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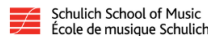
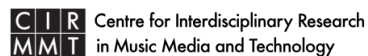
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"Gestures, Words, Sounds": The Creative Worlds of Cathy Berberian and Luciano Berio



Workshops, Lectures, and Concerts

October 2–6, 2025

Montreal, QC

This event celebrates the work of two extraordinary creative minds, mezzo-soprano Cathy Berberian (1925-1983), whose vocal versatility and imagination had an enormous impact on twentieth-century avant-garde art music and music theater, and composer Luciano Berio (1925-2003), who broke new ground in serialism, the concept of the open work, and the application of linguistic principles in musical composition. Focusing on their collaborations as well as on their individual artistic activities, the workshops aim to advance fresh knowledge about Berberian and Berio through the lens of new primary sources from the Berberian and Berio archives at the Paul Sacher Stiftung in Basel, Switzerland, that illuminate the context and inner dynamics of their creative worlds and performance practice. Also discussed are sources from the McGill Archives pertaining to the collaboration between Berberian and Canadian composer Harry Somers (1925-1999), who wrote one work for her.

Held at McGill University and a few other venues in Montreal to mark the centenary of the births of Berberian and Berio, as well as Somers, the event is co-organized by the Paul Sacher Stiftung and the Schulich School of Music of McGill University in collaboration with the Centro Studi Luciano Berio, the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology (CIRMMT), Paramirabo, and the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Montreal with support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. We are pleased to feature interactive scholarly sessions and lectures held by an international group of performers and scholars, three concerts, and other activities.

All events are free and open to the public, except for the concerts of Paramirabo (October 2) and the McGill Symphony Orchestra (October 5), for which tickets may be purchased.

Pour le programme en français, veuillez consulter le calendrier des événements sur le site Web de l'École de musique Schulich.



4:30pm

Reception (Wirth Lobby)

Student Poster Session (Wirth Lobby)

Moderation: Angela Ida De Benedictis and Christoph Neidhöfer

5:45–7:00pm

“Comparing the Armenian and Azerbaijani Songs of Berio’s *Folk Songs* (1964)”

Arya Bahmani (McGill University)

“Collaboration and Multiplicity at the Core of Luciano Berio’s *Laborintus II*”

Hannah A. Barnes (McGill University)

“Gesture and Polyphony of Action in Berio’s *Gesti* for Solo Recorder (1966)”

Ana Neocleous (McGill University)

“Phantom Resonance: Timbre in *Brin*, *Erdenklavier*, and *Luftklavier* by Luciano Berio”

Nguyen Minh Tram (McGill University)

“The Illusion of Multiplicity: Listening Beyond Monody”

Nguyen Minh Tram

Sunday, October 5

Session 8: Workshops on *Berberian, Berio, and the Radio* (A-832/833)

- 9:15–10:15am **“A-Ronne: A Composition on Vocal Behaviors”**
Mila De Santis (University of Florence)
- 10:15–11:15am **“...why should I have troubles with Somers?” —
Cathy Berberian’s Collaboration with Harry Somers
on Voiceplay”**
Brian Cherney (McGill University)

11:15–11:30am Coffee Break

Roundtable: Discussion with presenters and audience (A-832/833)

11:30am–1:00pm Moderated by Angela Ida De Benedictis and
Christoph Neidhöfer

1:00–3:00pm Lunch Break

Concert | Salle Pierre-Mercure

Salle Pierre-Mercure, 300 Boul. De Maisonneuve Est

3:00pm McGill Symphony Orchestra
Alexis Hauser, Artistic Director and Conductor
Works by Georges Bizet, Louise Farrenc, Franz
Schubert / Luciano Berio, and Johann Strauss II

Monday, October 6

Distinguished Lecture: Hosted by the Centre for Interdisciplinary
Research in Music Media and Technology (Tanna Schulich Hall)

3:30–4:30pm **“The Reverberations of Electronic Sound: Synergies
and Interactions in Luciano Berio’s Compositional
Practice”**
Angela Ida De Benedictis (Paul Sacher Stiftung, Basel)
Introduction and moderation: Andrea Gozzi
(Université de Sherbrooke)

Program

Thursday, October 2

Concerts | Salle de concert du Conservatoire

Conservatoire de musique de Montréal, 4750 Henri-Julien Ave, Salle de
concert

- 5:00–6:30pm Selections of *Sequenze* by Luciano Berio
- 8:00pm Paramirabo performs works by Cathy Berberian,
Luciano Berio, and Pierre Boulez

Friday, October 3

- 9:15–10:00am Registration (Wirth Lobby)
- 10:00–10:15am Opening Remarks (Tanna Schulich Hall)

Jonathan Wild (Associate Dean, Research and
Administration, Schulich School of Music, McGill
University)

Angela Ida De Benedictis (Paul Sacher Stiftung) and
Christoph Neidhöfer (McGill University), co-
organizers

Session 1: Workshop on *Berberian and the New Vocality* (Tanna
Schulich Hall)

- 10:15–11:15am **“5 Years, and 45 More: Honoring the Legacy of a
Mentor”**
Candace Smith (Director, Cappella Artemisia)
- 11:15–12:00pm **Conversation with Candace Smith**
Giovanni Cestino (University of Milan), Angela Ida De
Benedictis, and Christoph Neidhöfer

With the participation of Rebecca Gray, soprano
- 12:00–2:30pm Lunch Break

Session 2: Lecture and Workshop on *Berberian and Artistic Identity* (Tanna Schulich Hall)

2:30–3:30pm **“Performing Music History – Cathy Berberian as Curator and Artistic Researcher”**

Camilla Bork (Freie Universität Berlin)

3:30–4:30pm **“Berberian’s Performing Scores as Artifacts, Documents, and Sources”**

Giovanni Cestino (University of Milan), with the participation of Rebecca Gray, soprano

4:30–5:00pm Coffee Break

Session 3: On the Materials for an Exhibit (Tanna Schulich Hall)

5:00–6:00pm **Meeting with Marina Berio (visual artist) on her exhibit *Berio Bambino, Berio Papà: Family Drawings, Letters, and Music***

Session 4: Workshop on Luciano Berio's *Sequenza VII* (Tanna Schulich Hall)

8:00–9:30pm Angela Ida De Benedictis (Paul Sacher Stiftung) and Jacqueline Leclair, oboe (McGill University)

Saturday, October 4

Session 5: Workshops on *A Thousand and One Voices* (Tanna Schulich Hall)

9:00–10:00am **“Showing the Versatile Voice – Cathy Berberian in *C’è musica e musica*”**

Ulrich Mosch (Université de Genève, Faculté des lettres)

10:00–11:00am **Showing of Luciano Berio’s *C’è musica e musica*, episode V, “Mille e una voce”**

11:00–11:15am Coffee Break

11:15–12:15pm **“Exploring Cathy Berberian Through the Lens of Her Archives”**

Conversation between Cristina Berio (cathyberberian.com) and Angela Ida De Benedictis (Paul Sacher Stiftung)

12:15–2:30pm Lunch Break

Keynote Lecture (Tanna Schulich Hall)

2:30–3:30pm **“Remembering the Future: Revisiting Berio’s Norton Lectures”**

Talia Pecker Berio (Centro Studi Luciano Berio)
Introduction and moderation: Brian Cherney (McGill University)

3:30–4:00pm Coffee Break

Session 6: Workshops on *Influences and Impact* (Tanna Schulich Hall)

4:00–5:00pm **“A Constellation of Influences: Joyce, Dallapiccola, and Berberian in Berio’s *Chamber Music* (1953)”**

Jamuna Samuel (University of Pennsylvania)

5:00–6:00pm **“‘Encounters’ with Innovation: Leonard Stein, Berio, and Berberian in the Making of LA’s New Music Scene”**

Tiffany Kuo (Mt. San Antonio College)

6:00–7:30pm Reception (Wirth Lobby)

Session 7: Workshop with performance of *Les mots sont allés* and *Sequenza XIV* (Tanna Schulich Hall)

7:30–9:00pm Angela Ida De Benedictis (Paul Sacher Stiftung) and Matt Haimovitz, cello (University of Minnesota)