

Nova Vortex

This performance seeks to unite the ancient with the futuristic. Primal water flow is heard from hydraulophones, along with traditional instruments of the present, and, for two new pieces, electroacoustic ambient sound, melding sonics of the known and of the unknown.

Program:

Sicilienne	Gabriel Fauré (1893) / arr. Janzen
Changing Spirit of an Oxbow Lake	Ryan Janzen (2011)
In the land where secrets bloom	Ryan Janzen (2015)
Shenandoah	trad.; transcr. by R.R. Terry (1921)
Ave Maria	Franz Schubert (1825)
Tempestate fluvium puer	Ryan Janzen (2015)
Hanadagá:yas	Ryan Janzen (2014)
Hallelujah	Leonard Cohen (1984)
She's Like the Swallow	trad. Newfoundland (transcr. 1934)

Ryan Janzen: composer | concert hydraulophone | Croatian flute | fluid dynamics and underwater sound | piano/synth

Larissa Koniuk: soprano | absement hydraulophone

Laura Bolt: flute

Brenton Chan: cello

featuring Steve Mann, invention demonstration and lecture

New compositions:

Changing Spirit of an Oxbow Lake This piece was composed for hydraulophone, inspired by slow geological formation of rivers carved through land. As water flows through a river over many years, the river gradually develops a loop, or curve, and as the loop grows outward, it eventually can be cut off from the rest of the river, forming an "oxbow lake."

Hanadagá:yas Iroquois used the term "town destroyer" to describe General George Washington after he ordered his army to terminate the Haudenosaunee people. Washington wrote, "The immediate objects are the total destruction and devastation of their settlements, and the capture of as many prisoners of every age and sex as possible. It will be essential to ruin their crops now in the ground and prevent their planting more. ... to do it in the most effectual manner, that the country may not be merely overrun, but destroyed." Subsequently, all U.S. Presidents have traditionally been named "Hanadagá:yas" by the Haudenosaunee people.

In this piece, Janzen creates the essence of what seems like an ancient story of a fox and a sparrow, as an echo of the present and future.

In the land where secrets bloom The moment before an awakening: An awakening can be political, emotional or spiritual. In this piece Janzen attempts to create "epochal" art, which bridges between vastly different epochs of human history and human consciousness.

"In the land where secrets bloom, and daffodils lie in wait for our Dear Leader's final great mistake. I wander where you go."

Tempestate fluvium puer This piece's Latin text refers to creating or giving birth to a storm, tempest, or turbulence in the air or ocean, while at the same time being swallowed up and drowning in the torrent. Fluid dynamics resonate as a hydraulophone makes sound from vibrations in water. *A tempestate nunc incipere / a turbulentis fluunt / aeternam et novandi circulus. Nascendi ubi traheretur sub / degluttiat nostra fluxum fluvium puer*

The hydraulophone

The Hydraulophone is the world's first instrument to make sound directly from vibrating water. Played by touching small jets of water, the hydraulophone produces a rich, unique, soulful sound.

Steve Mann and Ryan Janzen have collaborated with designer Chris Aimone, taking Mann's initial invention and turned it into an entirely new category of instruments in the orchestra (expanding the strings, winds and percussion sections into a "complete orchestra" of solid, liquid and gas instruments [Mann, Janzen, *et al.* 2007]). Hydraulophones have been on display at museums in Chicago, New York (Metropolitan Museum) and Copenhagen, and have been featured by the American Musical Instrument Society. This work combines art with the engineering and scientific research of underwater turbulence and acoustics.

In 2007, Janzen premiered the world's first orchestral composition for hydraulophone. *Suite for Hydraulophone* has had a lasting effect on the way hydraulophones are designed, to achieve an expressivity not possible on other instruments: "polyphonic embouchure". Janzen's other pieces for hydraulophone include *Changing Spirit of an Oxbow Lake*, *October Alchemy*, and *Sketch for two pencils*.

Ryan Janzen's work:
ryanjanzen.ca

Steve Mann's extensive body of inventions will be presented at Digifest 2015.

NOVA VORTEX

A performance with instruments of past, present and future.

Corus Quay Atrium
Toronto harbour

May 7, 2015
12:30 p.m.

Presented as part of DIGIFEST 2015, Toronto

Program notes



Performance order of pieces for Nova Vortex, 2015

