

[EMBARGOED UNTIL 6:00AM PST, OCTOBER 6, 2021]



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Sound the Alarm: Music/Theatre partners with Early Music Vancouver for Moving Performance Aimed at Mental Health Awareness**

*Pilgrimage to Bach: A Reclamation of Spirit follows World Mental Health Day, on October 10*

**Vancouver, B.C. (October 6, 2021)** – A collaboration with purpose, [Pilgrimage to Bach: A Reclamation of Spirit](#) will be released digitally October 13, 2021 by [Sound the Alarm: Music/Theatre](#) in partnership with Early Music Vancouver (EMV) and their artist in residence, Cree-Métis baritone [Jonathon Adams](#) (they/them).

Staged and created by Vancouver’s own [Alan Corbishley](#), the co-production is accompanied by the Pacific Baroque Orchestra. The program features a staged version of Cantata BWV 82 and a concert performance of Cantata BWV 56, which will later be made into a film in the spring.

Mental health doesn’t discriminate; it is an issue that affects people in all different social categories. Sound the Alarm: Music/Theatre is dedicated to amplifying awareness of social issues that need attention, and mental health is an issue that is intensified by our current global climate. [Pilgrimage to Bach](#) was created specifically to sound an alarm on this, with the release on October 13, 2021 to follow [World Mental Health Day](#) on October 10, 2021.

It is especially timely that Jonathon Adams is involved, as a two-spirit Indigenous artist who lends their talents to bring a unique perspective to this classically colonial music. They bring a diverse quality to the performance that traditionally would not have been heard. Although the music is European, Adams considers it a type of reclamation that they are performing it.

“I have begun the decolonizing work to separate my Western European musical practice from my deeply rooted spiritual identities, but I cannot fully ‘unknow’ the deep impact Christian music, ritual, and texts have had on me,” said Adams. “By lending my Indigenous gaze and my critical lens to the performance of this music, I exhume and challenge histories of genocide, white supremacy, and queer-phobia within this repertoire while finding ways to celebrate its beauty.”

Corbishley expands on the profoundness of the effort. “Our aim is to use our artistic programming to bring attention to these important issues, in this case, mental health,” said Corbishley. “As an organization, we collaborate with communities and people who are directly affected by the social issues presented in our projects, and by understanding their stories, we ensure the messages we deliver are authentic, and hopefully we inspire understanding and positive change. Adams and Early Music Vancouver are the perfect partner for us on this project.

“Especially right now, with the state of our world, mental health is a deserving cause and needs our attention. It is imperative that we stop to reflect on why that is, and how we treat others as well as how we treat and speak to ourselves so that we can quiet any toxic inner dialogue. Once we can acknowledge the problem then we can help enact real change.”

The multimedia presentation engages an innovative use of green screen technology employed within the live concert. Viewers/audiences can learn more and watch the digital release of Pilgrimage to Bach at <https://soundthealarm.ca/pilgrimage-to-bach>. A public trailer will be available October 6, followed by the feature presentation October 13.

### **About Sound the Alarm: Music/Theatre**

Sound the Alarm: Music/Theatre believes music and theatre have the power to challenge, transform, connect, and energize; we strive to use the arts to amplify awareness (“sound the alarm”) for social issues that need to be heard. We collaborate within our organization and with outside groups to create innovative, high-quality programming experiences that contribute to shining light on needed conversations, lifting those that need it, and celebrating diverse Canadian communities. Learn more at <https://soundthealarm.ca>.

### **Coming up for Sound the Alarm: Music/Theatre**

There’s much more to see! Sound the Alarm is releasing its new digital series called [Theatre for the Ears](#): a collection of immersive audio-dramas that explore social and environmental challenges and their effect on human experience. Visit [Theatre for the Ears](#) for more information.

### **Media Contact**

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