

The Bicycle Opera Project Presents: *Travelogue*

Co-presented with the Toy Piano Composers
April 1 and 2, 2016, Arts and Letters Club

Toronto, ON - The Bicycle Opera Project premieres *Travelogue*, four new operas that explore travel by bicycle, car, and rocket ship.

[Bicycle Opera](#) is praised for its unconventional approach to opera. The ensemble hauls instruments, costumes, and set by bike trailer and performs in communities where opera is scarce. Bicycle Opera welcomes this collaboration with fellow new music innovators.

[Toy Piano Composers](#), a collective of nine Canadian composers, have impressed audiences since 2008 with their whimsical and playful approach to composition. Their concerts toss formality aside and engage audiences in a welcoming approach.

This project marks an exciting collaboration between two collectives with a track record of inventive music making.

Bicycle Opera continues its mandate to present new Canadian works and is delighted to premiere: *April* by **Monica Pearce**, *Road Trip* by **Elisha Denburg**, *My Mouth on Your Heart* by **August Murphy-King** with a libretto by **Colleen Murphy**, and *Waterfront* by guest composer, **Tobin Stokes**.

"Bicycle Opera is turning five this year. What better birthday gift than four brand new operas written specifically for us by our good friends at Toy Piano?" – Larissa Koniuk, Artistic Director, Bicycle Opera

Travelogue features Canada's emerging classical music stars: Larissa Koniuk, soprano; Marjorie Maltais, mezzo; Christopher Enns, tenor; Geoffrey Sirett, baritone; Wesley Shen, music director, piano; Ilana Waniuk, violin; and Anthony Thompson, clarinet. Featuring Sonja Rainey, designer, and Liza Balkan, stage director.

"We could not be more excited about this operatic collaboration, and that it is happening as part of our first ever festival." – Monica Pearce, Artistic Director, Toy Piano Composers

Travelogue is the first concert of Toy Piano Composer's inaugural new music festival, **Curiosity Festival**, with concerts April 1-9th, 2016. In addition to this special two-night collaboration with Bicycle Opera Project, the Curiosity Festival includes **Playback**, an immersive sound installation at the Canadian Music Centre on April 6th and 7th, and **Metal**, a metal-inspired chamber music finale with the Toy Piano Composers Ensemble at Heliconian Hall on April 9th.

Travelogue promises to delight connoisseurs and those seeking to tippy-toe into Canada's burgeoning pool of contemporary opera.

About Bicycle Opera:

The Bicycle Opera Project is the only Canadian opera company that tours by bicycle. Designed to bring contemporary Canadian music to smaller communities where there is little opportunity to hear it, the company closes the gap between audiences and singers by performing in intimate spaces, in the vernacular, and by engaging in an annual tour that is ecologically responsible.

About Toy Piano Composers:

The Toy Piano Composers (TPC) was founded in 2008 by Monica Pearce and Chris Thornborrow. It is a Toronto-based collective of nine composers that seeks to present new music in a welcoming and engaging environment. While the toy piano is often a featured instrument, it primarily acts as a symbol for the group, representing curiosity, humour, and a playful approach to music creation. The TPC has presented over 120 premieres of chamber music, multi-media works, opera and orchestral concerts, and remains committed to promoting and producing new music, both by its members and other emerging composers.

Bicycle Opera Presents:

Travelogue

Co-Presented with the Toy Piano Composers

Four original operas that explore travel by bicycle, car, and rocket ship

Part of Toy Piano Composers inaugural ***Curiosity Festival***

April 1st and 2nd, 2016 at 8 pm

Arts and Letters Club, 14 Elm St.

Single Tickets (on sale in March): \$15/\$20

3-day Festival Pass: \$30 on sale NOW: toypianocomposers.com

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