

## CONCERTS

# Island-born cellist presents unique solo program

Scordatura concert celebrates Kodaly sonata

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring-raised cellist Hannah Addario-Berry will visit her home territory this week to perform Scordatura, an original program with Zoltán Kodály's Sonata for Solo Cello at its core.

In a concert taking place at All Saints By-the-Sea on Sunday, Aug. 9, Addario-Berry pays tribute to the sonata in celebration of its 100-year anniversary with a program that showcases the work alongside companion pieces created by four contemporary young composers.

Kodály composed his sonata in 1915, creating one of the most significant works written for cello since the Bach Suites. Though still recognized for its accomplishments, including its "scordatura" cello tuning, it is not

often played in concert these days.

"It is immensely challenging on technical and musical levels, and because of the sheer difficulty of playing the piece that comes with the unusual tuning, it doesn't get programmed very much," Addario-Berry explained during a call from her home in San Francisco. "There's so much depth to the piece on so many levels, I thought it ought to be played more."

Addario-Berry studied with Diana Dean and Paula Kiffner on Salt Spring before moving on to university studies at McGill and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. During the course of her professional career she's performed in major concert halls across North America as well as maintaining local connections, creating the popular Bay Area music series Cello Bazaar and Locaphonic.

She notes that Kodály's sonata poses unique challenges for the performer through its altered tuning, which not only changes the regular

notes of the cello's two lower strings but extends its extremes on both sides of the scale to cover five complete octaves. The altered tuning deepens the tones, enabling rich harmonic possibilities and resonance.

Addario-Berry said Kodály had travelled through his native Hungary with fellow composer Béla Bartók, recording and notating hundreds of traditional folk melodies. The inspiration this provided for each artist is clearly heard in Kodály's cello sonata.

"He marries this folk style with very classical forms of composition. It is a sonata in the most classical sense, but it has a very different flavour and sound than a Beethoven sonata," Addario-Berry said.

As her press material describes, the piece is at times dramatic, melancholy, exuberant, and haunting. The cello doubles as soloist and orchestra, bowing long melodic lines while simultaneously plucking rhythmic accompaniments.

While the term "scordatura" comes from the Italian and literally means "mistuning," Addario-Berry has taken the sonata's centenary as the perfect time to embrace the unorthodox by commissioning new works composed in that style. One benefit is that she's been able to keep her cello tuned one way for the duration of the tour and practice period. But she's also opened the doors to exciting explorations in new music, inviting some of her favourite people creating music today to add to the scordatura portfolio, with Kodály's sonata as their inspiration and starting point. She invited 10 artists to join the project, with the initial concert featuring works by the first four to jump in.

"This has just been such a success so far, and people have been so excited by the concept. My intention over time is to build an entire collection of scordatura for cello," Addario-Berry said.

Sunday's concert starts at 4 p.m. Admission is by donation.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Salt Spring-raised cellist Hannah Addario-Berry.

## AWARDS

# Salt Spring artists win Sooke Fine Art Show prizes

McCallum, Wheston and Williamson earn honours

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring artists have once again made a strong showing at the Sooke Fine Art Show, with three taking home top prizes from the 2015 event.

This time around local artists working in two-dimensional forms held sway, with Patrick McCallum and Mel Williamson receiving two of

the eight awards of excellence and Nicola Wheston the Jan Johnson Memorial Award for Social Commentary.

McCallum lived on Salt Spring until he was 15 and returned three years ago to transition from being full-time commercial illustrator to concentrating on fine art. His award-winning piece called March 11, 1962 is part of a series of charcoal drawings that depict a transformative moment in a person's life.

The piece centres on a nude woman in the foreground looking back in fear toward

the tiny but threatening figure of a (clothed) man in the background. Her vulnerable nakedness is made more shocking by the setting, outside two houses on a residential street.

The scene was inspired by a true story that an elderly seatmate once related to McCallum on a Greyhound bus.

"She described in vivid detail to me on the bus what happened that day, when she was a much younger woman, and though she will never know the impact of her story, I feel honoured to illustrate

a moment from her terrible day," he said.

Williamson also depicted a female nude for her piece Abundance, but painted it with an entirely different perspective and intention. If McCallum's nude skillfully expresses the latent horror of that long-ago day, Williamson's expressive strokes celebrate the sheer vitality of a woman's plump form while leaving her backstory and her face out of focus.

"I painted this piece after doing a series of smaller nudes that were more passively

posed women, very beautiful and languid. But suddenly I felt the need to paint a woman whose body was full of life and energy, powerful and confident versus the perhaps more attractive and alluring nature of the previous pieces," Williamson said.

The more abundant woman captured the artist's full attention, with the resulting painting around four times larger than those of the classic beauties. Williamson used a large one-inch brush on smooth board to emphasize the brush strokes.

Wheston received her award for her painting Moving with My Truck, which is part of her Stuff series. Painted from life, the scene of a woman and her belongings spilling out from the truck hatch was extremely challenging to accomplish on the technical level. Not only did Wheston have to ensure the perspective was correct, she used herself as the live model, using two mirrors while painting with both her left and right hands.

The painting's many planes, lines and angles posed additional challenges.

## MUSIC &amp; MUNCH

# Reeds and Wires set to charm

Next week's recital group

Music and Munch on Wednesday, Aug. 12 features a lively, toe-tapping recital by local group Reeds and Wires.

"They are a happy group of friends, old and new, who regularly get together on Salt Spring to play primarily Celtic and folk music," explains a press release.

"This will be their second appearance at Music and Munch where they delighted the audience last summer with their skilled vivacity. All Saints is the perfect venue to enjoy the intimacy of this group and their interesting variety of instruments."

Reeds and Wires currently consists of seven musicians: Jane Squier, violin, mandolin; Michael Aronoff, guitar, mandolin and more; Warren Langley, blues harp; Darryl Martin, guitar, banjo; Dick Miller, bass; Bob McIvor, violin; and Greg Duckett, violin. (This year Duckett is at a swing camp in Sorrento and will not be playing at Music & Munch.)

Every member of the group participates in creating each song, adding richness to the ensemble with their different styles and musicianship.

Free music begins in All Saints By-the-Sea at



From left, Warren Langley, Michael Aronoff and Bob McIvor, three of seven Reeds and Wires members.

12:10 p.m., followed by a delicious light lunch. Tickets for the lunch must be purchased before the concert and all donations go towards the running of the series.

## Help improve sailing schedules in the Southern Gulf Islands



This summer, customers are welcome to participate in our open houses to provide their input.

- Saturna Island August 17, 7-9 pm, Saturna Island Community Hall
- Mayne Island August 18, 7-9 pm, Mayne Island Community Centre
- Pender Island August 19, 7-9 pm, St. Peter's Church
- Salt Spring Island August 24, 7-9 pm, Salt Spring Island Harbour House
- Sidney August 26, 7-9 pm, Mary Winspear Centre
- Galiano Island August 27, 7-9 pm, Galiano Island Community Hall
- Richmond September 9, 7-9 pm, River Rock Casino Resort

If you are unable to attend, please participate in our online Community Feedback survey from August 31 to September 20 by visiting [bcferries.com](http://bcferries.com).

For more information, visit us online, call 1-888-BC-FERRY (223-3779) or email [sgischeduling@bcferries.com](mailto:sgischeduling@bcferries.com).

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