

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
12 September 2023



[Sandra Boss]

Vancouver New Music presents **Vox Organi**, a festival of unusual and unexpected music for pipe organ

VNM 2023 Festival

VOX ORGANI

October 19 – 21, 2023 | 8pm each night

Artist chats at 7:15pm each night

Pacific Spirit United Church (2195 West 45th Avenue, Vancouver, BC)

Tickets on sale Friday, September 15 at 10am PDT, available from [Eventbrite](#):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/vnm-festival-2023-vox-organi-2593639>

Featuring **Sarah Davachi** (CA), **Ioscil + Lawrence English** (CA/AU), **Sandra Boss** (DK), **gamut inc** (DE), **Giulio Tosti** (IT), **Elisa Ferrari / John Brennan / Bárbara Lázara** (CA/MX) and **Blake Hargreaves** (CA).

Vancouver, BC – Vancouver New Music's 50th season kicks off with **Vox Organi**, the latest edition of its annual three-day festival, featuring performances on Vancouver's largest pipe organ at Pacific Spirit United Church. From expansive dronescapes to novel sounds coaxed through uniquely crafted digital augmentation, an exciting mix of Canadian and international artists will approach this impressive instrument each with their own voice and vision.

Festival highlights include a series of new and previously composed, unperformed works for solo organ by **Sarah Davachi** (Oct. 21) and a new, long form work for organ and electronics based on **Ioscil** and **Lawrence English's** collaborative album, *Colours of Air* (Oct 20). On Sunday,

...cont'd p.2/

October 22 English will also host a free workshop, *The Listener's Listening*, co-presented by Vancouver New Music and Publik Secrets.

Full schedule and details can be found on our website at <https://newmusic.org/vox-organi/>

THU 19 OCT

SANDRA BOSS

In *ATEM*, Sandra Boss stages a dialogue between human and machine. The MIDI-technology of the church organ is taken into play, not only to explore the super-human powers it has to offer, but moreover to expose its sonic possibilities where rhythmic patterns appear as structural and timbral effects.

Sandra Boss is a composer who works with home-built extensions and expansions of classical instruments, with the organ taking on a distinctive role in her practice. She has made works for church organs, reed organs, electronic organs and for home-built MIDI-controlled organs.

<http://sandraboss.dk/>

BLAKE HARGREAVES

Altar Ego: Since the early 1990s **Blake Hargreaves** has explored the sonic and expressive possibilities of the pipe organ through experimentation and improvisation. Bringing this practice to the context of a live happening with the massive Casavant at Pacific Spirit is an honour and privilege for Hargreaves to explore the realities of the present through the complex lens of the organ's construction, community and land.

Blake Hargreaves hosted the FutureStops Podcast, exploring the organ in the 21st century. He was the curator of the FutureStops Festival at Roy Thomson Hall and other venues in 2022. He directs the Fluorescent Friends label in Montreal, and has been the Co-Producer of the annual *Cool Fest* concert series since its inception in 2007. [youtube.com/@searchingforthesound2024](https://www.youtube.com/@searchingforthesound2024)

FRI 20 OCT

ELISA FERRARI / JOHN BRENNAN / BÁRBARA LÁZARA

Costume design: Shizen Jambor

A performance for pipe organ, voice, percussion, synthesizer, and for the neo-gothic stone building that houses the Pacific Spirit United Church. This collaboration draws from a shared interest in the acoustics of space, in buildings as instruments, and in offering modes of listening that puncture the hierarchy between audience, performers and religious architecture.

Elisa Ferrari is an artist who works with sound, performance, and writing. Her practice and collaborations are concerned with memory formations, idleness, sonic sediments, translingual ecologies, somatic inquiries, and the infrasonic.

Bárbara Lázara, an artist whose work is dedicated to amplifying subjugated languages, archives of the body, and stolen memories. Her work spans across various media, including performance, music, writing, and video, and has been exhibited in solo and group shows in

Mexico, the US, and the EU.

<https://www.berliner-kuenstlerprogramm.de/en/artist/barbara-lazara/>

John Brennan is an improviser, sound artist and drummer. His sound work includes installations and sonic sculptures that consider the relationship between the sonic memory of musical instruments, performance, and improvisation – [The Temporal Drum Set](#) (2018), [Things Resounding Things](#) (2019), and [Rudiments for Hexidrome](#) (2020).

Shizen Jambor is an artist and writer whose work utilizes camp and theatricality to explore shifting relationships between bodily-inhabitation, identity, and societal mores around labour. She holds a BFA from Emily Carr University of Art + Design.

LOSCIL + LAWRENCE ENGLISH

Lawrence English and **loscil** present a new, long form work for organ and electronics informed by their 2023 collaborative album, *Colours of Air*. Using computer and human controlled acoustic pipe organ sounds mixed with real time processing, the duo revisit the spirit of their studio album which featured recordings of the pipe organ at the Old Museum in Brisbane, Australia.

loscil is the electronic music project of Canadian composer and multimedia artist Scott Morgan. For over 20 years, Morgan has built a robust catalogue of work under the loscil moniker, loosely spanning the genres of ambient, classical and electroacoustic music. <https://www.loscil.ca/>

Lawrence English is a composer, artist and curator based in Australia. Working across an eclectic array of aesthetic investigations, English's work prompts questions of field, perception and memory. <https://www.lawrenceenglish.com/>

GIULIO TOSTI

Man-chine: What really happens when humans interface with a machine? Which of these two elements is really in control? These questions will be explored as a long acoustic improvisation using the auxiliary electronic elements of the Casavant organ – its Piston Sequencer, Crescendo Pedals.... with the aim of recreating a machine-like language, but adding the uncertainty and organicity of a human body playing.

Giulio Tosti studied organ under Roberto Canali at the Conservatorio San Pietro a Majella in Naples, Theo Flury at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music in Rome and Sophie Rétaux at the École Supérieure Musique et Danse Nord de France. In 2017 he served as professeur d'orgue in the School of Music of Comines (Lille, France).

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD-Y-EoIldVlhmGpuTRVlyw>

SAT 21 OCT

GAMUT INC

AGGREGATE #11: gamut inc will perform AGGREGATE #11, a piece created in 2022 during an artist residency of the Goethe Institute in the Villa Kamogawa in Kyoto. Here, electronic music processes such as pulse width modulation are used on the organ, arranged into dense textures

that interweave with algorithmically generated harmonic and rhythmic material to create larger forms.

An interdisciplinary ensemble featuring computer musician, graphic artist and composer **Marion Wörle** and composer and guitarist **Maciej Sledzieck**, **gamut inc** is dedicated to electro-acoustic music, innovative music theatre and automated pipe organs. Founded in Berlin in 2013, the ensemble sets thematic priorities with its own productions, stages music theatre and organizes concerts and festivals. gamutinc.org

SARAH DAVACHI

A program of new pieces for solo pipe organ as well as previously unperformed organ pieces from Davachi's 2020 album *Cantus, Descant*.

Sarah Davachi is a composer and performer whose work is concerned with the close intricacies of timbral and temporal space, utilizing extended durations and considered harmonic structures that emphasize gradual variations in texture, overtone complexity, psychoacoustic phenomena, and tuning and intonation. <https://www.sarahdavachi.com/>

THE LISTENER'S LISTENING: A field recording workshop with Lawrence English

Sunday, October 22; 11am-3pm

Hadden Park Field House (1015 Maple Street)

FREE; registration starts Friday, September 15 at 10am PDT through [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/vnm-festival-2023-vox-organi-2593639):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/vnm-festival-2023-vox-organi-2593639>

Co-presented with Publik Secrets. This field recording and listening workshop led by **Lawrence English** emphasizes the importance of active and engaged listening, and will cultivate technical skills essential to field recording and audio production.

ABOUT VANCOUVER NEW MUSIC

Supporting creativity, innovation, curiosity and a multiplicity of voices and ideas, Vancouver New Music is committed to curating practices, not only works, and embracing the rhizomatic expansion of current modes of sound and music creation. Founded in 1973, Vancouver New Music regularly commissions and premieres new works by Canadian and international composers, presents an annual festival that focuses each year on a theme within the new music landscape and explores the interaction of contemporary music with other disciplines such as theatre, installation, and media arts. Other activities include lectures and workshops with visiting artists, community presentations, and other sound-, art-, and new-music related community events, such as Soundwalks. <https://newmusic.org>

MEDIA CONTACT

Vera Gamboa, vera@newmusic.org | T: 604.633.0861

Vancouver New Music gratefully acknowledges the support of The Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage through Arts Presentation Canada, The Province of British Columbia through the British Columbia Arts Council and Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, The City of Vancouver and Stir Vancouver.