



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Early Music Vancouver Appoints Baritone Jonathon Adams as First-Ever Summer Artist-In-Residence

Vancouver, BC – For the first time, **Early Music Vancouver** (EMV) will have a dedicated artist-in-residence for the summer. EMV's newest Artistic & Executive Director, Suzie LeBlanc, selected Cree-Métis Two-Spirit baritone Jonathon Adams, signalling a more diverse future for the organization. Over the course of the summer, Adams will be writing a series of essays, produce and participate in a panel talk, and perform in three events for this year's Vancouver Bach Festival which will take place from July 26 to August 6.

"I am deeply honoured and incredibly excited to be EMV's first official artist-in-residence," said Adams. "The music of Bach has long been close to my heart and I am thrilled to be performing his music, amongst other repertoire, with many of my close friends from across Canada during the Bach Festival. As a Cree-Métis artist, I hope my time in residence will help build bridges between EMV and Vancouver's Indigenous communities while widening horizons of possibility for the performance of historical musics."

Adams is representative of the new generation of classical performers. Gifted with an effortlessly rich, enveloping, and lyrical baritone voice, Adams fuses their vocal talents with their lived experiences as a non-binary Indigenous person. Their values and identity inform their work and the music they produce, exemplified by their solo performance in the internationally celebrated "MESSIAH / COMPLEX" produced by Against the Grain Theatre and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in late 2020. Adams advocates for inclusivity within early music and consistently proves that there is room to be both dedicated to historically informed performance practice while remaining authentic to who one is and what they believe.

Adams was born in Edmonton, Alberta and is currently based in Montreal. In concert, they have appeared as a soloist with Philippe Herreweghe, Sigiswald Kuijken, and Vox Luminis, among others. They were a fellow of the Netherland Bach Society in 2020 and perform regularly with Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra & Choir. Adams is a Britten-Pears Young Artist, a prestigious programme for a select group of young individuals who show outstanding promise. Recent career highlights include a solo début at the Bruges Concertgebouw and at Snape Maltings Concert Hall, and concerts with Amsterdam Baroque in China, Japan, and at the Château de Versailles.

Adams' essays will be published in June and live on the EMV website. This series will tackle themes of diversity and inclusion in classical and early music via Adams' own experiences as a non-binary Indigenous person. For July, Adams has curated a panel discussion with other leading Indigenous musicians and scholars that centers on Indigenous music's inclusion in early music. Between July 26 and August 6, they will be performing in three events as part of EMV's adapted Bach Festival. The repertoire includes works by Henry Purcell, J.S. Bach, as well as Cree and Métis songs sung in Cree and French. Full details on the panel and Bach Festival events will be announced at a later date.

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ABOUT EARLY MUSIC VANCOUVER (earlymusic.bc.ca)

Founded in 1970, Early Music Vancouver (EMV) has a long-standing international reputation for the presentation, production and study of classical and traditional repertoires using “historically informed performance practices”. Historically informed performance is based on two key aspects: the application of the stylistic and technical aspects of performance, known as performance practice; and the use of period instruments which may be reproductions of historical instruments that were in use at the time of the original composition. EMV now offers the second largest program of its type in North America, presenting and producing an average of 40- 50 concerts per year featuring internationally-renowned local, regional and guest artists. Since January 2021, EMV is led by Artistic & Executive Director Suzie LeBlanc.

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