

Vox Clamantis and Maarja Nuut & HH Celebrate Estonia's Centennial

Saturday, May 26, 2018 at 8pm

Pre-concert Talk at 7pm

This is the 838th concert in Koerner Hall

Maarja Nuut & HH

Maarja Nuut, violin & electronics

Hendrik Kaljufärv, electronics

Vox Clamantis

Jaan-Eik Tulve, director

Anna Mazurtsak, soprano

Jaanika Kilgi, soprano

Jaanika Kuusik, soprano

Liisi Promet, soprano

Kadri Hunt, alto

Mari Kalling, alto

Miina Pärn, alto

Anto Önnis, tenor

Lodewijk van der Ree, tenor

Sakarias Jaan Leppik, tenor

Sander Pehk, tenor

Aare Külama, bass

Ott Kask, bass

Taniel Kirikal, baritone/countertenor

Tõnis Kaumann, baritone

VOX CLAMANTIS PROGRAM

Gregorian hymn: *Veni Creator Spiritus*

Arvo Pärt: *Kleine Litanei*

Gregorian introit: *Spiritus Domini*

Arvo Pärt: *Alleluia-Tropus*

Arvo Pärt: *I Am the True Vine*

Gregorian chant: *Kyrie*

Arvo Pärt: *The Deer's Cry*

Pérotin: Beata viscera

Cyrillus Kreek: *Kui suur on meie vaesus*

Cyrillus Kreek: *Psalm of David, nr. 141*

Gregorian alleluia: *Lætatus sum*

Arvo Pärt: *Morning Star*

David Lang: *for love is strong*

Helena Tulve: *Ole tervitatud, Maarja*

Tõnis Kaumann: *Ave Maria*

From Vox Clamantis:

Our program is composed intertwining Gregorian chant and contemporary vocal music.

Gregorian chant is a form of monophonic Latin chant that became the liturgical music of the Roman Catholic Church already during the first millennium and is still performing this function today. The entire European musical culture is rooted in Gregorian chant. It has been used by many composers throughout history as a direct or indirect source of inspiration.

Arvo Pärt, Helena Tulve, and Tõnis Kaumann have all, in a way, been touched by Gregorian chant. Horizontality, which is a predominant characteristic of Gregorian chant, is also strongly present in their music. The works of Cyrillus Kreek do not stem directly from Gregorian chant, but are based on psalm texts, which are also the main text resource of Gregorian chant.

David Lang's *for love is strong* is composed on the text extracted from the Song of Songs and is musically extremely minimalistic and recitative conveying its strong musical and spiritual connection with the unknown composers of Gregorian chant.

Maarja Nuut & HH

Violin & electronics

Maarja Nuut is a violinist and singer from Estonia. Her music combines traditional dance tunes, songs, and stories with live electronics to create an intricate, layered soundscape in a space where minimalism and experimental music meet the musical traditions of long-lived times.

In her performance, she searches for a lively and relaxed state, like a cat poised to leap. She says this state “gives rise to music and makes me want to prolong being in the moment while altering ways of seeing, hearing and perceiving. It is always ‘now’ and old tunes are as fresh as improvisations which were born a second ago.”

A special collaboration with Estonian electronic music composer, Hendrik Kaljujärv, sees Nuut's hypnotic acoustic loops met with more edgy electronic sounds. Kaljujärv has been actively present in different art forms, creating sound and music for drama and installations. Together, they push boundaries and expand soundscapes of Nuut's latest album, *Une meeles*, which was released internationally in the spring of 2016 and has since received great attention and garnered praise around the globe.

Vox Clamantis

Formed in 1996, the ensemble Vox Clamantis is comprised of diverse musicians – singers, composers, instrumentalists, and conductors – who have a common interest in the Gregorian chant. Besides the Gregorian chant, considered to be the foundation of all European professional music culture, Vox Clamantis often performs early polyphony and contemporary music, and many Estonian composers, among them Arvo Pärt, Helena Tulve, and Tõnis Kaumann have written compositions for the ensemble.

Vox Clamantis has performed with Catalan soprano Arianna Savall, French pianist Jean-Claude Pennetier, Italian nyckelharpa player Marco Ambrosini, Israeli oud player Yair Dalal, Tunisian singer Dhafer Youssef, the Cello Octet Amsterdam, the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, and the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra. Continuous collaboration with different musicians has inspired the birth of impromptu program based on improvisation.

Vox Clamantis has recorded for ECM Records and Mirare. The album *Liszt - Via crucis* has won the Diapason d'Or award in 2013 and *Arvo Pärt – Adam's Lament* the Grammy Award for Best Choral Performance in 2014. The film featuring Vox Clamantis's music, *La Grande Bellezza (The Great Beauty)*, received an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. The latest album, *Arvo Pärt. The Deer's Cry* (ECM) won a Diapason d'Or award, Chock in French magazine *Classica*, the Album of the Year award in Estonia, and is nominated as one of three recordings in the Choral Award category in the *BBC Music Magazine Awards 2018*.

The ensemble gives concerts in Estonia as well as abroad and concert tours have taken them all over the world. They have participated in the Sydney Festival, Manchester International Festival, La Folle Journée festival in France, in Japan, and at the International Piano Festival of La Roque d'Anthéron, among others.

Jaan-Eik Tulve is the ensemble's Artistic Director and conductor.

All artists are making their Royal Conservatory debuts tonight.