



Press Release - April 14, 2016

Yellowknife composer Carmen Braden embarking on upcoming album recording and two world premieres

There is **edgy, exciting music coming out of Canada's Northwest Territories!** Carmen Braden is embarking on her first studio recording of chamber works and folk songs, as well as having fantastic Canadian performers premiere her two newest compositions. Riding the energy of completing her Masters of Music and recent performances and premieres in Finland, Winnipeg and Yellowknife in 2016, Carmen is **bringing her music of beauty and curiosity of the sub-Arctic to the world.**

Her **debut studio album** is set to record this summer in Yellowknife featuring **lyrical folk music and enchanting chamber music** performed by Carmen and other northern players. Launching the recording process are several events: two intimate house concerts in Yellowknife on April 23 and 24th, an Indiegogo crowdfunding campaign launched April 10 that raised over \$2000 in its first two days, and a public by-donation concert at Yellowknife's Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre on May 12, 7:00pm.

Crowdfunding link: <https://igg.me/at/carmenbraden/x/13640573>

Video clip house concert performance: <https://vimeo.com/161806799>

Carmen is continuing her love of writing for choirs with her composition for choir+piano called ***In the Merry Month***. "It's a cheeky love song about a north/south romance tied together by old-fashioned letter writing." Yellowknife's Aurora Choralis commissioned the work, and will premiere it in Yellowknife at their northern-themed concert "Chor Samples" on April 15 and 16 at the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre.

<http://www.naccnt.ca/events/yk-choral-society-presents-northern-chor-samples>

From her Yellowknife-based business Black Ice Sound, Carmen is contributing to the scene of emerging composers committed to exploring the compelling, frigid, crystalline edges of new Canadian chamber music. **Juno-award winning performers James Ehnes (violin) and Andrew Armstrong (piano) will premiere *Magnetic North*** with performances in Yellowknife, Iqaluit and Toronto. This premiere builds on Carmen's existing relationships with internationally renowned champions of new Canadian music such as the Gryphon Trio, the Elmer Iseler Singers, the Penderecki Quartet, the Land's End Ensemble and GroundSwell.

May 19 - Yellowknife - Northern Arts and Cultural Centre <http://www.naccnt.ca/events/nacc-special-shows/james-ehnes-andrew-armstrong>

May 24 - Iqaluit - Alianait Festival <http://www.alianait.ca/>

May 29th - Toronto (Koerner Hall) - Royal Conservatory of Music 21C Music Festival <https://performance.rcmusic.ca/21c>

James Ehnes website: <http://www.jamesehnes.com/>

Biography

Carmen Braden is a composer from Northern Canada. Carmen has lived most of her life in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories and was born in Whitehorse, Yukon in 1985. Many of her works incorporate environmental elements that reflect the sub-Arctic environment. Carmen's works have been performed throughout Canada by internationally-acclaimed performing ensembles including the Elmer Iseler Singers, the Gryphon Trio, the Land's End Trio, GroundSwell and the Penderecki Quartet. Her music has been performed at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, the National Arts Centre 2013 Northern Scene Festival, The Global Composition in Germany, the Shattering the Silence New Music Festival, and the Land's End Emerging Composer Competition. Carmen works out of her Yellowknife-based business Black Ice Sound in composition, education and performance as well as community outreach. Her creative work has been supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, the NWT Arts Council and the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre. Carmen's academic and creative study has been supported by the prestigious Social Science and Humanities Research Council. Carmen is a member of the Association for Canadian Women Composers and their Choral Collective, and her music was featured in their Earth Music Concert in 2015. Carmen is the vice-chair of the Canadian Association for Sound Ecology. Carmen also composes for film, dance and live media productions. Carmen earned a Masters of Music from the University of Calgary (2015), a Bachelor of Music from Acadia University (2009), and an International Baccalaureate Diploma from Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific (2004).



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