

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE CONCERT STAGE: CASE SOUTH AFRICA

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2021
4:30 PM-7:30 PM EST**

What does the concert stage have to do with Social Justice? Dean's Chair of the Schulich School of Music, McGill University, Johann Buis (pronounced "Base"), frames his response to the question in his Epistemology of Transnational Disequilibrium. He argues that well-balanced social elements—such as power, race, class, gender, etc.--should tend towards equilibrium to foster thriving performance cultures. He sheds a spotlight on apartheid South Africa (1948-1994). Nearly fifty years of social disequilibrium resulted in the oversaturation of privilege versus the displacement of privilege based on race. A collection of primary oral accounts reveals the enormous challenge this disequilibrium brought to the concert stage during apartheid South Africa.

This Symposium: "Social Justice and the Concert Stage: Case South Africa" is presented by participants in a graduate seminar titled "Music, Social Justice, and Black Perspectives." Never before have first-hand accounts by music luminaries shaped by apartheid been collected from across the racial divide. These accounts attest to remarkable personal transformation with the benefit of nearly thirty years of historical distance since the demise of apartheid in South Africa.

Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 883 5153 0878
Passcode: 407421



McGill



Schulich School of Music
École de musique Schulich

PROGRAM

Opening Remarks | 4:35-4:40 p.m.

Dean Brenda Ravenscroft

Prologue | 4:40-5:00 p.m.

An Epistemology of Transnational Disequilibrium

A Tale of Two Women

Johann Buis, Host

Brenda Ravenscroft (b. 1961), Dean, Schulich School of Music, McGill University

[OUTSIDE the Republic of South Africa]

and

Michele Williams (b. 1954), Leader 2nd Violins, Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra

[WITHIN Republic of South Africa]

Within Apartheid (Republic of South Africa) | 5:00-5:15 p.m.

5:00 p.m. | Talking of Those Days Leaves me with Depression Afterwards

-- John Theodore (b. 1961), piano

Presenter: Jana Kaminsky

Outside Apartheid (North America) | 5:15- 6:25 p.m.

5:15 p.m. | The Dissonance of Silence

-- Anton Nel (b. 1961), piano (USA)

(Exempt from social justice comments)

Presenter: Frédéricka Petit-Homme

5:25 p.m. | The First M. Mus. POC Graduate in South Africa

-- Jan Fredericks (b. 1947), music teacher, piano (USA)

(Exempt from social justice comments)

Presenter: Maria Gajraj

5:35 p.m. | Music as Power: Decolonising the Western Classical Curriculum

-- Jay Pillay (b. 1959), ethnomusicologist (USA)

Presenter: Joshua Morris

5:45 p.m. | Practicing the Epistemology of Empathy

-- Franklin Larey (b. 1961), piano (RSA/USA)

Presenter: Onur Yildiz

5:55 p.m. | Embodied Versatility: Media Analyst, Musicologist, Cultural Theorist, Artist, Composer

-- Martin Scherzinger (b. 1964) (NYU Composer, Theorist)(USA) -

Presenter: Rebekah Dennis

6:05 p.m. | **The Affirmation of Our Common Humanity: Bongani Ndodana-Breen and the Composer as a Conduit for Social Justice**

-- Bongani Ndodana (b. 1975), composer (CANADA/USA)

Presenter: Jennifer Mong

6:15 p.m. | **Equity, Privilege, and Positionality in Post-Apartheid South-Africa**

-- Warrick Moses (b. 1983?), Syracuse University (USA)

Presenter: Jeremy Tatar

6:25-6:35 p.m. | **B-R-E-A-K**

Outside Apartheid (Europe) | 6:35-7:05 p.m.

6:35 p.m. | **Growing Up with Contested Languages, Career at the LSO**

-- Gina Beukes (1961), violin, viola (UK/BELGIUM)

Presenter: Jeanel Liang

6:45 p.m. | **Musa Nkuna, Opera Singer, Composer: Seeking Authentic Change**

-- Musa Nkuna (b. 1973), tenor (Germany)

Presenter: Esther-Ruth Teel

6:55 p.m. | **Scars that Strengthen**

-- Leon Bosch (b. 1961), double bass (UK)

Presenter: Caroline Holden

Conclusion | 7:05-7:30 p.m.

Post-Apartheid – Opera Explosion

7:05 p.m. | **Secrets of Training Superstar Opera Singers: Teaching as Empathetic Practice**

-- Virginia Davids (b. 1955), voice professor, soprano

Presenter: Johann Buis

7:10 p.m. | **Closing Comments**

NOTE: Except for Anton Nel and Jan Fredericks, all interviewees were asked to respond to the prompt: “In fifteen minutes tell us about three moments of your awakening in social justice either in South Africa or for you as a South African?” Virginia Davids could not be interviewed for health reasons. Nonetheless, she is represented in the conclusion of this symposium.