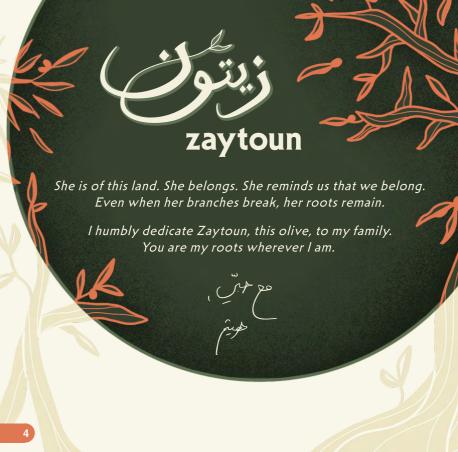
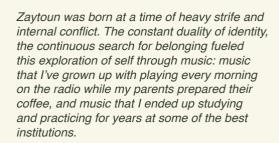


Prelude: On Love (The Prophet) Gibran Khalil Gibran Haitham Haidar, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali	0:58	5	Lamento della Ninfa, SV 163: No. 2, Amor Claudio Monteverdi, Ottavio Rinuccini Haitham Haidar, Sylvain Bergeron, Amanda Keesmaat, Abraham Ross	3:55
Vespro della Beata Vergine, SV 206: No. 3, Nigra Sum Claudio Monteverdi, Song of Solomon 1:4-5; 2:10b-12a Haitham Haidar, Sylvain Bergeron	3:50	6	Oedipus, Z. 583 Act III: No. 2, Music for a While Henry Purcell, John Dryden Haitham Haidar, Sylvain Bergeron, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali, Amanda	3:33
El Helwa Di Sayed Darwish Haitham Haidar, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali, Amanda Keesmaat, Abraham Ross	3:29	7	Wa Habibi Anon. Traditional Arabic	2:59
Zourouni Sayed Darwish	2:23		Haitham Haidar, Sylvain Bergeron, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali	
Haitham Haidar, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali		8	Intermezzo: On Joy and Sorrow (The Prophet) Gibran Khalil Gibran Haitham Haidar, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali	1:16
		9	Matthäus-passion, BWV 244: No. 39, Erbarme dich, mein Gott (Ruhmaka ya Allah שווי,) J.S. Bach, Picander Haitham Haidar, Tanya LaPerrière, Sylvain Bergeron, Abdul-Wahab Kayya Amanda Keesmaat, Abraham Ross	6:53 Ili,
	(The Prophet) Gibran Khalil Gibran Haitham Haidar, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali Vespro della Beata Vergine, SV 206: No. 3, Nigra Sum Claudio Monteverdi, Song of Solomon 1:4-5; 2:10b-12a Haitham Haidar, Sylvain Bergeron El Helwa Di Sayed Darwish Haitham Haidar, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali, Amanda Keesmaat, Abraham Ross Zourouni Sayed Darwish	(The Prophet) Gibran Khalil Gibran Haitham Haidar, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali Vespro della Beata Vergine, SV 206: No. 3, Nigra Sum Claudio Monteverdi, Song of Solomon 1:4-5; 2:10b-12a Haitham Haidar, Sylvain Bergeron El Helwa Di Sayed Darwish Amanda Keesmaat, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali, Amanda Keesmaat, Abraham Ross Zourouni Sayed Darwish	(The Prophet) Gibran Khalil Gibran Haitham Haidar, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali Vespro della Beata Vergine, SV 206: No. 3, Nigra Sum Claudio Monteverdi, Song of Solomon 1:4-5; 2:10b-12a Haitham Haidar, Sylvain Bergeron El Helwa Di Sayed Darwish Haitham Haidar, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali, Amanda Keesmaat, Abraham Ross Zourouni Sayed Darwish Haitham Haidar, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali Sayed Darwish Haitham Haidar, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali	(The Prophet) Gibran Khalil Gibran Haitham Haidar, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali Vespro della Beata Vergine, SV 206: No. 3, Nigra Sum Claudio Monteverdi, Song of Solomon 1:4-5; 2:10b-12a Haitham Haidar, Sylvain Bergeron El Helwa Di Sayed Darwish Haitham Haidar, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali, Amanda Keesmaat, Abraham Ross Zourouni Sayed Darwish Haitham Haidar, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali Amanda Keesmaat, Abraham Ross Zourouni Sayed Darwish Haitham Haidar, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali Sayed Darwish Haitham Haidar, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali Wa Habibi Anon. Traditional Arabic Haitham Haidar, Sylvain Bergeron, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali Intermezzo: On Joy and Sorrow (The Prophet) Gibran Khalil Gibran Haitham Haidar, Abdul-Wahab Kayyali Matthäus-passion, BWV 244: No. 39, Erbarme dich, mein Gott (Ruhmaka ya Allah メリレ ノ) J.S. Bach, Picander Haitham Haidar, Tanya LaPerrière, Sylvain Bergeron, Abdul-Wahab Kayya







Suddenly in my journey, I felt lost. My voice felt lost. It didn't know where it belonged. Though I may have trained my voice in one genre, my heart felt like it belonged to another. Though I was carving out a life on a different continent, my heart belonged somewhere else.

Zaytoun is all of these things combined. It joins the heart and soul of my Arabic roots with my love and dedication to Baroque music. Zaytoun explores the interlaced nature of Arabic and Baroque music in a way that feels new yet natural and allows us to shorten the distance between these two worlds.

Perhaps Zaytoun can remind us that in our differences we are very much alike.

Prelude: On Love (The Prophet) Gibran Khalil Gibran (1883-1931)

Love gives naught but itself and takes naught but from itself.

Love possesses not nor would it be possessed;

For love is sufficient unto love.

When you love you should not say, "God is in my heart," but rather, "I am in the heart of God."

And think not you can direct the course of love, for love, if it finds you worthy, directs your course.

Love has no other desire but to fulfil itself.

Gibran Khalil Gibran is a pillar of Lebanese and American literary excellence. The Prophet, written in 1923, presents us with pondering thoughts on many different topics: love, friendship, life. This poetry has stayed with me my entire life and helps guide me when I feel lost. This chapter reminds us of the selflessness of love and how it invites us to remain present within ourselves.

2 Vespro della Beata Vergine, SV 206: No. 3, Nigra Sum

Claudio Monteverdi Song of Solomon 1:4-5; 2:10b-12a

Nigra sum sed formosa, filiae Jerusalem.

Ideo dilexit me rex et introduxit in cubiculum suum et dixit mihi.

Surge, amica mea, et veni. Jam hiems transiit, imber abiit, et recessit.

Flores apparuerunt in terra nostra, tempus putationis advenit.

I am black but beautiful, daughters of Jerusalem.

Therefore the king hath delighted in me and invited me to his chamber and said to me:

Arise, my love, and come. For the winter has passed, the rain is over and gone.

Flowers have appeared in our land, the time of pruning is at hand.

"I am black, but beautiful." From the Song of Solomon, this text is a reminder that we are all welcome at the table of life. Once we learn that we are part of something much greater than ourselves, we realize that we are all standing on the same earth, that we all belong to the same land. We are all welcome here.

الملوة ربي **El Helwa Di** Sayed Darwish (1892-1923)

الحلوة دي قامت تعجن فى البدرية و الديك بينده كو كو كو كو فالقجرية يللا بنا عانى باب الآ يا صنايعية يجعل صباحك صباع الخير يا اسطى عطية The beautiful one rises to knead in the morning And the rooster cries "kou kou kou kou" in the dawn Let's go with the grace of God, oh workers May your morning be beautiful, oh sir Atiya

صباح الصباح فتاح یا علیم و الجیب ما فیہش و لا ملیم بس المزاج رایق و سلیم باب الامل بابك The morning will be beautiful, God permitting And though our pockets are empty Our moods are peaceful and serene For we put our hope in the hands of God.

الصبر طیب عال ایہ غیر الاحوال یکی معاك المال برضہ الفقیر لہ رب كرم If we are patient
All will change for the better
Oh you, who have wealth,
Even the poor have a generous God

ايدي بايدك يا بو صلاح مادام عالة تعيش مرتاح خللي اتكالك عالفتاح لملا بنامهو الوقت راح My hand is in yours, oh Abu Salah As long as you rely on God, you'll live in comfort Leave it all to the almighty Let's go, time is running out

الشمس طلعت والملك لته اجري لرزقك خليها على الته ما تشيل قدّومك والعدّة ويلا The sun has risen (and the fortune belongs to God) Run to work, (let God give you luck) Pick up your axe and tools, let's go

Sayed Darwish was (and remains) one of the biggest influences on Arabic music. He is considered to be the "father of Egyptian popular music." His roots were in Alexandria where he told many stories through his songs and poetry. El Helwa Di is a joyful morning tune that lives in its simplicity. Whether you're a baker, a silversmith or a carpenter, it's time to start your morning with energy and gratitude!

زوروني **Zourouni** (1892-1923) Sayed Darwish

زورونی کل سنة مرة حرام تنسونی بالمرة یا خوفی و الهوی نظرة تجی و تروع بالمرة حبیبی فرقتك مرة حرام تنسونی بالمرة Visit me once a year It's a pity to forget about me My fear: love is a look That comes and goes My love, your departure is bitter It's a pity to forget about me

Zourouni has become a very popular folk tune in the Arab world. Its simplicity and lightness lend themselves to easy listening and making the song accessible for most to sing. Though this song lives in its lightness, Sayed Darwish wrote it from the perspective of a mother asking her child to visit her more than once a year after she passes. Suddenly, the simplicity of the song takes new meaning as it becomes an intimate dialogue between mother and child.

5 Lamento della Ninfa, SV 163: No. 2, Amor Claudio Monteverdi Ottavio Rinuccini (1562-1621)

Love

Amor,
(dicea)
Amor,
(il ciel mirando, il piè fermo)
Amor dove, dov'è la fè
ch'el traditor giurò?
(Miserella)

(She said)
Love
(gazing at the sky, standing still)
Love, where is the faith
that the traitor promised?
(miserable one)

Fa' che ritorni il mio amor com'ei pur fu, o tu m'ancidi, ch'io non mi tormenti più. (Miserella, ah più no, no, tanto gel soffrir non può.)

Non vo' più ch'ei sospiri

Make my love come back, as he once was,
Or else kill me, so I can no longer torment myself.

se non lontan da me,
no, no che i suoi martiri
più non dirammi affè
Perché di lui mi struggo,
tutt'orgoglioso sta,
che si, che si nel fuggo ancor
mi pregherà?
Se ciglio ha più sereno
colei, che'l mio non è,
già non rinchiude in seno,
Amor. sí bella fè.

Ne mai sí dolci baci

ne più soavi, ah taci,

taci, che troppo il sai.

da quella bocca havrai,

(The miserable one, ah no more can she suffer so much coldness.)

I no longer want him to breathe. unless far away from me so that he can no longer say the things that torture me Because I destroy myself for him. so full of pride as he is: but if I flee from him. again he betrays me. A more serene brow has she than mine. but love has not planted in his breast so fair a faith Not ever such sweet kisses will he have from that mouth. not softer, ah quiet, quiet, he knows it only too well.

One of Monteverdi's most famous tunes is the second movement from his Lamento della Ninfa. This is one of the first baroque pieces I had ever heard and I immediately fell in love. The call and response between the heartbroken nymph and the sympathetic commentators amused me. Typically, the nymph is sung by soprano sonically distancing her narrative from that of the three commentators. In this version, I sing the part of the nymph in the tenor range which closely clashes with the three commentators (also sung by me). What if she wasn't that far from them? What if the intertwining of voices became the sound of her heartbreak?



Oedipus, Z. 583 Act III:
No. 2, Music for a While

Henry Purcell John Dryden (1631-1700)

Music for a while Shall all your cares beguile.

Wond'ring how your pains were eas'd And disdaining to be pleas'd Till Alecto free the dead From their eternal bands, Till the snakes drop from her head, And the whip from out her hands.

Music for a while Shall all your cares beguile.

As the second movement from Purcell's Oedipus, Music for a While is a beautiful melody written for voice, harpsichord, and bass viol. In our version, we have added archlute and oud, the older Arabic version of the lute. The oud adds a fluttering melodic support to the voice as well as a warm timbre and style to complement the counterpoint and ground bass lines. As a da capo aria, the first verse repeats at the end, restating the same words we hear at the beginning of the piece. This offers us the space to embellish the musical lines in a way that motivates us to repeat these words. Arabic style ornaments fit perfectly in the style especially in tandem with the flourishes of the oud.

مبيبي **Wa Habibi** anon. Traditional Arabic

و حبيبي و حبيبي أي حال أنت فيه؟ من رآك فشجاك أنت أنت المفتدي

و حبيبي أي ذنب حمل العدل بنيه؟ فأزادوك جراحاً ليس فيها من شفاء

حين في البستان ليلاً سجد الفادي الإله كانت الدنيا تصلي للذي أغنى الصلاة

شجر الزیتون یبکي و تناویه الشفاء و حبیبي کیف تمضي؟ أتری ضاع الوفاء؟ My beloved, my beloved, what state are you in? He who sees you, for you would cry. You are the one and only sacrifice.

My beloved, what blame have the nations put upon you? They melted you with wounds to which no healing would do.

In the dark orchard at night the faithful kneeled and prayed. Life was praying with the One who gave life hope and prayer.

The olive trees are crying as they beckon his healing. My beloved, how will you go? Has loyalty gone forever?

This beautiful melody has been attributed to many like Pergolesi and Albanese, but it has been said that the melody existed long before their time as a French folk tune. After the Arabic words were added to this melody, the song became a reflective moment of grief towards Jesus. He is described as "habibi" which translates to "my love." This direct address to Jesus has become a staple in Arab churches on Good Friday, resonating within the walls crying for the suffering of Jesus.

Intermezzo: On Joy and Sorrow (The Prophet) Gibran Khalil Gibran (1883-1931)

Your joy is your sorrow unmasked.

And the selfsame well from which your laughter rises was oftentimes filled with your tears.

When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is giving you joy.

When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight.

Verily you are suspended like scales between your sorrow and your joy.

Only when you are empty are you at standstill and balanced.

When the treasure-keeper lifts you to weigh his gold and his silver, needs must your joy or your sorrow rise or fall.

Sorrow is an expression of gratitude. We cannot grieve that which we have not loved. We can only lose something we once had, and that is a beautiful opportunity to be grateful.

9

Matthäus-passion, BWV 244: No. 39, Erbarme dich, mein Gott

(Ruhmaka ya Allah رماهاییی) J.S. Bach Picander (1700-1764), Haitham Haidar (b.1991)

رحماك ياالله جرى ممير دموعي راعني، يبكي القلب وتسيل الدموع دموعي إليك باالله Your mercy, O God As my bitter tears flow Care for me, the heart cries and the tears flow My tears are for you, O God.

This piece is one of Bach's most beautiful arias and one of the first Baroque melodies I heard as a teenager. I always felt drawn to this melody and now I know why. Of course Bach makes it easy to fall in love with his music, but this aria in particular offers a particular closeness to the Arabic music I grew up with. I heard what was beyond Bach's music and it came as no surprise when the Arabic language and style fit perfectly in this melody. We ask for mercy and allow God's strength to channel through us as we let go of who we are. This becomes a balancing act: the more we surrender to what is beyond our capacity, the more power we can actually hold.

Grief, Keep Within John Danyel Samuel Danyel (1562-1619)

Grief, keep within and scorn to show but tears, Since joy can weep as well as thou, Disdain to sigh, for so can slender cares, Which but from idle causes grow.

Do not look forth, unless thou didst know how To look with thine own face, and as thou art.

And only let my heart, That knows more reason why, Pine, fret, consume, swell, burst and die.

Drop not, mine eyes, nor trickle down so fast. For so you could do oft before In our sad farewells and sweet meetings past.

And shall his death now have no more? Can careful* sorrow yield no other store To show the plenty of afflictions smart?

Then only thou poor heart, That know'st the reason why, Pine, fret, consume, swell, burst and die.

Have all our passions certain proper vents, And sorrow none that is her own, But she must borrow others' complements To make her inward feelings known? Are joys, delights, and death's compassion shown With one like face and one lamenting part?

Then only thou poor heart, That know'st the reason why, Pine, fret, consume, swell, burst and die. Grief, Keep Within is another exploration of grief and its manifestation within ourselves. Danyel includes the dedication "Mrs. M. E. Her Funeral Tears for the Death of her Husband" offering us context for this 3-part song cycle. Surely, poetry and music have long been expressions of deep sorrow, giving our feelings an avenue to convey their message. Grief is a feeling we walk through, often with difficulty, and not something we walk past.

The only way over is through.

بيروت **Li Beirut** Joaquín Rodrigo Joseph Harb (1944-2014)

لبيروت من قلبي سلام گهيروت وقتل گلبور والهيوت لصخارة كانمها وجه بخاله قديم هي من روح المشقب خراً هي مَن عرقه خبراً وناسمين فكيف صار كلمها طعم نار ومنفان؟

لبيروت مجدَّمَّ صَاد لييروت مَن دم لولد خملَ فوق بَيْها اطفأت مِديمَّي قنديلها اغْلَقَتْ بابَها اصبحيّت في المساء وحمثها وحمثها وليلُ

> انت لي، انت لي آه عالقيني آنت لي رائتي وعز الغر وموج سفري ازهزت جراح شعني ازهزت ومية الأمهات انت بيروت لي انت لي انت لي آنه عليني

To Beirut,

From my heart, peace to Beirut
And kisses to the sea and to the houses
To the rock that resembles an ancient fisherman

She is from my soul, my people, my wine She is from his sweat, bread and jasmine So how did her taste become that of fire and smoke?

To Beirut, glory of ashses, to Beirut, From her child's blood, carried on her hand My city has turned off her lantern and closed her door Becoming alone in the night

You are mine, oh embrace me, you are mine You are my flag, the rock of tomorrow, the traveling waves

The wounds of my people have blossomed The mothers' tears
You. Beirut, are mine. Oh embrace me

Rodrigo's phenomenal composition was the perfect setting for Joseph Harb's poetry, written at the height of the Lebanese civil war. Though the poetry is heartbreakingly sad, reminiscing on the beauty and glory of Beirut, it reminds us of all that was good. If it once was, it can become again. It is a feeling I like to call, hopeful sorrow.

Only good can rise from the ashes.

Le doux silence de nos bois Honoré d'Ambruis (1660-1702)

Le doux silence de nos bois N'est plus troublé que de la voix Des oiseaux que l'amour assemble. Bergère qui fais mes désirs Voici le mois charmant des fleurs et des zéphyrs Et la saison qui te ressemble Ne perdons pas un moment des beaux jours C'est le temps des plaisirs et des tendres amours: Songeons en vovant le printemps Qu'il en est un dans nos beaux ans Qu'on n'a qu'une fois en sa vie Mais c'est peu que d'y songer Il faut belle Philis le ménager. Cette saison nous v convie Ne perdons pas un moment des beaux jours C'est le temps des plaisirs et des tendres amours.

The soft silence of our woods is now broken only by the songs of the birds that Love gathers here. Shepherdess, my heart's desire. behold the fair month of flowers and zephyrs, and the season that resembles you. Let's lose not a moment of these fine days, 'tis the time for tender loves and pleasures: Let's dream as we watch the spring that there is one such season in our youth. that we have but one such time in our lives. But dreaming of this is not enough, we must, fair Phyllis, make it so. The season does thus invite us Let's lose not a moment of these fine days. 'tis the time for tender loves and pleasures.

This song rounds out the string of sorrowful texts preceding it. As we travel through the journey of grief, we are reminded of what we once had, what we once loved and cherished. At the end of that journey is a peaceful acceptance of that which is much larger than who we are. The small things in life become representations of peace and beauty.

The acceptance of joy becomes the acceptance of sorrow.

ياطالين Ya Taleen Traditional Palestinian Arr. Shireen Abu-Khader, Nareg Abajian

يا طالعين عين للل الجبل، يا موللل الموقعين النار بين للل يامان يامان، عين للل هنا يا روح

ما بدي منكي للكم خلعة ولا لا–لا بدي زنار بين للل يامان يامان، عين لل هنا يا روح إلا غزال للذي جوين للكم محبوس بين للل يامان يامان، عين لل هنا يا روح To you climbing the mountain, to you sparking the fire (yaman yaman) I wish you safety.

I do not want any dresses nor gifts (yaman yaman) I wish you safety To the men who are jailed inside (yaman yaman) I wish you safety

For decades, Palestinian women stood by where their husbands, fathers, brothers, and sons were held captive. They started singing this song to give their men hope and faith that they will be freed one day. As the different occupiers of that land started learning Arabic, the women had to shift how they delivered their messages to their captives. Intelligently, the women started adding syllables within words, making them sound like gibberish, confusing the guards. This song is one of many coded songs Palestinian women adopted to help resist against the oppressive systems that seized their family members.

This arrangement is very near and dear to my heart, written for 5 voices and cello. The voices pass off the melody to one another and the fifth voice can be heard in the distance wailing. My prayer is that we all understand the true meaning of freedom and what it means to call for it in the ways we know how.

Postlude: On Death (The Prophet) Gibran Khalil Gibran (1883-1931)

You would know the secret of death.

But how shall you find it unless you seek it in the heart of life?

The owl whose night-bound eyes are blind unto the day cannot unveil the mystery of light.

If you would indeed behold the spirit of death, open your heart wide unto the body of life.

For life and death are one, even as the river and the sea are one.



Death can signify the end of a life journey offering the ultimate finality. Perhaps though, we can look at death as a continuation of life, even an extension. Death is inevitable, unavoidable, usually filled with loss and sadness. What if we thought of death as peace, as soft silence, as a mirror for life?

We become everything and nothing as life and death are one.



Haitham Haidar is a Lebanese-Palestinian Canadian tenor highly sought out for his musicality, "standout presence", and sensitive storytelling. He is a proud graduate of Yale's Institute of Sacred Music, McGill's Schulich School of Music, and the University of British Columbia and currently resides in Montreal, Quebec. Haitham is praised for his 'musical and linguistic versatility' and his 'bright' and 'innately lyrical voice' and enjoys performing oratorio, opera, and chamber music across North America, Europe, and Asia.

He has recently been seen as a tenor soloist with Early Music Vancouver, Belgian ensemble Zefiro Torna (at the Morgenland Festival in Osnabrück) and in the lead role as the Evangelist in Bach's St. John Passion at the Winnipeg Baroque Festival. He has also been a recent soloist with TENET Vocal Artists in New York City, with Orchestre Arion in Montreal, as well as played the role of Evangelist in Schütz's Weinachtshistorie with Folger Consort in Washington DC. He has also performed as a soloist and ensemble member with groups like Seraphic Fire in Miami and Skylark Ensemble in Massachusetts.

Haitham has been recorded as a soloist and ensemble member on a few albums namely *Distance* with the choir of St Andrew and St Paul in Montreal, *Schutz Christmas Story* with Yale Schola Cantorum in New Haven, and *L'Heure Mauve* by Pierre LaPointe in Montreal. Haitham is also a featured soloist on Austin based Conspirare's Grammy nominated album *House of Belonging*. You may also find Haitham's voice in one of the temples in the game *Assassins Creed: Origins*.

Haitham is a proud member of Kaleidoscope Vocal Ensemble, a group that unites music excellence and diversity while offering highly educational and practical experiences to students from middle school to graduate school.

Haitham's debut solo album Zaytoun has been a dream come true. Producing and artistically leading an album with such an amazing team is a true gift. Zaytoun explores the beautiful intersectionality of Baroque and Arabic music, interlaced with poetry and musical improvisations.

Haitham's approach to performance has always been humanity first. Being an Arab immigrant in North America comes with its unique set of oppressive challenges and it is because of that and what he sees around him in the field, that he aims to touch people's hearts with music and compassion and make change in the world the best way he knows how.

Considered "a supremely refined, elegant and cerebral musician" (Ottawa Citizen), Sylvain Bergeron is a master of the lute and family of plucked instruments, including the theorbo, archiluth and baroque guitar. He is in great demand on the North American music scene as a soloist and continuist. He is one of the pioneers of early music in Canada and has helped establish the lute as a viable instrument at the highest level of professionalism. His work has confirmed the importance of plucked instruments and helped validate their place in Baroque ensembles and orchestras in Canada



Sylvain Bergeron has participated in more than 90 recordings, many of which have won prizes and awards. His most recent solo album, Gioseppe Antonio Doni's Lute Book, published by ATMA Classique in 2015, was widely praised for his "strong lute technique combined with outstanding musical intelligence and impeccable phrasing" (The WholeNote), while the magazine Goldberg described his game as "imbued with both great rhythmic vitality, delicacy and nuance".

Co-founder and co-artistic director of La Nef, Mr. Bergeron has directed several award- winning productions of this Montreal ensemble since 1991. He has taught lute at McGill University and the Université de Montréal since 1992.

Sylvain Bergeron



Abdul-Wahab Kayyali

Abdul-Wahab Kayyali commenced his oud studies in 1989 at the National Music Conservatory of Amman, Jordan under the tutelage of Sakher Hattar. While in Amman, he also received tutelage and guidance from Iraqi oud virtuoso Munir Bashir. He has performed widely as a soloist and an ensemble member throughout the Middle East, Europe, and North America. In 2020, Abdul-Wahab co-founded the world music trio "Les Arrivants" in Montreal with Hamin Honari and Amichai Ben Shalev. He also released his debut solo album "Juthoor" in 2020.

His projects have gained recognition and support from the Abdul-Hameed Shoman Foundation and Bank Al Etihad Foundation in Jordan, as well as the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Quebec (CALQ), the Conseil des arts de Montreal (CAM), and the Conseil Quebecois de la Musique (CQM). In addition to performing with Les Arrivants across Canada and the US, he has most recently collaborated to perform and record with Tariq Harb (classical guitar), Saeed Faraipouri (kamancheh). Salah Eddin Maraga (ganoun), Sheila Hannigan (cello), Merrie Klazek (trumpet), Haitham Haidar (voice), and ensemble Constantinople.



Amanda Keesmaat

Amanda Keesmaat is the director and creator of Space Time Continuo and principal cellist with Arion Baroque Orchestra. She plays regularly with Studio de Musique Ancienne de Montreal (SMAM) and Clavecin en Concert and is an original member of Skye Consort. Amanda has also toured with Les Violons du Roy (Quebec), Pacific Baroque Orchestra (Vancouver) and Tafelmusik (Toronto). Amanda has frequently been at the heart of productions of La Nef. As a specialist on basse de violon, Amanda belongs to Rendez-Vous Baroque Français, an ensemble specializing in French baroque music.

Holding a Master of Violin Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Brussels under the direction of Mira Glodeanu. as well as from McGill University under the tutelage of Chantal Rémillard. Tanya LaPerrière is distinguished by the elegance and passion of her interpretations. She performs as a solo violinist on Canadian and international stages with some of the country's most renowned ensembles, including Ensemble Caprice, Constantinople, the Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal, Les Idées heureuses, and Clavecin en concert. Her concerts take her across Canada, Europe, Asia and the United States, both on the violin and the viola d'amore, a 14-string instrument she holds especially dear. It was with this instrument that she won a Juno Award this year with Ensemble Constantinople for their album II Ponte di Leonardo

Madame LaPerrière's discography includes more than twenty recordings, many of which have received Opus Awards and Juno Awards. The latest album by Pallade Musica, Schieferlein's Trio Sonatas (nominated for an Opus Award), is the result of her Master's research in Brussels. In addition to her solo career, she is a founding member, solo violinist, and coartistic director of Pallade Musica

Tanya LaPerrière



Abraham Ross performs regularly as organist, harpsichordist, and director, presenting imaginative programmes informed by original research. Zaytoun presented the perfect opportunity to engage with his passions for emotive storytelling and ensemble collaboration: and the honour to realize the message envisioned so open-heartedly by Haitham.

Abraham can be heard in concert as a soloist throughout the U.S. and Canada and performs regularly with Les Goûts Réunis (Montreal) and The Resonance Collective (Los Angeles); groups whose programming embodies a commitment to diversifying western-classical canon. Beyond historical repertories, Abraham works closely with living composers, giving several premieres of new works written for his instruments every year.

Abraham Ross



Haitham Haidar, lead and executive producer Mie White, recording engineer Stratsimir Dimitrov, recording and mixing engineer Charles Coutu, assistant engineer Jennifer Nulsen, mastering engineer Recorded and mixed at Alchemist Studios

Design & illustration by Sirena Varma Calligraphy by Durriya Khalil

Photography by Tam Photography, Guillaume D. Cyr, Youssef Shoufan, Sergio Veranes, Dominick Gravel, Gavin Fraser

 Haitham Haidar © 2025 Divine Art Ltd www.athenerecords.com
 Made in Austria

First Inversion 1617 Park Place Ave Ste. 110-FI Fort Worth, TX 76110 I info@first-inversion.com





Canada Council Conseil des arts for the Arts du Canada

