

EARTH DAY CONCERT

The Heavy Metal Suite

World Premiere

Axiom Brass

Future Minerals Initiative

Philippe Tortell - Director

Dorival Puccini, Jr. - Artistic Director

Music by T. Patrick Carrabré (Canada), Christopher Sainsbury (Australia), Yao Chen (China), Augusta Read Thomas (USA), Roberto Morales-Manzanares (Mexico), Valeria Gisel Valle Martinez (Chile), Vuma Ian Levin (South Africa), Chris Chafe (USA)

Vogue Theatre - April 22, 2024
Vancouver, British Columbia,
Canada

Sponsors

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A Message from the Directors

In the words of the poet Cesar A. Cruz, '*art should comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable*'. Like the arts, mining has also created both comfort and disturbance. The industry generates enormous wealth for some segments of society, and provides the mineral resources necessary for work, transportation and leisure in our digital age. At the same time, mining has left enormous environmental and social impacts that continue to this day. In the face of these challenges, the creative and performing arts can be a powerful vehicle to open dialogue and help us reimagine alternative possibilities.

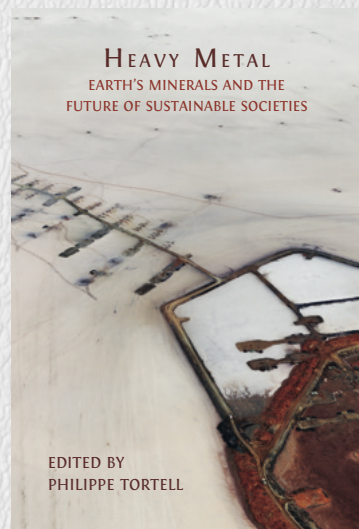
The Heavy Metal Suite provides a creative and collaborative approach to explore the future of minerals and mining. We first conceived the project in 2021, when Axiom Brass performed a concert at the University of British Columbia. From the outset, we knew the project had to be international in scope, with representation from composers around the world who could bring a global perspective to the work. We searched, far and wide, for composers who had the creativity and talent to rise to this occasion; composers who were not only outstanding in their own right, but who would be willing to work together to form a whole that was more than the sum of its individual parts. We had the great fortune of assembling an extraordinary group of artists from across the globe; Valeria Gisel Valle Martinez (Chile), Christopher Sainsbury (Australia), Yao Chen (China), T. Patrick Carrabré (Canada), Augusta Read Thomas (United States), Roberto Morales-Manzanares (Mexico), Chris Chafe (United States) and Vuma Levin (South Africa).

Over a period of several months, we held regular video conferences with the composers, often joined by members of the UBC Future Minerals Working Group, to discuss artistic representations of Earth's minerals. Researchers shared insights about mineral resources and mining from a range of disciplines, and the composers took these ideas, turned them around playfully, and reshaped them into sonic abstractions. Strong themes emerged, including the legacies of colonialism, capitalism and consumption, and the importance of recycling and circular economies. We also explored the theme of conductivity, as a common musical motif written by Augusta Read Thomas, running through each movement and weaving together the diverse compositions into an overarching work.

After much inspired effort, the composers have created a truly unique piece of music, which is both highly individualistic and yet somehow integrated into a larger narrative. A recording of the performance is available at <https://doi.org/10.25740/hw495rk5901>, along with a short documentary describing the creative process driving the work. Everyone involved in the conception and creation of the Heavy Metal Suite has come away with a new perspective about the foundational elements needed to support society's renewable energy transition. We hope that the work will open a broad global conversation, and inspire listeners to think differently about the future of Earth's mineral resources.

Philippe Tortell and Dorival Puccini, Jr.

You can download a free copy of *HEVAY METAL: Earth's Mineral and the Future of Sustainable Societies* at openbookpublishers.com



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AXIOM BRASS

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Alex Laskey - Horn Corey Sansolo - Trombone Serena Voltz - Tuba

Biographies



Allen Edzerza is an Elder of the Tahltan Nation, and a member of the Tahltan Elders Council. He has led mining reform discussions with the Government of British Columbia on behalf of the First Nation Energy and Mining Council, and has served as an advisor on Aboriginal issues to the Premier and Cabinet of Government of British Columbia and the Yukon. For more than three decades, he has worked to advance Indigenous title and rights and the re-establishment of Indigenous sovereign governments, supporting resource projects to address climate change, while protecting the environment and wildlife populations. He is also working with UBC to bring post-secondary education to remote northern communities, with a significant component of land-

based experiential learning and Elder knowledge.

Philippe Tortell is a Professor of Oceanography at UBC, Head of the Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science and Co-Lead Investigator of UBC's Future Minerals Initiative. He is a sea-going oceanographer, with more than two decades of experience documenting the effects of climate change on marine ecosystems around the world. He has been a member of the College of the Royal Society of Canada, a Von Humboldt Research Fellow and past Director of the UBC Institute for Advanced Studies. He has published more than one hundred research articles, and edited three previous books, including *Reflections of Canada, Memory, and Earth 2020: An Insider's Guide to a Rapidly Changing Planet*.



Nahlah Ayed is an award-winning journalist who has covered some of the biggest events and conflicts in the Middle East and around the world in the last decade. Since joining the CBC in 2002, Ayed has reported from the streets of Baghdad and the earthquake in Haiti. Her coverage of the invasion of Iraq earned her a Gemini Award nomination, which was followed by two more for her television reportage of the 2009 presidential elections in Iran and the uprisings in Egypt in 2011. As CBC correspondent for The National based in London, Ayed has brought Canadians stories of tremendous world change. Her reporting has been recognized with numerous awards, including The Canadian Press's President's Award, the LiveWire Award and

the 2012 Canadian Association of Journalists (CAJ) award for human rights reporting for her story on the Roma community in Hungary and Canada. In 2008, Ayed was awarded an honorary degree from the University of Manitoba for her outstanding achievements. Ayed is the host of the academic documentary program *Ideas* on CBC Radio One and a reporter with CBC News.

Trumpeter **Dorival Puccini, Jr.** is an active soloist, chamber musician, orchestral player, producer and educator. Founder of the award-winning Axiom Brass quintet, his interest in chamber music has led him to contribute several musical translations for brass quintet specially written for the Axiom Brass. Dorival has co-produced all of Axiom Brass' albums including *New Standards*, *First Impressions* and *Astor*, which includes ten of his musical translations of Astor Piazzolla's compositions. As a proponent of chamber music, Dorival has commissioned and premiered over fifty new works for trumpet and brass quintet, and is the founder and chief-editor of *Brass Legacy*, a publication and commissioning consortium dedicated to Brass Chamber Art Music. His works have been performed across the United States, Europe and Asia. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Grand Valley State University, a Master's degree from the Juilliard School of Music and a Doctoral degree from Michigan State University.



Described as “exceptional ambassadors for classical music” and “innovative programmers”, Chicago-based **Axiom Brass** designs concert experiences for audiences that stretch the imagination and expand sensibilities. Now in its 18th season, Axiom is one of America's' most awarded quintets, winning prizes on three continents. Dedicated to creating socially relevant chamber music by promoting works of under-represented composers, expanding the brass chamber music repertoire, and creating innovative trans-

disciplinary collaborations, Axiom has commissioned over thirty new works, premiered over fifty new compositions, and created almost one hundred new transcriptions for brass quintet. Axiom has presented concerts all over the world, including the Merkin Concert Hall in New York City, Gallo Center for the Arts in California, Shenzhen Concert Hall in China, and Museu Nacional Soares dos Reis in Portugal. Axiom Brass performs exclusively on Bach Trumpets and Trombones, Conn French Horns and Flugelhorns. and Mutec Mutes.

Diloo (Water)

T. Patrick Carrabré is a Métis composer living in Vancouver. Construction of identity and community engagement are long-term themes in his compositions, artistic programming and administrative activities. His best-known works include *Inuit Games*, for katajjak (throat singers) and orchestra, which was a recommended work at the International Rostrum of Composers (2003), *Sonata No. 1, The Penitent*, for violin and piano, and *From the Dark Reaches*, which were nominated for JUNO awards. In 2021, he was recognized with a second Western Canadian Music Award (Classical Composer of the Year) for the album, *100,000 Lakes*. Other recent work includes *Métis Songs*, commissioned by Harbourfront for Rebecca Cuddy and the Wood and Wire String Quartet, and *Snewíyalh t'l'a Staḱw* (Teachings of the Water), written in collaboration with the Elektra Women's Choir. His composition *Orpheus (1)*, written in collaboration with pianist Megumi Masaki, was released on the Centredisc label in March 2023, and an EP of *Métis Songs* was released in September 2024 on Winter Wind Records.



A Lithium Fascination



Christopher Sainsbury is an Associate Professor in Composition at the School of Music at the Australian National University, and an Australian Performing Rights Association Luminary. As a scholar, his primary research focus is on regional music and identity. He has received commissions from the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Victorian Opera Company Melbourne, the Canberra International Music Festival, the Sydney Festival and many regional community music groups including Symphony Central Coast (his long-term home group). Christopher is of mixed heritage, as a member of the Dharug (Eora) Aboriginal people of Sydney and the surrounding mountain and coastal regions. He runs the Ngarra-burria First Peoples Composers program in Australia, which mentors and connects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander composers with industry. The group has released two albums with the Australian Broadcast Corporation, and the program received an international Classical:NEXT Innovation Award in 2022. Christopher also loves playing guitar and writing for his surf music group Random Earth Band.

Zinc

Yao Chen is a composer and a Professor of Composition at Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. He received training in composition at Xinghai Conservatory of Music and Central Conservatory of Music, and obtained his PhD in Composition from the University of Chicago. Chen has received commissions and awards from many international organizations, including Radio France, Harvard University's Fromm Foundation, the Leonard Bernstein Foundation, the Mellon Foundation and the China National Center for the Performing Arts. His music has been performed by many internationally-acclaimed musicians and ensembles, and he has won awards at renowned music festivals such as ISCM World Music Days, Centre Acanthes, Festival Présences, Tanglewood Music Festival, Aspen Music Festival, Pacific Music Festival, Beijing Modern Music Festival among many others. His music eschews contemporary vogues, aiming for a timelessness and an otherness that exists beyond the standard categories – music for the moment, but also music for then and music for what lies ahead.



Aura Tenebris (Gold)



Augusta Read Thomas is one of the most critically-acclaimed and widely performed composers working in the US today. According to the American Academy of Arts and Letters, she 'has become one of the most recognizable and widely loved figures in American Music'. Thomas was the longest-serving Mead Composer-in-Residence with the Chicago Symphony, for Daniel Barenboim and Pierre Boulez, from 1997 through 2006. This residency culminated in the premiere of *Astral Canticle*, one of two finalists for the 2007 Pulitzer Prize in Music. She has won the Ernst von Siemens Music Prize, among many other coveted awards. Augusta is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Recent and

upcoming works include commissions from the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Utah Symphony, Philharmonic de Paris, the BBC Proms, Wigmore Hall, Martha Graham Dance Company and the Santa Fe Opera.

Iztacteocuitlatl (Silver)

Roberto Morales-Manzanares is a musician, composer, performer and Professor of Music at the University of Guanajuato. He holds a PhD in Composition from the University of California (UC), Berkeley. In 1987, Roberto co-founded, with Francisco Núñez, the Laboratory of Computer Music and Digital Synthesis at the Escuela Superior de Música. In 1992, he founded the Laboratorio de Informática Musical at the Escuela de Música de La Universidad de Guanajuato, of which he was Director until 2019. He has won a number of national and international awards as a composer, and his music is regularly performed in Mexico, the United States and Europe. Roberto has been invited as Composer-Researcher in Residence at several universities, including Stanford University, UC Berkeley, McGill University, New York University and Columbia University. He has organized and directed several international music festivals, including 'La Computadora y la Música', 'Callejón del Ruido, Composición Ideas y Tecnología' and 'Transito_MX04'. Currently, Roberto organizes courses and seminars on composition, music and mathematics and digital art in various institutions across Mexico. His research interests focus on real-time composition generated from mathematical models, learning systems applied to audio and video computing, gesture capture, and real-time processing of image and sound.



Kypros 29 (Copper)



Valeria Gisel Valle Martinez is a composer, researcher and scientific communicator based at the Pontifical Catholic University of Valparaíso, Chile. She is currently studying for her doctorate in Media Studies at the Alberto Hurtado University. Valeria is the Lead Researcher in the Poet Program of the San Ignacio del Huinay Foundation, working to develop scientific dissemination through music. She has previously developed collaborative science and music projects, including her album *Umwelt*, which fuses neuroscience with notions of territory and nature. Valeria is the Director of the *Resonance Femenina* collective, a member of the Latin Recording Academy and an advisor to the Chilean Ministry of Culture. Her music has been performed in Chile and abroad, and she is a

past winner of the Classical Next Innovation award in the Netherlands.

Platinum

Vuma Ian Levin is a jazz guitarist and composer, whose music interrogates conceptions of identity, nation, culture, power and being, both globally and in the emergent, post-1994 South African Democratic project. He has been described, by *The Mail & Guardian*, as “destined to be one of South African jazz’s greatest musicians”. Vuma attended the Conservatorium van Amsterdam where he earned the Non-European-Union Talent Scholarship to finance his study. He currently lives in Johannesburg, where he holds a teaching position at the University of Witwatersrand, and continues to play and record widely. He has been the recipient of numerous award nominations and prizes, including the Keep an Eye International Jazz Awards, the Dutch Eindwerkprijs, Dutch Jazz Competition, the Socar Montreux Jazz Electric Guitar Competition and the Standard Bank Young Artist Award. He has been featured on CNN’s *African Voices*, and was included in *The Mail & Guardian’s* 200 young South African’s list. Vuma has performed at a number of top venues and festivals in South Africa and abroad, including the North Sea Jazz Festival, Montreux Jazz Festival, Cape Town International Jazz Festival and Budapest Palace of the Arts. He has released five albums as a bandleader, and played on many others as a sideman.



Silicon



Chris Chafe is a Professor, composer, improviser and cellist, and the Director of Stanford University’s Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA). He develops much of his music alongside computer-based research, and pursues methods for digital synthesis and network music performance. An active performer in both physical and virtual spaces, Chris’ music reaches audiences in a range of venues, including gallery and museum installations, and even works performed by the horns of large ships in the port of St. Johns, Newfoundland. He has many active collaborative research projects, working with scientists and medical professionals in the ‘sonification’ of a wide range of data sets—from paleo ice core data to neurological electrical fields. He has been a Visiting Professor at UBC, Politecnico di Torino and the Technical University of Berlin, and an Artist in Residence at The Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.