



McGill



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P R E S S R E L E A S E

The Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology
(CIRMMT) presents:

Eve Egoyan and David Rokeby
September 24 2010, 7:30pm, Multimedia Room

For immediate release

Montreal, August 10, 2010- The Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology (CIRMMT) will open its 2010-11 performance series *live@CIRMMT* with a concert by Toronto artists Eve Egoyan and David Rokeby. They will present *Surface Tension*, a collaborative work for Disklavier piano and interactive video, in the Multimedia Room of the Schulich School of Music on September 24, 2010.

About the work, *Surface Tension*

Surface Tension is a collaborative work for *Disklavier* piano and interactive video commissioned by the Open Ears Festival through the Canada Council. It was premiered at Open Ears in Kitchener in 2009.

In *Surface Tension*, Eve's performance at the keyboard of a *Disklavier* (an acoustic piano with a computer interface) is transformed and interpreted by a computer into live visual images projected onto a screen rising from the body of the piano. The visuals respond to a variety of performance parameters including dynamics, pitch, the harmonic relation between pitches, the use of the sustain pedal, and the duration of individual notes.

Much of the visual material is based on simulations of natural processes such as the swarming behaviours of insects, the trajectories of planets or the rippling of water when a pebble hits the surface. Eve's performance triggers and modulates aspects of these simulations; the visual representations respond to the musician, but also have a sort of life of their own, becoming in a sense a partner in the performance. In one movement, each note played on the piano contributes to the construction of a three-dimensional tower. In another, the pianist draws out the trajectories of falling snowflakes, manipulating the live processing of a pre-recorded video. Yet another charts the harmonic relationships between the notes that Eve is playing.

The performance itself is a loosely structured audio-visual improvisation in 5 movements. The improvisation is shaped partly by Eve's response to the system's visual response to her playing. All visual activity on the screen is directly responsive to the performer. The result is an extraordinary integration of sound and image in which neither of these elements dominate the other.

About Eve Egoyan

Eve Egoyan is a concert pianist who specializes in the performance of new works. Her most recent disc, "Simple Lines of Enquiry", a one-hour long piano solo by Ann Southam, was selected as one of 2009's ten top discs by Alex Ross, music critic of the New Yorker magazine and author of the critically acclaimed "The Rest Is Noise: Listening to the Twentieth Century".

About David Rokeby

David Rokeby has been creating interactive sound and video installations with computers since 1982. His early work Very Nervous System (1982-1991) is acknowledged as a pioneering work of interactive art, and was awarded Austria's Prix Ars Electronica Award of Distinction for Interactive Art in 1991. In 2002, Rokeby was awarded a Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts, the Prix Ars Electronica Golden Nica for Interactive Art (for n-cha(n)t) and represented Canada at the Venice Biennale of Architecture with Seen (2002).

This concert is free and open to the public, with reserved seating. Reservations, as well as programming details and full artist biographies can be found on the web at:

<https://www.cirmmt.mcgill.ca/activities/live-cirmmt/Egoyan-Rokeby>

The Multimedia room is located at 527 Sherbrooke St. West.

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