

## For Immediate Release

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Canadian Music Centre BC Region

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## Composer Mentoring Program Recipients Announced!

The **Canadian Music Centre British Columbia Region** (CMC - BC) and the **Canadian League of Composers** (CLC) are pleased to announce the selected recipients of the inaugural Composer Mentoring Program. Three emerging composers, **Elizabeth Knudson**, **Christopher Reiche**, and **James O'Callaghan** were selected from an impressive pool of 37 applicants to take part in an innovative three-month residency. Each participant will receive tools, resources, and expert guidance to help them connect with the music community and achieve their goals. The program is designed to assist emerging composers as they navigate the challenging passage from emerging to professional composer.

**CLC President James Rolfe** states that the CLC "is delighted to partner with CMC-BC to provide opportunities for emerging BC composers to grow artistically and professionally. The large number of applicants demonstrates a tremendous demand from composers for professional development, as well as the great creative potential within the BC music community: something for British Columbians to be proud of."



**Elizabeth Knudson** holds a BFA from Simon Fraser University (2004), where she studied with David MacIntyre, Owen Underhill, Janet Danielson, and Barry Truax, and a M.Mus. in Composition from the University of British Columbia (2006), where she studied with Keith Hamel. She has had compositions performed by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Victoria Symphony, West Coast Symphony, Orchestra Armonia, Phoenix Chamber Choir, musica intima, Chor Leoni Men's Choir, DaCapo Chamber Choir, Turning Point Ensemble, and soloists Oliver de Clercq (horn), and Ariel Barnes (cello), among others. Recent works

have been performed at concerts and festivals in Canada and the US, including the Sonic Boom Festival in Vancouver, BC, the Open Ears Festival in Kitchener, ON, Baie des Chaleurs International Chamber Music Festival in Dalhousie, NB, the New Music Festival at California State University, Fullerton, CA, and broadcast on CBC Radio 2.

Elizabeth was the 2004 recipient of the Golden Key International Honor Society's composition award for her orchestral piece *The Gnarled Root*. She was also winner of the Association of Canadian Women Composers' national choral composing competition, (2005). Outside of composing, Elizabeth plays cello with the West Coast Symphony, as well as in her own string quartet, and teaches privately.



**James O'Callaghan** is an emerging composer and sound artist. His music, equally concentrated in acoustic and electroacoustic idioms, attempts to preserve a connection with real-world sound identities and social justice. Added to this are diverse interests influenced by spectralism, musique concrète, Soviet cinematic montage, and Brechtian theatre. He has received several commissions as a composer, sound designer and performer for dance, film and theatre work and his music has been performed across Canada, the USA, New Zealand and Japan. He received his bachelor's of music composition (honours) from Simon Fraser University in 2010.



**CHRISTOPHER REICHE** is a performer, composer and instructor living in Victoria, British Columbia. He graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University in 2006 having studied composition with Linda C. Smith and Peter Hatch and piano with Anya Alexeyev. He then drove across the country to the University of Victoria where he completed his Masters in Composition with Christopher Butterfield and Anna Hstman.

He enjoys composing works for ensembles of various sizes although has recently been focusing on solo works and works for small ensemble. Earlier this year the McGregor/Nesselroad/Chan Trio, consisting of Mark McGregor on flute, Brian Nesselroad playing percussion and Butoh-inspired

dancer Carolyn Chan premiered his work *The Dream of the Fisherman's Wife* as part of the Vancouver Pro Musica's Further East/Further West concert series. His works have been performed by The Vancouver Miniaturist Ensemble, Michael Strutt and Eric Wilson, and Jeffery Stonehouse and Parker Bert. He has partaken in young composer workshops hosted by the Aventa Ensemble, the Quatuor Bozzini, the National Arts Centre and the orkest de ereprijs.

Christopher is a founding member of LaSaM and has been performing with them ever since their formation in 2008. In 2009 he directed their production *Nosferatu's Shadow* in which LaSaM accompanied F.W. Murnau's film *Nosferatu: A Symphony of Terror*. As a performer he was invited to perform in the premiere of Margaret Ashburner's *They Let Their Brushstrokes Show* held at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.

When not composing, Christopher can be found teaching music, going to art galleries or curling up with a good book.

This Composer Mentoring Program is made possible through funds granted from the Creators' Assistance Program of Heritage Canada, as administered by the SOCAN Foundation.



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