



Western Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

FRIDAYS AT 12:30 SERIES

Friday, February 28, 2025
12:30 p.m., von Kuster Hall and [via livestream](#)
Sébastien Malette, *bassoon/contrabassoon*
Allison Wiebe, *piano*

Lyrical Sonata for Bassoon and Piano

Jean Coulthard
(1908-2000)

Élégie for Bassoon and Piano, Op. 31

Jacques Hétu
(1938-2010)

A Village of Landscapes

Frank Horvat
(b. 1974)

I. Torngat Mountains

II. Near Moncton

III. Near Arctic Bay

IV. Near Wakefield

V. Smoking Hills

PROGRAM NOTES

A Village of Landscapes is a 13-piece suite for bassoon inspired by photos of stirring natural landscapes in Canada. Each photo was taken by award-winning nature photographer, [Michelle Valberg](#). The 13 pieces in the suite represent each of the ten provinces and three territories in Canada.

The word “Canada” originates from the Iroquoian word, “Kanata” meaning “village” or settlement. And despite our large size geographically, we are metaphorically a village of various landscapes. We are blessed in this country with such natural beauty. It brings us joy and peace but also inspires us and leaves us awestruck. It is all these feelings that should motivate us to protect the landscapes that encompass our planet. It is such an honour and privilege to use the power of music, through Michelle’s lens, to give this visual beauty another dimension through music.

These 13 pieces have been divided into three mini-suites: bassoon with piano, unaccompanied bassoon, and bassoon with electronics. The pieces can be performed individually, as mini-suites or as a whole. I encourage audiences and listeners to take the opportunity to view each of the photos as they listen to the corresponding piece so they can feel the connection, as I did when composing the pieces, between the visual and the aural. It was a wonderful experience to compose this work, and I enjoyed a heightened level of appreciation for our natural world thanks to these remarkable photos and the sound of a fabulous musical instrument like the bassoon.

This is how each of the landscapes resonates with me:

With piano

1. Torngat Mountains (Newfoundland and Labrador) – majestic, awe-inspiring
2. Near Moncton (New Brunswick) – happy, cheery, light-hearted
3. Smoking Hills (Northwest Territories) – for contrabassoon, mysterious, bewildering
4. Near Arctic Bay (Nunavut) – peaceful, sparse, inspiring
5. Near Wakefield (Quebec) – invigorating, fresh fall air, swirling of leaves

THE ARTISTS

Sébastien Malette is a versatile bassoonist whose young career has already taken him in many different directions. His passion for solo bassoon repertoire and Canadian contemporary classical music led him to record his debut solo album “Anerca”, a compilation of three Canadian bassoon works, released in September 2020. He was then awarded an OAC grant to commission and record a new suite of bassoon pieces: “A Village of Landscapes” by Frank Horvat, released in May 2023. He currently holds the bassoon position with the Central Band of the Canadian Armed Forces, and before this, he performed regularly on bassoon and contrabassoon with the Niagara Symphony, the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, and the National Academy Orchestra.

A leading interpreter of contemporary music, pianist **Allison Wiebe** is a frequent performer in North America and the UK. Currently on the piano performance faculty at Western University in London, Ontario, she maintains an active performing and teaching career.

As a solo pianist, she was a semi-finalist in the 24th Annual Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition, and is also a frequent collaborative artist. A work on her recent chamber recording, *Undercurrents* was nominated at the Western Canadian Music Awards. Allison has been praised by the *Globe and Mail* for “thought-provoking” and “highly entertaining” programming, and by the *New York Times* for “methodical and mesmerizing” performances. She is currently the pianist for *CONTACT contemporary music* based in Toronto.

Allison holds a Master of Music in piano literature and performance, studying with James Anagnoson. She completed her Bachelor of Music (Honours) degree at Brandon University in Manitoba. As a senior piano member of the College of Examiners at the Royal Conservatory of Music, she also recorded components of the new *Perspectives* compact disc recordings launched by Frederick Harris Music. Allison has extensive experience adjudicating music festivals around North America.

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