

Caricature Credit: Craig Morriss

MUSIC AND WORDS

A Gala Concert

Sunday, June 12, 2022 | 8:00 PM
A Celebration with Festival Bloomsday Montréal

WHO'S WHO

Six Commentaries on Ulysses by James Joyce

Thomas de Hartmann – Composer

Geraldina Mendez – Mezzo Soprano

Maria Teresa Vera – Piano

Thomas A.G. Daley – de Hartmann Heir

Of Thyme and Rosemary

Debbie Wiess – Playwright

Elsa Bolam – Director

John Hernan – James Joyce

Arthur Holden – Marcel Proust

Bios



Thomas de Hartmann: Ukrainian Composer, Thomas Alexandrovitch de Hartmann, 1884-1956, was widely acclaimed in Russia at the turn of the 20th century, and he enjoyed a successful career in France during the 1930s and 1940s. His unique voice brought together many styles to produce a colourful and vibrant catalog. However since his death his music has fallen into obscurity. De Hartmann graduated from the Imperial Conservatory of Music at 18 and studied conducting in Munich, becoming lifelong friends with poet, Rainer Maria Rilke, and painter, Wassily Kandinsky. His ballet, *The Pink Flower*, produced at the Imperial Opera in St. Petersburg when he was just 22, starred Nijinsky, Fokine, and Pavlova. In 1906 de Hartmann, an accomplished pianist, married Olga Arkadievna de Schumacher, a lyric soprano. He composed many works based on poems and literature which they performed together in concerts across Europe. World famous cellist Pablo Casals became a close friend and admirer and played and promoted his

work. His deeply philosophical and enquiring mind led to an association with Georges Gurdjieff and the Institute for the Harmonious Development of Man. In 1950, the de Hartmanns moved to New York, and in 1951, they spent one summer in Rawdon, Quebec, where Tom Daly, producer at the National Film Board of Canada met them. This led to a deep and abiding friendship, and the de Hartmanns became frequent visitors to Canada. Canadian performances of de Hartmann's work include a 1952 live radio broadcast by the Radio Canada Symphony of the Cello Concerto, Op. 57, with soloist Paul Tortelier.

Six Commentaries on Ulysses by James Joyce was composed in France in 1943. Thomas and Olga had taken refuge in a small house outside Paris when their residence was commandeered by the occupying German forces. This is the Canadian première.

Geraldina Mendez obtained a Master of Fine Arts Degree (piano) at the Tchaikovsky National Music Academy of the Ukraine. Her interest in performing the works of J. S. Bach, compelled her to participate at the 4th International "Johann Sebastian Bach Piano Competition" (Saarbrücken 2001), the Bach



Seminar (Leipzig 2001) and the 13th International Johann Sebastian Bach Competition (Leipzig 2002). She worked as a collaborative pianist for El Sistema in her native Venezuela, where she also studied lyrical singing. In Montreal she has been under the vocal guidance of Maestro Stefano Algieri. A passionate Joycean, she leads a Spanish language Joyce online reading group on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

María Teresa Vera graduated from the Conservatory of Music "Pedro Nolasco Colón" and the University of the Arts in her native Venezuela, with a degree in Piano Performance. She won the soloist competition with the National Philharmonic

Orchestra of Venezuela, performing Mozart's Concerto #21. She performs as a soloist and in chamber music ensembles and is also a composer. She recently premiered her Piano Suite in a benefit concert to raise funds for Ukraine. As a teacher, María Teresa has over 30 years of experience at all levels. Currently, she teaches privately and at the Music School La musique aux enfants, an initiative of the OSM.

Tom Daly is a native Montrealer, a student and later teacher at St. George's School of Montreal, a graduate of University of Toronto and McGill University, and is now retired. The son of film producer Tom Daly, who was the heir to the de Hartmanns, he was godson to Olga de Hartmann (Thomas de Hartmann having died before he was born). A math and physics teacher, he never took formal lessons in music, but has worked with his father on music composed by Thomas de Hartmann, particularly that composed with G.I. Gurdjieff, for more than 40 years. He also collaborated with his father on an expanded edition of Thomas and Olga de Hartmann's memoirs entitled "Our Life with Mr. Gurdjieff," using the many materials in the de Hartmann archive. Currently working on transcribing and translating the correspondence between Serge Taneyev and the de Hartmanns, he has been collaborating with The Thomas de Hartmann Project on producing recordings of de Hartmann's orchestral works. These recordings were made in Lviv, Ukraine, in September of last year, and the first two collections of them have now been released by Nimbus Records.



Debbie Wiess is a Boston-based writer, who writes in French and English. She has created a wide array of pieces for stage and screen, poetry and short stories, in both languages. Her work has been presented throughout the US and abroad in theatres and non-traditional venues (including a moving trolley), as well as on radio, cable, the internet and Zoom. She is a published author, and her poems have appeared in a variety of publications. In 2007 she was invited to present in the Short Play Labs of the Great Plains Theatre Conference attended by Edward Albee, and in 2010 she was a guest artist at the Kennedy Center Playwrights' Intensive. In addition to writing, she directs and produces projects and events.

Debbie enjoys writing about historical events, and artistic and literary figures. She is fascinated by unusual real-life encounters. Her one-act *OF THYME AND ROSEMARY*, a conversation between James Joyce and Marcel Proust over wine, is the follow-up to her full length play *PROUST & JOYCE AT THE MAJESTIC*, which depicts the May 1922 dinner party at which the two authors first met. Much was expected of that meeting, which was basically a bust, and she knew these two icons of Modernist Literature had much more to say to each other. *OF THYME AND ROSEMARY* was originally written in English for the 2016 International James Joyce Symposium in London, and has been presented in 5 countries and 2 continents. On Saint Patrick's Day this year, it had its French premiere at a cultural centre in SW France. She is thrilled to have it presented, newly revised

and updated for the 100th anniversary of Ulysses' publication, in Montreal's Bloomsday Festival, and a few days later in Dublin at the James Joyce Tower in Sandycove, Ireland. She can be contacted at djwiess@msn.com.



Elsa Bolam began her career in England, working in different capacities at the Royal Shakespeare Company. After directing freelance for many English theatre companies she became a director for BBC Television in London. In 1968 marriage brought her to Canada, where she taught at the National Theatre School, helped found Centaur Theatre, and continued to direct at various regional theatres. She is the Founding Artistic Director of Geordie Theatre, a company for young audiences on tour and on stage in Montreal. In 2009 she became a Member of the Order of Canada.



John Hernan: Born in Galway Ireland, John self-exiled to Paris in 1988 to pursue Film Studies and sundry activities. He has worked in the film industry since 1990 and moved to Montreal in 2005 with his family to continue his exploration of cinema, dialogue, light, shadow, ink and paper. John continues his wanderings and meanderings, and returns regularly to Ireland while continuing to leave also.



Arthur Holden is an actor and playwright. Among his notable performance credits is the voice of Mr. Ratburn on the long-running cartoon series Arthur. His latest play, *Beloved*, premiered at the Road Theatre in Los Angeles this spring.

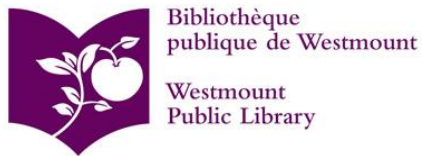


THOMAS AND OLGA DE HARTMANN



DE HARTMANN AND PABLO CASALS

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS



Government
of Canada Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada



Ambasáid na hÉireann
Embassy of Ireland
Ambassade d'Irlande
Ottawa



**ZELLER FAMILY
FOUNDATION**

