

CHAN CENTRE
presents



SAT OCT 29 2022 / 8PM

Falling Out of Time

Osvaldo Golijov, composer, adapted from the
novel by David Grossman



Oswaldo Golijov
Falling Out of Time
A Tone Poem in Voices

Text adapted by Osvaldo Golijov from the novel by David Grossman
Translation from Hebrew by Jessica Cohen

PROGRAM

Falling Out of Time is a new work from the Grammy-winning composer Osvaldo Golijov.

Rooted in David Grossman's novel of the same name, this infinitely nuanced story in voices narrates a profound journey of grief and solace, a journey "out of time" as parents grieve the death of a child, a quest to comprehend a loss with no name.

PERFORMANCE

8PM Chan Shun Concert Hall

Biella da Costa - Woman

Nora Fischer - Centaur

Yoni Rechter - *Man*

Dan Brantigan - *Trumpet, Flugelhorn*

Hannah Collins - Cello

Shawn Conley - *Acoustic Bass, Electric Fretless Bass*

Jeremy Flower - *Electric Guitar, Modular Synthesizer*

Johnny Gandelsman - *Violin*

Mario Gotoh - Viola

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Shane Shanahan - *Percussion, Drum Set*

Mazz Swift - Violin

Reylon Yount - Yangqin



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The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts is situated within the heart of Musqueam traditional territory

This concert is generously supported by The Azrieli Foundation, The Arnold and Anita Silber Family Foundation, and Isaac and Judy Thau



Canada



Synopsis

I

We hear two weary voices humming a lament over a murmuring heart and ticking clocks. We see the Centaur: half-writer, half-desk. He tells us that the only way he has to understand the death of his son is by re-creating it as a story ("There is a man. There's a woman. He will walk. She will not"). We see the Man, and the Woman, his wife. The Man can't bear staying at home any longer and decides he has to go "there, to him." His wife despairs ("there's no there"). The Man sings of the night when messengers came to their home to tell them about their son's death ("they...mercifully, quietly, stood at the threshold and gave us the breath of death"). His wife brings that night into the present and addresses the messengers ("Don't be afraid. I did not shout when he was born, and I won't shout now either"). Man, Woman, and Centaur sing of falling into a void – the absence created by the child's death ("Come, Chaos"). The Woman climbs atop a belfry and sings of her husband who walks in circles on the hills surrounding their town ("step, another step"). In a hallucination, the Walking Man conjures up his son: he "empties" his own body so that his son can enter it and live there the rest of his un-lived life ("...hurry, my boy... everything now is yes"). The Centaur tells how some of the townsfolk who are also bereaved see the Walking Man, leave their homes, and follow him into the hills: a midwife, her husband the cobbler, a mute net mender, an elderly math teacher. They all walk in a procession towards a barren hill ("It is the brain of the universe... It has no wails, no thoughts. It has no answers, and no love").

II

We hear a cry piercing the skies. There is no answer, only a faint echo. The Walking Man sings of hovering between here and there ("I'm walking my mind away"). The music turns into a mantra from which the Centaur emerges ("It breaks my heart, my son, to think...I have found the words.") The Centaur then addresses the Walking Man ("If you meet him...will you tell him of his brother born after him? Will you tell him that you gave his dog to a boy in the street?"). One of the walkers (voiced by the Centaur) sees a fly landing on a green leaf without noticing that a spider had built his web. The fly is trapped and killed. ("What? What is it you know now, that you did not know the moment you were spawned?") As the Walking Man realizes the futility of his walk and stops ("You were right, Woman, there's no 'there'"), the Woman Atop the Belfry sees him far away and blesses him ("Go now, be like him. Conceive him, yet be your death, too...and there, my love, among the shadows of father-son, there will come peace – for him, for you"). Giant, Momus-like drums erupt. The Walking Man hollers a string of questions to his son ("Where? Where are you? How are you there? And who are you there?") The stars mock his questions. A cry pierces the skies. There is no answer. Only a faint echo. We hear the voice of a boy ("There is breath, there is breath. Inside the pain. There is breath").

Osvaldo Golijov



Osvaldo Golijov's works include the *St Mark Passion*; the opera *Ainadamar*; *Azul*, a cello concerto; *The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind*, for clarinet and string quartet; the song cycles *Ayre* and *Falling Out of Time*, and the soundtracks for the Francis Ford Coppola's films *Tetro* and *Youth Without Youth*. This season two new works have premiered: *Um Dia Bom*, for string quartet, for *Brooklyn Rider*; and *Ever Yours*, for string octet, for the *St Lawrence String Quartet* together with the *Telegraph Quartet*. He is currently working on a violin concerto for Johnny Gandelsman and The Knights to be premiered December 16, 2022, at the opening of the Prior Center for Performing Arts at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. He was born in Argentina, and lived in Jerusalem before coming to the US. He is the Loyola Professor of Music at the College of the Holy Cross.

CHAN CENTRE
presents

SUN OCT 30 / 4PM
David Suzuki x Brandi Morin
with Naomi Klein



GAMES IN MUSIC

LORD OF THE RINGS
STAR WARS
WORLD OF WARCRAFT
GLITCHHIKERS

SAT NOV 4 / 7:30 PM

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