

COUNTERPOINT
COMMUNITY
ORCHESTRA

Taras Kowalczyk,
Music Director



Pride & Counterpoint

Saturday, June 7, 7:30pm
Saint Luke's United Church, Toronto

Candide Overture by Leonard Bernstein
The Sound of Music Medley and
The King and I Medley by Richard Rodgers
Concerto for Double Bass by Domenico
Dragonetti, featuring soloist Jimmy Amaro
Symphony No. 2 in D Major
by Ludwig van Beethoven
No More Fear by Joey Miller,
lyrics by Jim Saar



Paul Couillard & Ed Johnson

As part of CCO's WorldPride concert, performance artists Paul Couillard and Ed Johnson will create an original work performed with the orchestra. Their works are site-responsive and relational, exploring various questions related to time, space, body limitation and the relationship between performer and audience.

Message from your Music Director

I welcome you all to attend the final concert of our 30th anniversary season!

This year, WorldPride 2014 takes place in Toronto. So much work has been done to take down the walls of intolerance and misunderstanding and there is still much to do for everyone to be treated with respect. Our last concert was one of the most amazing events in this regard. People from all walks of life and races came together to celebrate the birthday of the great Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko. I am very proud to say that our orchestra in its current form represents the diversity of this great country and city—some belong to the LGBT community and others do not. We all work together every Monday night to create great music, an evening that makes all unnecessary barriers melt away. How wonderful it would be if every community had more of these kinds of gatherings. To me, this is what makes our orchestra so beautiful and unique. We are proud to be part of WorldPride 2014 on our 30th anniversary, following in the footsteps of the first three WorldPride cities: Rome, Jerusalem, and London.

On June 7th, we present a diverse mix of tunes in keeping with this spirit. We will open with the glittering gayness of Bernstein's Candide overture, then a show tune (or two) from the incomparable Richard Rodgers, our own bassist Jimmy Amaro on Dragonetti's double bass concerto, and of course our countdown to the Beethoven Symphonies – Number 2! Only one more to go and we complete the Beethoven cycle!

The world's oldest LGBT orchestra welcomes WorldPride 2014 to our own backyard!

I personally ask that you join us to celebrate life. Do this with us on our 30th birthday!

Taras Kowalczyk,
Music Director



Jimmy Amaro Performs Dragonetti

Counterpoint is excited to be showcasing our principal bassist, Jimmy Amaro, in a performance of Dragonetti's double bass concerto on a Vincenzo Panormo bass made in 1785.

Born in Toronto, Jimmy studied under Gurney Titmarsh (symphony and studio player) and Ray Brown. During his career, he was bandleader at the Orchard Park Hotel, and played in various other hotel bands around Toronto, as well as several after-hours clubs including the House of Hamburg, the First Floor Club, George's Spaghetti House, George's Bourbon Street, with Carmen McRae at the Colonial Tavern, and at The Town Tavern with drummer Ed Thigpen.

Jimmy's more than 30 years in television and radio included Nightcap with the Guido Basso Orchestra on the CBC network, Elwood Glover's Luncheon Date, The Tommy Hunter Show, Stay Tuned, and This is The Law for which he was both Music Director and bandleader.

As a recording artist, Jimmy recorded Blues Duet with violinist Steven Staryk and Histoire du Soldat (Stravinsky) on Paul Hoffert's 1977 album Concerto For Contemporary Violin for Marquis Records, recorded with the Glen Miller Band when Buddy DeFranco was Music Director, and can be heard on a jazz album featuring his brother, saxophonist Eugene Amaro.

Jimmy has been a member of Counterpoint for over ten years.

Counterpoint Community Orchestra is an incorporated nonprofit organization in the province of Ontario, Canada

Established 1984, Counterpoint was the world's first lesbian/gay/gay-positive orchestra. Counterpoint now has a 30 year tradition of orchestral performances in the downtown Toronto community.

The Counterpoint Community Orchestra Newsletter is published 3 times per year (Fall, Winter and Spring).

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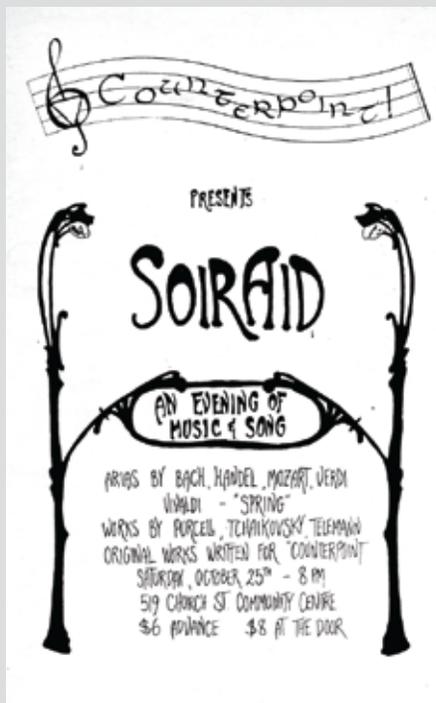
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\$5000 Fundraising Challenge for CCO's 30th Anniversary

Help Counterpoint raise funds to meet our goals! Your contributions, both large and small, will ensure that we can continue to bring great music to the community. Donations can be made at the concert, cheques sent by mail, or online through our website powered by Canada Helps. Thank you for your support!

www.ccorchestra.org/support.php
Contributions@ccorchestra.org
416-902-7532



In October of 1986, Counterpoint sponsored a fundraising concert, also in support of the AIDS Committee. SoirAid was an evening of music and song, and it included a special arrangement of the song "No More Fear". The music was composed by the well-known music theatre composer Joey Miller with lyrics by Jim Saar. Honouring our community and in celebration of our 30th year, Counterpoint will perform "No More Fear" at our June 7th concert during World Pride month.

In December of 1986, sexual orientation was added to prohibited discrimination in the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Bill McQueen, Clarinet

Appreciating CCO Heroes

In 1987, The 519 Church Street Community Centre extended to the Orchestra official programme status. This meant that, as a participating community organization, the CCO was ensured a home for regular rehearsals and concerts. Thus began a powerful relationship that has continued down to the present.

We have regularly provided music at the annual 519 Community Christmas Party, performed at Memorial remembrances and other events, and celebrated the opening of its new wing with our smashing brass section. During all these years, we couldn't have functioned nearly as well without two women who recently retired from The 519.

Helen Rykens, over 30 years, was the central connection with the Orchestra and with hundreds of our community's groups and individuals who have called The 519 home. She was always faithful to the concepts, ide-



als and values of accessible public space and the principles of social inclusion. She worked tirelessly to ensure all community groups were welcome. When she first started at the 519 there were about 20 community groups meeting at the 519; now there are more than 650.

Karin Lundberg was in charge of the 519 Front Desk for almost 20 years. Karin welcomed people to the Centre, providing community information and referrals and in general help to people, and to book space in the Centre. She enjoyed working with the community groups and made sure they were able to book space at the 519 to advance their work in the community.

This team made the Orchestra's inclusion and participation in the community so much easier. We thank you both.



Bill McQueen, Clarinet

Musical Theatre in Support of the LGBT Community

During the 1980s, a series of seven musical theatre productions entitled "Fruit Cocktail" was performed in the LGBT community. It was at a time of heightened public hysteria over the AIDS epidemic. Many people lost their job simply because of their sexual orientation.

The production's concept was to tell the real stories of the lives of ordinary lesbian and gay people. While many LGBT people lost their lives to AIDS, one production of "Fruit Cocktail" was entitled "No More Fear". It was sponsored by Toronto's Lesbian and Gay Community Appeal in support of funding the important activities of the AIDS Committee of Toronto. ACT's mandate was to increase public awareness regarding the prevention of AIDS, as well as to provide support and counselling to people affected by AIDS.

Counterpoint & WorldPride Toronto 2014



Counterpoint is both proud and excited to be performing our final 30th anniversary concert as an official affiliate event of WorldPride 2014.

Pride Toronto has been in existence in various forms since the late 1970s, and annually since 1981. That year, police raided various bathhouses, motivating gays and queers and their supporters to organize a major demonstration held at Yonge and Wellesley on the day that followed. This event raised public awareness of queer issues. In 1984, for the first time, Church Street was closed and people danced in the street. Pride Toronto's first Pride Committee was created in 1986, and in 1987 sexual orientation was included in the Human Rights Code. Momentum continued to build, and in 1991 the City Council proclaimed Pride Day for the first time and 80,000 people celebrated.

WorldPride, organized by InterPride, is an event that promotes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT pride) issues on an international level through parades, festivals and other cultural activities. The inaugural WorldPride was held in Rome in 2000, the second WorldPride was awarded to Jerusalem in 2006, and WorldPride 2012 was awarded to London and coincided with the 19th Annual Europride.

Pride Toronto, in partnership with the city's tourism agency, Tourism Toronto, submitted a bid to host WorldPride 2014 in Toronto from June 20 to June 29, 2014. The 28th annual conference of InterPride, held in October 2009 in St. Petersburg, Florida, voted to

accept the bid of Pride Toronto to host WorldPride 2014 for the first time in North America. In the first round of voting Toronto won 77 votes to Stockholm's 61. In the second round of voting, Stockholm was eliminated and Toronto won 78% of the vote, fulfilling the 2/3 majority needed to finalize the selection process.

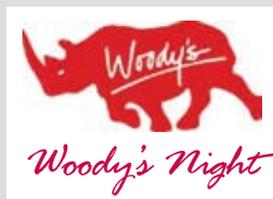
Counterpoint Community Orchestra is unique in Canada and in North America and is an important artistic, cultural and educational outlet for music in the Toronto gay community. It had its humble beginnings in 1984 at the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto, comprised of young, ambitious gay and lesbian musicians who soon formed their own independent organization in order to move closer to the gay community at large. Counterpoint Community Orchestra became the first secular lesbian and gay orchestra in Canada and in the world. Because of the several hundred loyal and vigorous community musicians and volunteers who have figuratively "passed through our doors" over the years, Counterpoint has continued a resilience for the future and continues to support the principles of the spirit and muses of music, and the advocacy of equality and diversity that builds community.

Pride and Counterpoint—there couldn't be a more fitting way to close off our 30th season! We hope you'll join us in the celebration!

Dylan MacNeil
Violin II

Recap of Annual Woody's Fundraiser

Our annual fundraiser at Woody's bar, held on March 21, was an incredible success this year. We had a record turnout of volunteers who were geared up to sell lots of raffle tickets. An outpouring of raffle prizes were donated – we almost had too many! Thank you to all those who donated prizes. We had everything from a session of Botox to gift certificates at the Keg and other restaurants, to a service to get your taxes done. All the winners were very happy with their prizes. Special thanks to all the volunteers from the orchestra, and even some of their friends for coming out to make the night as successful as it was. We raised \$617.00 and are thankful to Woody's for a donation of \$175.00. Let's make next year even better!



Robert Thorpe, Clarinet

Counterpoint Community Orchestra Tickets

Pride & Counterpoint

Saturday June 7, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.
Saint Luke's United Church
353 Sherbourne Street at Carlton

**Please Note: 7:30pm
new concert start time**

\$18 Advance; \$20 at Door
\$15 Student with ID, \$10 Youth (12 & under)
Group Ticket Deals: Group of 5 for \$75
(Group of 6+ \$15/Ticket)
Ticket Inquiries: 416-902-7532
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Thanks to our Volunteers

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