

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Early Music Vancouver Concerts Now Free for All Indigenous Peoples *Includes events for 2021 Vancouver Bach Festival*

Vancouver, BC – In the spirit of reconciliation, **Early Music Vancouver** (EMV) is henceforth making all concert tickets for Indigenous peoples free, making it the first major music organization in Vancouver to do so. This new ticketing policy was conceived of by EMV's summer artist-in-residence, Cree-Métis Two-Spirit baritone Jonathon Adams.

"It is my hope to help enact lasting change through this residency," said Adams, "and to help bridge the gap between EMV and Indigenous communities in the Vancouver area. I am honoured to be involved in these initiatives and the restorative, community-building work EMV is committed to."

EMV operates on and from the ancestral, traditional and unceded territories of the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and x̣m̄məθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations. By offering these tickets to the natural stewards of this land, EMV honours the Coast Salish peoples and the grounds from which EMV produces art.

"We want to open our doors to Indigenous peoples and welcome them into the early music scene both on and off-stage," explained Suzie LeBlanc, Artistic & Executive Director of Early Music Vancouver. "We are committed to connecting more deeply to Indigenous communities through action and by removing the barriers that inhibit the sharing of our cultures."

24% of Indigenous peoples living in urban areas live under the poverty line compared to 13% for non-Indigenous peoples (Statistics Canada, 2015). At EMV, we recognize that systemic discrimination against Indigenous peoples in Canada has greatly contributed to the wealth disparity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. A lack of disposable income prevents many from participating in or enjoying the arts. Our ticketing policy will help overcome the financial barrier that disproportionately affects Indigenous peoples while also making an unequivocal statement that EMV welcomes Indigenous people to its concerts. Whether the music is by J.S. Bach or is the early music of the Métis peoples, EMV is committed to providing cultural access for the historical stewards of this land.

To obtain a ticket, we ask that Indigenous patrons present a status card, band membership, or other identification at the will call desk. Tickets are limited to one per person for all Vancouver events.

This initiative is a step towards redressing the historical injustices that have led to the continued oppression of Indigenous peoples. It is our goal that these actions support the Indigenous resurgence that is already taking place and help bring about a more just and equitable society that values and upholds Indigenous practices.

ABOUT JONATHON ADAMS

Cree-Métis Two-Spirit baritone Jonathon Adams was born in Edmonton, Alberta and is currently based in Montreal. 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. In concert, they have appeared as a soloist with Philippe Herreweghe, Sigiswald Kuijken, 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.

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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 has been led by Artistic & Executive Director Suzie LeBlanc.

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