

**G** Ground**Swell**

**2023 - 2024**

**SEASON** [gswell.ca](http://gswell.ca)

CONCERT

**3**



**The People United/  
El Pueblo Unido**



# GS3: The People United/ El Pueblo Unido

## **CONCERT 1: PANDEMIC PIANO**

**March 6, 2024 | 12:30 PM**

**Eva Clare Hall, University of Manitoba (free concert)**

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## **CONCERT 2:**

### **THE PEOPLE UNITED/EL PUEBLO UNIDO**

**March 7, 2024 | 7:30 PM**

**Winnipeg Art Gallery**

# Curator's Message

On behalf of GroundSwell, I am delighted to welcome you to two stunningly diverse concerts:

On Wednesday, March 6, 2024, celebrated Vancouver pianist Corey Hamm performs a midday recital at the University of Manitoba's Eva Clare Hall. The program includes newly commissioned Canadian and international compositions written expressly for Hamm during the pandemic. We are especially pleased to present the premiere performance of *Ghost Story*, a new work by Canadian composer Carly Toperosky-Splett, winner of GroundSwell's national Emerging Composers Competition.

On Thursday, March 7, 2024, take a deep dive into the legendary protest song *El pueblo unido jamás será vencido* (*The People United Will Never Be Defeated*) by Chilean composer, pianist, poet, teacher, and politician Sergio Ortega. This concert opens with a set of classic Chilean folk songs performed by Winnipeg's beloved Papa Mambo Trio. Formed in 1989 by Chilean-born classical guitarist Rodrigo Muñoz, Papa Mambo has grown to become one of the most electrifying and innovative forces in Canada's Latin music scene. The trio has carefully crafted a set of definitive Chilean songs, concluding with *El pueblo unido*.

Without missing a beat, Vancouver pianist Corey Hamm then leads us through a virtuosic solo work based on *El pueblo unido*—Frederic Rzewski's *The People United Will Never Be Defeated!*. Presented in the form of a theme plus 36 variations, Rzewski's monumental piano solo is widely considered one of the greatest piano works of the past 50 years. The work has been recorded by the likes of Ursula Oppens, Stephen Drury, Marc-André Hamelin, Igor Levit, and Rzewski himself. Of Hamm's recording, which won Spotify's Best Classical Recording 2014, Rzewski exclaimed, "Excellent! Bravo! This may be the best recording." Hamm has performed the work over 80 times to audiences worldwide, and we are delighted to present it alongside a performance of the original protest song on which it is based—Sergio Ortega's *El pueblo unido, jamás será vencido*.

**Gordon Fitzell**

# Acknowledgement

GroundSwell acknowledges that it operates on Treaty 1 land, the original territories of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Red River Métis Nation. We recognize our complicity in the Treaty relationship and, as an acknowledgement of the harms done, we commit to collaborating with Indigenous communities in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation.

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## Strategic Initiatives

GroundSwell's recent Strategic Planning document outlines the organization's priority actions over the next three years. To ensure that GroundSwell continues to be a relevant, viable and sustainable organization, we have embraced three primary objectives: Diversity, Outreach and Succession. Let us know what you think! GroundSwell always welcomes feedback from its patrons, funders and sponsors on all its activities.

### DONATE TO GROUNDSWELL

GroundSwell is a registered not-for-profit arts organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

Donations can be targeted to activities in *GroundSwell Live, Learn and Linked* series, or be applied to the General category. It's easy to make a secure, one-time donation or create a monthly pre-set amount through CanadaHelps. Your donations can help to:

- pay artist fees
- engage in outreach & education initiatives
- help support commissions by Manitoban and Canadian artists
- develop new partnerships
- make our varied content available to more people, more often

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



# GS3: Corey Hamm, pianist

## CONCERT 1: PANDEMIC PIANO

March 6, 2024 | 12:30 PM

Eva Clare Hall, University of Manitoba (free concert)

## Programme

*ephemera, echoes, toccatina* (2012)\* **Dorothy Chang**  
(b. 1970)

**Ghost Story** (2024)\*† **Carly Toperosky-Splett**  
1. *On the Path in the Woods*  
2. *Off the Path in Deep Woods*  
3. *In the Witch's House*

**Ether** (1996) **Ronn Yedidia** (b. 1960)

**Avenoir** (2022)\* **John Psathas** (b. 1966)

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\* *Composed for Corey Hamm*

† *Winner of GroundSwell's 2023-24 Emerging Composers Competition. Special thanks to the Manitoba Arts Council's "Recognize Competitions" grant program which supported the commissioning of this new work.*

# Composer Bios

**Dorothy Chang:** Described as "evocative and kaleidoscopic" and "beautiful and gripping," the music of composer Dorothy Chang reflects an eclectic mix of musical influences ranging from popular and folk music to elements of traditional Chinese music. Born to Chinese immigrant parents and raised in both the US and Taiwan, Chang has often explored in her music the curious phenomenon of being a 'third culture kid'; many of her works are inspired by place, time, memory, and the question of cultural identity. [www.dorothychang.com](http://www.dorothychang.com)

**Carly Toperosky-Splett** obtained a Master of Music degree in Composition at McGill University in 2022, and Bachelor of Music at University of Calgary in 2019. Carly views their role as a composer as one of creating spaces with a set time duration. These spaces facilitate storytelling and are used to challenge perception and preconceived notions in public audiences, musicians, and academics. Their works focus heavily on texture and structures, with these and other music materials creating a cohesive whole through tenuous and sometimes intangible connections. [www.carlytoperoskysplett.weebly.com](http://www.carlytoperoskysplett.weebly.com)

**Ronn Yedidia's** compositions have galvanized the attention of performing artists worldwide during the past two decades. His works have been featured in major concert halls and documented on film, radio, and television. He has won high critical acclaim from leading newspapers around the world, as both composer and pianist. [www.ronnyedidia.com](http://www.ronnyedidia.com)

**John Psathas** is a New Zealand Greek composer. He has works in the repertoire of such high-profile musicians as Evelyn Glennie, Michael Houstoun, Michael Brecker, Joshua Redman and the New Juilliard Ensemble, and is one of New Zealand's most frequently performed composers. He has established an international profile and receives regular commissions from organisations in New Zealand and overseas. [www.jpsathas.com](http://www.jpsathas.com)

# Programme Notes

## ***GHOST STORY (2023), Carly Toperosky-Splett***

Ghost Story is based on the concept of telling a ghost story by the fireside. It was inspired by the idea of the Blair Witch, Hansel and Gretel, and other folk tales that warn travelers to not stray off the path. This piece is divided into three movements: I. On the Path in the Woods, II. Off the Path in Deep Woods, and III. The Witch's House.

Movement I is constrained to a harmonic mid-range of the piano and concentrates on conventional piano sounds. This is intended to represent the player/main character wandering morosely through the woods on their intended path, until they hear the call of the siren song (m. 18). This siren song (in the higher range of the piano) angelically disrupts the player from their intended journey, and by the end of the movement, they have strayed off the path.

Movement II introduces a new aural environment, representing the player having strayed into woods they don't know how to navigate through. Here percussive sounds are introduced with the piano, which are meant to symbolize branches snapping, odd banging in the distance, wind whispering in the darkness, and the fluttering dead leaves. The player is beckoned onwards by the siren song, which begins to harmonically distort and reveal a different nature. The movement concludes in the siren song having ushered the player along, and the wind itself violently escalates as the player finally reaches their destination.

Movement III represents the point at which the player reaches the Witch's house. Floorboards rattle, things snap and bang. The player has become bewitched and distorted by the horrors of this house, with the piece concluding violently and suddenly in the midst of chaos.

**CONCERT 2:**  
**THE PEOPLE UNITED/EL PUEBLO UNIDO**  
March 7, 2024 | 7:30 PM  
Winnipeg Art Gallery

## Programme

### *Chilean Folk Songs*

*Luchin*

*Lo Unico Que Tengo*

*Gracias a la Vida*

*El Derecho de Vivir en Paz*

*Charagua*

*El Cigarrito*

*Volver a Los Diecisiete*

*El Pueblo Unido Jamás Será Vencido*

**Victor Jara**

**Victor Jara**

**Violeta Parra**

**Victor Jara**

**Victor Jara**

**Victor Jara**

**Violeta Parra**

**Sergio Ortega**

### **Papa Mambo Trio:**

Amber Epp, lead vocals, piano

Victor Lopez, electric guitar, vocals

Rodrigo Muñoz, percussion, vocals

—INTERMISSION—

***The People United Will  
Never Be Defeated!***

**Frederic Rzewski**

Corey Hamm, piano



# Performer Bios

**Papa Mambo Trio:** One of Manitoba's hardest working musical ensembles, this offshoot trio from the beloved Canadian Latin-Jazz and Salsa sensation 10-piece orchestra Papa Mambo has been delighting audiences for over a decade. In their hometown of Winnipeg, they have played numerous festivals, including The Winnipeg Folk Festival, The Jazz Winnipeg Festival, The Trout Forest Music Festival, Folklorama, and many more. They feel at home playing Afro-Cuban music (which is their specialty), as well as North American pop music, reinterpreted with a Cuban feel. The Papa Mambo Trio plays both traditional and original songs. Their sound has the hallmark of Latin music genres, which are full of beautiful melodies backed by a relentless percussion groove. With Rodrigo Muñoz (leader) on percussion, Victor Lopez on guitars, and the amazing Amber Epp on vocals and keyboard, the Papa Mambo Trio will transport you to a warm and sunny place—a party in a world you'll never want to leave.

Pianist **Corey Hamm** has premiered over four hundred solo, chamber, and concerto works, including over eighty with his duo PEP (Piano and Erhu Project). His recording of Rzewski's *The People United Will Never Be Defeated!*, which he has performed over eighty times all over the world, won both Spotify's and WCMA's award for Best Classical Recording, and garnered Rzewski's response "Excellent! This may be the best recording!". His next recordings will be 20th Century piano sonatas by Dutilleux, Kapustin, and Prokofiev, and a CD of new works written for him by Psathas, Finnissy, Rzewski, Yedidia, Brook, Oickle, among others. Recent and upcoming performances include the Ligeti Piano Concerto, Dorothy Chang's erhu and piano double concerto *Gateways* with the VSO, both Prokofiev's third and second Piano Concertos, Barber's Piano Concerto, and Bartok's second piano concerto in addition to artist residencies in Winnipeg and Victoria. Corey is Professor of Piano at UBC where he won the prestigious Killam Teaching Award, and Somerset Award for Artistic Excellence. His students have won first prizes at numerous international, and national piano competitions. He is also on the piano Faculty at the Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice (SICPP) and MusicFest Perugia (Italy).

# Composer Bios

**Violeta del Carmen Parra Sandoval** (1917–67) was a Chilean composer, singer-songwriter, folklorist, ethnomusicologist, and visual artist. She pioneered the *Nueva Canción Chilena* (The Chilean New Song), a renewal and a reinvention of Chilean folk music that would extend its sphere of influence outside Chile.

**Víctor Lidio Jara Martínez** (1932–73) was a Chilean teacher, theatre director, poet, singer-songwriter, and Communist political activist. He developed Chilean theater by directing a broad array of works, ranging from locally produced plays to world classics, as well as the experimental work of playwrights such as Ann Jellicoe. He also played a pivotal role among neo-folkloric musicians who established the *Nueva canción chilena* (New Chilean Song) movement. This led to an uprising of new sounds in popular music during the administration of President Salvador Allende.

**Sergio Ortega Alvarado** (1938–2003) was a Chilean composer, pianist, poet, teacher, and politician. A key figure in the New Chilean Song movement, he is recognized for having composed important left-wing political anthems. Among his best-known songs are President Salvador Allende's 1970 election theme, "Venceremos" ("We Shall Triumph"), and the hymn of resistance, "El pueblo unido jamas sera vencido" ("The People United Shall Never Be Defeated").

**Frederic Anthony Rzewski** (1938–2021) was an American composer and pianist, considered to be one of the most important American composer-pianists of his time. His major compositions, which often incorporate social and political themes, include the minimalist *Coming Together* and the variation set *The People United Will Never Be Defeated!*, which has been called "a modern classic."

# Program Notes

The monumental solo piano work, *The People United Will Never Be Defeated!* (1975), is a set of 36 variations on the Chilean song "El pueblo unido jamás será vencido" by Sergio Ortega and Quilapayún. Composed as a tribute to the struggles of the Chilean people against the newly imposed repressive regime of Augusto Pinochet, the piece encompasses a bewildering range of emotions, cultural references, and musical styles. Influences from romanticism, minimalism, jazz, and folk music are merged with techniques from the avant-garde. Over the course its hour-long duration, the work explores an improbable blend of tonality, atonality, experimentalism, and improvisation. Widely considered one of the greatest piano works of the past 50 years, the work has been recorded by numerous international artists.

# Coming up

## GS4: Plasma Waves & Fireflies

Northern Brassworks with percussionist, Victoria Sparks

**April 30, 2024 at Franco Manitoban Cultural Centre**

**7:30PM, pay what-you-can; how-you-can**

What do Persian folk music, Lake of the Woods and the Voyager spacecraft have in common? They'll all be cheek-a-jowl in *Plasma Waves & Fireflies*, an exciting and dynamic evening of new chamber music for brass quintet and percussion. Northern Brassworks is Chris Fenton and Richard Gillis, trumpets; Patricia Evans, horn; Keith Dyrda, trombone and Isabelle Lavoie, bass trombone - five of Winnipeg's finest. They team up with new music mallets master Victoria Sparks for this concert of Manitoba and Canadian composers- a wide-ranging program including four world premieres: *Three Imaginary Persian Dances* by David Braid, *Plasma Wave Investigations* by Richard Gillis, *Lucioles* by Jim Hiscott and a brand new work by Tetyana Haraschuk. Also recent music by Sarah Scott Turner, Andrew Balfour, Sid Robinovitch and more. Curated by Jim Hiscott.

Please join us for two, **GroundSwell–Learn** initiatives during GS4:

**Pre-concert SoundWalk:** Join Dr. Suzu Enns, instrumentalist, clinician and community music facilitator for a free, guided SoundWalk, starting at 6:30PM (weather permitting).

**Premiere for concert band:** The students of Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau are writing a brand new piece for concert band to be premiered on GS4. The creation of the new work is being facilitated by composer Kenley Kristofferson and band teacher Brady Gill.

SCAN FOR DETAILS



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