

FREE UNDERGROUND CONCERTS

# GentleFreak MainStage: *Slaying My Demon Lover*



Monday, February 9, 2026  
Nancy & Ed Jackman Performance Centre  
*60 minutes, no intermission*

# PROGRAM

*In the Hot Depths of Summer* (excerpt) - **Samuel Barber**

*Idolatry* - **William Grant Still**

*L'heure exquise* - **Reynaldo Hahn**

*Mio Cristo piange diamanti* - **Rosalía**

*Je ne t'aime pas* - **Kurt Weill**

*Video Games* - **Lana Del Rey/Justin Parker**

*Canción del Fuego Fatuo* - **Manuel de Falla**

*Losing My Mind* - **Stephen Sondheim**

*Polo* - **Manuel de Falla**

*Lamento* - **Henri Duparc**

*Récitation 14* - **Georges Aperghis**

*Extinguish My Eyes* - **Leonard Bernstein**

*715 CRΣΣKS* - **Justin Vernon/Bon Iver**

*Cemetery of Kisses* (excerpt) - **Samuel Barber**

# GENTLEFREAK

GentleFreak MainStage is a co-production initiative led by **Danika Lorèn** that empowers classical vocalists to create and present original concerts. Today's preview is a sneak peek of the first MainStage concert coming this month: *Slaying My Demon Lover*. This concert/ritual concept by **Daevyd Pepper** features singers **Danika Lorèn**, **Queen Hezumuryango**, and **Reilly Nelson**, with pianist **Claire Harris**. Guitarist **Lenny Ranallo** will also be joining these artists for the full show on February 15th at Arraymusic. For more information, please follow @gentlefreak.dl on Instagram!

# Slaying my Demon Over

Featuring:

Daevyd Pepper

Queen Hezumuryango

Reilly Nelson

Danika Lorèn

Claire Harris

Lenny Ranallo

*for we must now sever the ties that bind us*

February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm  
Arraymusic - 155 Walnut ave

# GENTLEFREAK



## Danika Lorèn

**Danika Lorèn** is a multi-disciplinary creative force based in Toronto, known for their bold fusion of classical tradition and contemporary innovation. Danika brings a distinctive voice to both performance and composition, creating work that is emotionally rich, theatrically compelling, and technically virtuosic.

As a composer, Lorèn's work has been showcased internationally at Wigmore Hall, the Leeds Lieder Festival, National Sawdust, Cincinnati Song Initiative and the Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ.

Within Canada, their compositions have been featured by the Canadian Opera Company, Soundstreams, the Canadian Art Song Project, the Women's Musical Club of Toronto, Pacific Opera Victoria, the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra and the CBC. Danika's musical style is marked by an intimate, text-driven approach that blends their intimate knowledge of the classical voice with a modern emotional nuance. Though Danika is largely self-taught, they have also received mentorship in composition from Lori Laitman through the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS).

As a performer, Danika's repertoire encompasses intimate art song, contemporary chamber works, and traditional opera. They regularly perform with the Happenstancers, a leading voice in Toronto's contemporary chamber scene, and has given many Canadian and North American debuts of living composers, including Tansy Davies and Thierry Tidrow. Danika is a skilled interpreter of new music and a keen explorer of extended techniques, with a particular focus on developing the acoustic/unamplified voice through improvisation. This exploration was greatly

inspired by Danika's time at Westben's Performer/Composer residency (2024).

Danika is an alum of Barbara Hannigan's Equilibrium Young Artists and a graduate of the Canadian Opera Company's Ensemble studio. They completed a Bachelor of Vocal Performance with J. Patrick Raftery and a Master's in Opera Performance with Wendy Nielsen, both from the University of Toronto. Danika began their music journey at a young age under the guidance of Marilyn Whitehead (voice) and Penny Joynt (piano) in their hometown of Saskatoon, SK.

# GENTLEFREAK



## **Daevyd Pepper**

**Daevyd** is a Toronto-based vocalist, ritualist and teaching artist who creates transformative ceremonial experiences through music, contemporary opera, musical theatre and divinatory tarot. Known for their sensitive, intentional approach, Daevyd shapeshifts between performer, producer, director, and mentor—building intimacy between craft, audience and artist while uplifting emerging creators.



## **Queen Hezumuryango**

Originally from Burundi, **Queen Hezumuryango** holds both her master's degree and bachelor's degree in vocal performance from the University of Montreal and is a member of the Canadian Opera Company's 2024-2025 Ensemble Studio. Performance credits include Lola in Cavalleria rusticana (COC), Ebba Sparre in La Reine-garçon (COC), Mercédès in Carmen (COC), and Rosina in The Barber of Seville (Highlands Opera Studio). She was a semifinalist in the OSM Competition in 2021, won an Encouragement Award at the Eastern Region of the Laffont Competition in 2023 and won the Kurt Weill award at the KWF Lotte Lenya Competition in 2025. In 2024, she was named as one of CBC's "30 hot classical musicians under 30" and nominated for a Dora Award for her work in Scott Joplin's Treemonisha. As well, this 2025 laureate of the Jeunes ambassadeurs lyriques du Théâtre Lyrichorégra 20 is singing Carmen at Brott Opera in July 2025.

# GENTLEFREAK



## Reilly Nelson

Soprano **Reilly Nelson**, hailed as “a revelation” by *Opera News*, brings her “distinctly warm and burnished” sound to stages across North America and Europe, captivating audiences with her deep commitment to artistry, fueled by an intuitively honest and compelling dramatic sensibility. Originally from Northern Ontario, Reilly’s profound connection to her roots informs her passionate approach to music-making, where authenticity and sincerity are paramount.

Reilly made her Canadian debut as Annio in “*La Clemenza di Tito*” with Pacific Opera Victoria and headlined two concerts with Toronto’s avant-garde chamber music group, *The Happenstancers*. In January, she joined Tapestry Opera in Toronto, participating in their prestigious new works program, “*Lib Labs*.” Her impressive career includes performances with major symphony orchestras and opera companies in the USA, Canada, and abroad, such as the Rochester Philharmonic, Reno Philharmonic, Phoenix Symphony, Cincinnati Opera, *Tiroler Festspiele Erl*, and the Glimmerglass Festival, where she portrayed Gianna in the world premiere of “*Tenor Overboard*” to significant acclaim. Reilly is an alumna of Canadian soprano Barbara Hannigan’s Equilibrium Young Artists program, and has honed her craft through Young Artist programs with Cincinnati Opera, Kentucky Opera, Tanglewood Music Center, and Glimmerglass. In 2023, Reilly secured second place in the Toronto Mozart Vocal Competition and was selected as one of the *Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques* for the 2023-24 season. A specialist in the works of Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht, she won the 2018 Lotte Lenya Competition and achieved district victory in the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions. Reilly holds a Bachelor of Music from the Eastman School of Music and advanced degrees in Vocal Pedagogy from the University of Cincinnati, where she earned both a Master’s and a Doctorate. She is currently based in Toronto, where she continues to make her mark on the new music and operatic scene.

# GENTLEFREAK



## Claire Harris

**Claire Harris** is a Toronto-based collaborative pianist, specializing in opera and contemporary repertoire. Originally from New Zealand, Claire holds a Bachelor of Music from the New Zealand School of Music and a Master's from the Royal College of Music, London, England. Prior to moving to Toronto in 2018, Claire was a staff accompanist at the Royal College of Music, London, as well as working with companies including English Touring Opera, the Rossini Young Artists' Festival, Opera Alumnus, and the Academie de La

Roche D'Hys annual opera workshop in France. She has performed internationally as a pianist in venues such as the Royal Festival Hall and Wigmore Hall, London, the Porgy and Bess, Vienna, and appeared on radio stations from Guernsey to Bogotá, Colombia.

Claire is pianist with Crossing Borders, a company performing works by living composers across Canada and internationally, most recently touring Colombia with a programme of all Canadian and Colombian living composers. She also recently curated and performed a recital of Canadian art song with baritone **Parker Clements** at the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto. Claire is co-producer and pianist for Opera Revue, a Toronto opera company that has been featured on the cover of Opera Canada magazine, CBC National Radio, and CTV National Television.

She is also the pianist for Canadian Children's Opera Company's Principal Chorus, Associate Director with Opera by Request, Toronto, and Pianist with the Toronto Children's Chorus, as well as working regularly as a répétiteur and coach with independent companies around Toronto and Ontario. Claire coaches students in the vocal program at the University of Toronto, as well as maintaining a private coaching studio. Claire is also the pianist for Amarras, a Toronto-based contemporary Argentinian Tango ensemble with whom she has performed in the USA and Argentina.

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Last updated, September 2025. If your name has been misspelled or omitted, please accept our

sincere apologies, and don't hesitate to reach out to Sami Anguaya at

[sanguaya@tapestryopera.com](mailto:sanguaya@tapestryopera.com)

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## **Monday, March 2, at 6 pm: Piano Duo NaKaNaKa**

Duo NaKaNaKa, joined by flutist **Hiromi Tabata**, invites audiences into a world of subtle dialogue and expressive interplay. Together, they traverse a wide-ranging repertoire—from Mozart and Schubert to Debussy, Ravel, Poulenc, Gershwin, and contemporary Japanese composers—promising an intimate, richly textured, and unforgettable musical experience.

## **Monday, March 9, at 6 pm: Silver Thread**

Join Toronto's newest professional choral ensemble, Silver Thread, for a program which spans from Renaissance to Contemporary. With music by **Benjamin Britten, Andrew Balfour, and Rosephanye Powell**, this concert will also feature the works of young Toronto-based composers **Sami Anguaya, Francesca Hauser, Kai Leung**, and more!