

January 5, 2016

## Victoria artists lend their talents to create Music for Natural History at the Royal BC Museum

**Victoria, BC** - Sixteen vocalists, sound artists and music instrumentalists have spent months developing their listening skills and learning to acoustically replicate the sounds of wind, water, trees and many of our beloved BC birds and mammals.

Over the course of two nights these talented performers will debut *Music for Natural History*, composed by Victoria composers and sound artists Tina Pearson and Paul Walde, in a live performance, giving new voice to the Natural History Gallery at the Royal BC Museum and reinterpreting these beloved spaces through an exclusive auditory experience.

**“It’s part tragic love song for the wilderness and part experimental sound art,”** says Pearson. “Paul and I have researched and transcribed sounds of the flora and fauna represented in the Gallery into a naturalistic sound composition created specifically to be performed there.

**“The event is part of a growing global movement by artists working to foster connections to the biosphere. The work is a reminder of how fast the nearby environments have become overwhelmed by human-made sound, and how our personal and cultural interactions with the soundscape have been affected.”**

*Music for Natural History* begins in the dark ice cave of the Woolly Mammoth and proceeds to a dawn chorus within the Coastal Forest. Here, the *Elk Concerto* reveals the quiet, the dramatic, and the surprisingly interconnected web of sonic activity.

By the Seashore, the audience will experience the dynamic *Shoreline Operetta* with ocean surf and the alternately peaceful, cacophonous and dramatic voices of Pacific coast sea lions, cormorants, surfbirds and other shoreline creatures.



To end the evening, the audience will be led through the Fraser River Delta accompanied by an audio collage of bird song blended with increasing layers of human soundscape.

**“The performance really makes us stop and appreciate the variety and amount of sound outdoors,” says Kim Gough, Royal BC Museum Learning Program Developer. “It’s incredible to hear the alternately dramatic and serene voices of the mammals and shoreline creatures to the birds, trees, wind performed by humans. It’s at times tragic, poignant, alluring and humorous.”**

*Music for Natural History* takes place January 15 and 16, 2016, at 7 pm. Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased online at [royalbcmuseum.bc.ca](http://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca).

*Music for Natural History is presented by the Royal BC Museum and LaSaM Music and supported by the Canada Council for the Arts. LaSaM Music has been producing creative and adventurous music events in Victoria since 2008.*

### **About the Royal BC Museum**

The Royal BC Museum explores the province's human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of BC, and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of BC in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Looking to the future, the Royal BC Museum will be a refreshed, modern museum, extending its reach far beyond Victoria as a world-class cultural venue and repository of digital treasures.

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