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**Plastic Acid Orchestra: an evening with Veda Hille and Friends**  
**Saturday, September 10, 8pm**  
**The Vancouver Playhouse**  
**600 Hamilton Street at Dunsmuir**  
Tickets: Tickets Tonight <http://www.ticketstonight.ca/> and 604-684-2787  
**\$31.75 to \$42.25 plus charges. Group rates (6+) also available.**

The 46-piece Plastic Acid Orchestra presents an evening of rare and exceptional music that features Veda Hille and her band in a programme honouring three amazing Canadian female artists in song: Buffy Sainte-Marie, Emily Carr, and Hille herself. This visionary programme, in which orchestral sound, new orchestral compositions and song writing is explored in innovative and exciting ways, includes re-imagined Buffy Sainte-Marie songs and original pieces inspired by Emily Carr. As a prelude to Canada's Sesquicentennial, the concert features Plastic Acid Orchestra (Bryan Deans, Music Director), Veda Hille and her band, Giorgio Magnanensi (Conduction and Music Direction), and a premiere new work by Martin Reisle and Elliot Vaughan

Giorgio and Veda had collaborated on the "Buffy Remix" project in 2007, one of the last projects presented by the CBC Radio Orchestra before its dismantlement. Denise Ball (CBC Producer) says, "The 'Buffy Remix' is, without question, the best thing we've ever presented to an audience. It's a stunningly beautiful piece of music". For this reason, the decision was made to remount this wonderful rendition of Buffy Sainte-Marie's songs, which has not been presented since 2007.

To further enhance Hille's remarkable song writing, and to offer a wide spectrum of these visionary orchestrations, the concert will also include Hille's "Songs of E. Carr", which were inspired by and composed around Emily Carr's diaries. These works were originally performed with the Victoria Symphony and composed by Veda in collaboration with Magnanensi and Ford Pier.

The pairing of these works in one extraordinary evening provides not only an opportunity to offer this wonderful music to Vancouver audiences, but also an occasion for PAO to consolidate its leading role in fostering and presenting original and beautiful Canadian orchestral works.

Additionally, accomplished up-and-coming composers Martin Reisle and Elliot Vaughan will present a jointly composed new orchestral work. They have worked with PAO in many concerts over the last several years, sharing the same intense desire to bring creative energy to great levels of intensity via the sound and sculptural quality of their scores and the distinctive voice of their poetry.

It is an evening of extraordinary music not to be missed. *The performance will be live broadcast on the internet via [www.plasticacid.com](http://www.plasticacid.com) to provide access to this musical experience for people in remote areas, or wherever they may be.*

## **BACKGROUND**

### **PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES**

**Plastic Acid Orchestra** is a modern full symphony orchestra that creates an exciting new musical experience by combining original Plastic Acid compositions, bold compositions from some of the most accomplished young Canadian composers and modern symphonic arrangements of popular music. Founded in 2006 by Music Director, Bryan Deans, PAO brings a symphonic sound with a modern edge that challenges preconceived ideas about “orchestra”, and illustrates how a 21st century orchestra can embody artistic energy, integrity and musical ideas which resonate with a wider audience and all generations.

Since its first concert series in 2006, PAO has collaborated with new Canadian composers to include exciting and innovative pieces such as Martin Reisle's (Maria in the Shower) "Train of Pounding Hours", Jason Nett's (former resident composer Vancouver Island Symphony) "Sol", "Tungsten" and "Heavy Metals" as well as arrangements of Plastic Acid originals such as "Epic" and "Resources".

PAO regularly invites performers to join them, such as The End Tree, Maria in the Shower, Anita Eccleston, The Living, and the Whiskeydicks - and has featured many new works or arrangements from composers such as Giorgio Magnanensi, Elliot Vaughan, Martin Reisle, Mike Bell, Jim Hopson, Mariah Mennie and many others.

Plastic Acid Orchestra regularly performs full orchestra shows in Vancouver - most notably in 2015 as the largest group in the history of the Vancouver International Jazz Festival and as the support orchestra with Legend of Zelda. PAO has performed original works at Centennial Theatre, The Vogue Theatre, Performance Works, the Plaza Club and the Caprice.

#### **Bryan Deans**

Born and raised in Vancouver, Bryan Deans has and continues to play a focal role in the Vancouver classical music scene. Bryan is a cellist, conductor, music director, composer known not only for his skill, but also his energy, leadership and dedication to his art. His passion for classical music has been tempered with his love for other genres from rock, pop, jazz, folk and experimental, with the resulting dynamism reflecting in his choice of projects. He is founder of Plastic Acid Orchestra, a full-symphony orchestra bent on breaking through genres and finding new fans for orchestral performance. Bryan has spent the last decade taking his full-sized orchestra into uncharted territory performing at the Vancouver International Jazz Festival, The Vogue Theatre, Venue, Performance Works Granville Island, and collaborating with a wide variety of local artists and genres throughout these performances. He is also assistant conductor of the Lions Gate Sinfonia Youth Orchestra and music director at St. John's School. Since receiving his degree in music from the University of Victoria, he has been the assistant conductor of the Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra, member and director of WestCoast Symphony, as well as conductor and performer in many other local ensembles.

#### **Giorgio Magnanensi**

Described by acclaimed composer Franco Donatoni as “... a composer, musician and conductor of great talent and one of the most interesting personalities of the Italian generation”, Giorgio Magnanensi (b. 1960) has gained an International reputation - winning numerous composition awards and serving as conductor for a number of esteemed Canadian and international new music ensembles. He has taught composition in Italy (1984–1998), at the School of Music of the University of British Columbia (2000–09) and currently is a lecturer at the Vancouver Community College School of Music. Magnanensi’s music,

which includes over 100 orchestral, chamber, electronic, installation and multimedia works, strives “to emphasize the value of difference, communication, and active participation in the creative process as a path towards a deeper availability to the encounter.” He is renowned for his work as artistic director of Vancouver New Music, where he has been programming and producing innovative and original new music events, concert series, and festivals fostering a wide and experimental curatorial approach. In 2007 he founded the Laboratorio Arts Society to actively engage in creative work within and for the communities of the Sunshine Coast where he resides with his family.

### **Veda Hille**

In the fall of 1991 a young Vancouver art school dropout/ musician/short order cook was making plans to record her first indie cassette. The most lasting impact of Music 91 was it allowed Veda Hille to release and record her first collection of original songs and launched her career as one of Canada’s most interesting, versatile and enduring artists. Twenty years, hundreds of performances at home and abroad, scores of original songs and a select handful of covers from The Who to Bertolt Brecht, and more than a dozen recordings have borne out the promise of that first cassette. All of these projects have won rave reviews, nominations for awards, and the love and respect of audiences and peers. In 2007 Veda was invited to work with The CBC Radio Orchestra. As one of four singers chosen to be part of the Great Canadian Songbook, Veda selected songs by Buffy Sainte-Marie and chose composer Giorgio Magnanensi as her arranging partner for them. It was hailed as a masterpiece: “a complicated, fascinating record... Awesome...Five out of five. (Edmonton Sun)”.

### **Martin Reisle**

Martin Reisle is a Vancouver-based composer, performer and calligrapher/designer. His beautifully conceived scores are intense and articulate, integrating jazz, pop, and classical new music; a unique and rewarding challenge for players and audiences alike. He has toured and recorded with ensembles as a 'cellist, guitarist and singer (Maria in the Shower, The End Tree, Jay Malinowski & The Deadcoast, Very Good, David Ward), performing his work all across Canada, The United States, England and Europe. He has written, arranged, and orchestrated works for theatre (Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret), dance, and concert (Turning Point, Plastic Acid Orchestra), film/TV (“The Hollow Tree” 2011 and “Good for You Good for Our Earth” 2012-present), and arranged/orchestrated for pop groups (David Ward, Jay Malinowski & The Deadcoast). Most recently, he has written for and performed with Plastic Acid Orchestra for 3000 people at the Vancouver International Jazz Festival, the largest ensemble ever to play an outdoor stage at the Jazz Fest. He arranged, orchestrated and co-wrote a full length musical theatre production for a 40 piece orchestra and singers (the Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret's “Scarlet Queen of Mercy”) which was performed in May 2015. He also co-orchestrated and arranged an 11 piece chamber orchestra for David Ward's “Transitioning” 2015. Martin Reisle graduated from the University of British Columbia in 2008 with a Bachelor of Music Composition.

### **Elliot Vaughan**

Elliot Vaughan is a composer and performer based in Vancouver. His practice explores space and acoustics, physicality and 'performativity', and the breadth of functions both popular and art music can provide. His output is primarily collaborative, interdisciplinary projects, concert music, and songs. He has scored numerous dance shows, theatre projects, and a few short films; released records with his bands The Deadcoast, The End Tree, Iffy South, and as Elliot Vaughan; performed, arranged, and recorded with dozens of acts; and toured Europe, the UK, and Canada. He graduated with distinction from Simon Fraser University’s School for the Contemporary Arts in 2011, where he studied with Owen Underhill and Barry Truax.