



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 3, 2021

Chan Centre Presents a Stunning Indigenous-Centred Operatic Concert Curated by Mezzo-Soprano Marion Newman

***With critically-acclaimed artists Melody Courage, soprano, Asitha Tennekoon, tenor,
and Jonathon Adams, baritone***

Vancouver, BC — The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at the University of British Columbia is honoured to present the first concert of mezzo-soprano Marion Newman’s guest curated series for the Chan Centre, ***Hasalala Danxalax: Marion Newman & Friends***. The concert features four powerful operatic voices and celebrates the diverse breadth of music created by contemporary Indigenous composers. Featured alongside these works are vocal and operatic works from the Western Classical canon, showcasing the tension between colonialism and white supremacist hegemonic modes of thinking which operate in classical music. This powerful and vital concert takes place on **Saturday, November 20 at 8PM** at the Chan Shun Concert Hall.

“This is an opportunity to make and share music of the highest quality with my chosen colleagues,” says Marion Newman. “It is time for Indigenous classical music to be understood as equal to European music rather than a static form of the past. I am particularly thrilled that the audience can witness the wealth Indigenous composers and musicians have to share in-person. As we raise our voices in story and song, I believe this will be a transformative experience for everyone both on and off the stage.”

Hasalala Danxalax is led by Newman with soprano **Melody Courage**, tenor **Asitha Tennekoon**, and baritone **Jonathon Adams** joining, representing the Kwagiulth, Stō:lo, Cree, Métis and Sri Lankan nations. Complementing the vocalists on stage are flutist **Jessica McMann**, violinist **Parmela Attariwala**, and pianist **Perri Lo**.

Together, the artists will draw from a variety of genres including Indigenous musical forms that Canada’s potlatch ban made illegal from 1885 to 1951, in addition to the contemporary works of Indigenous composers and librettists including Andrew Balfour, Marie Clements, Ian Cusson, Joy Harjo, Yvette Nolan, Russell Wallace, as well as the aforementioned Jessica McMann and Marion Newman.

A selection of works by white, European composers are interpreted and reframed against the backdrop of colonial oppression. This poignantly programmed concert confronts and explores the effects of colonialism on this land’s First Peoples while unabashedly proclaiming that the lives, art, culture and legacies of Indigenous peoples can be ignored no longer.

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About Marion Newman

Critically acclaimed Kwagiulth and Stó:lō First Nations mezzo-soprano, also of English, Irish and Scottish heritage, Marion Newman is sought-after as one of Canada's most accomplished singers in works ranging from Vivaldi to Vivier, and operatic roles including Carmen and Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. Marion is guest curator for the Chan Centre's 2021-2022 season and was most recently named the host of CBC Music's Saturday Afternoon at the Opera.

About the Chan Centre for Performing Arts at UBC (chancentre.com)

Since 1997, the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts has earned an international reputation for its striking design, stellar acoustics, and exceptional programming. Artists, critics, and patrons alike are unanimous in their praise of the facility, winning it a place among North America's top-rated performing arts spaces. Featuring three unique venues—the Chan Shun Concert Hall, the Telus Studio Theatre, and the Royal Bank Cinema—the Chan Centre is a vital part of UBC campus and community life where artistic and academic disciplines merge to inspire new perspectives on the world around us. Past performers and speakers include Wynton Marsalis, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Renée Fleming, Dan Savage, Yo-Yo Ma, Jane Goodall, Herbie Hancock, Lila Downs, and Anoushka Shankar.

LISTING INFORMATION

Chan Centre Presents: Hasalala Danxalax: Marion Newman and Friends

Date: Saturday November 20, 2021 at 8pm
Ticket Prices: From \$15
Address: Chan Centre for the Performing Arts
University of British Columbia
6265 Crescent Road
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
Box Office: 604-822-2697 / chancentre.com
Open Tue–Fri, 12pm–4pm
Website: chancentre.com
Link to Artist Photos: chancentre.com/press-downloads/

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