Music Days in Vancouver.

Recently, the prestigious, international music publishing house, Boosey & Hawkes, has added the works of Ana Sokolović to its catalogue. For the next three seasons, she serves as composer-in-residence with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal. In addition to her activities as a composer, she teaches composition at the University of Montreal.

New Music Concerts

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