

# Songs of Hope



A Gala Concert for the MUSCAN Conference at Acadia University

**Wednesday June 1, 2022**

University Hall, Acadia University

**7:30 pm**

Admission: Freewill Donation



*Acadia University is proudly located in Mi'kma'ki, the unceded and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq People.*

# *Concert Programme*

*Tip Top Tap Ballroom Bonanza* **Greg Steinke (b.1942)**

Tristan De Borba, alto saxophone

Nicholas D'Amato, bass

*New Stories*

**Dorothy Chang (b. 1970)**

III- Reflection

Nicole Strum, alto saxophone

*I Lost My Talk*

**John Estacio (b. 1966)**

transcribed by Mark Hopkins

Inspired by and incorporating poetry by **Rita Joe (1932-2007)**

Mark Hopkins, conductor

Shawnee Paul, narrator

Stadacona Band of the Royal Canadian Navy

Lt (N) Brad Ritson, Commanding Officer and Music Director

*plus* Guest Performers

# ***I Lost My Talk***

by Rita Joe

I lost my talk  
The talk you took away.  
When I was a little girl  
At Shubenacadie school.

You snatched it away: I speak like you  
I think like you  
I create like you  
The scrambled ballad, about my word.  
Two ways I talk  
Both ways I say,  
Your way is more powerful.

So gently I offer my hand and ask,  
Let me find my talk  
So I can teach you about me.

## Program Note from Composer John Estacio

In fifteen lines of poetry, Rita Joe's poem *I Lost My Talk* captures the discombobulating fear of being forced to leave one's culture. Just as the poem is divided into four stanzas, the composition is divided into four uninterrupted movements. A bucolic flute solo captures the narrator's life prior to attending Shubenacadie Residential School. Woodwinds play a hymn that suddenly transforms into a harsh musical environment; the flute melody is now fractured and lost within a foreign tonal soundscape. Throughout the second movement, as shattered musical themes recover, the percussion and lower brass frequently interrupt, forcing the melody to regroup and move forward into an atmosphere that becomes relentlessly oppressive. With the words "you snatched it away," an aggressive third movement begins; the solo flute returns, swept up in frantic momentum. A percussion solo ushers the return of the hymn, now fraught and anguished. With the text "two ways I talk," the hymn is played in two different keys simultaneously. With "I offer my hand," the noble fourth movement begins; here, an anthem for reconciliation soars as the narrator finds the courage to act as an ambassador, bringing peace and understanding to two different cultures as well as her own life.

# Note from the National Arts Centre Website

<https://nac-cna.ca/en/lifereflected/ilostmytalk>

*I Lost My Talk* is based on the poem by Mi'kmaw elder and poet Rita Joe, C.M. Rita Joe penned her poem to express not only the pain and suffering she experienced at Schubunacadie Residential School in Nova Scotia, but also her hope and conviction that her words could guide and inspire indigenous and non-indigenous peoples across Canada to journey to a place of strength and healing. NAC award composer John Estacio has created a lush musical score in synergy with a film by world-renowned director Barbara Willis Sweete. The world premiere of *I Lost My Talk* took place at the National Arts Centre on January 14, 2016, and was toured across Canada in 2017. This tour included an emotional performance in Eskisone in Cape Breton, NS, the home of poet Rita Joe. The film that accompanied the premiere and tour, shot in High Definition on the shores of Georgian Bay, Ontario, featured 10 First Nations dancers moving in choreography created by Santee Smith Tekaronhiákhwa, Artistic Director of Kaha:wi Dance Theatre. Rita Joe's poem was narrated by Guna and Rappahannock actor Monique Mojica. Visual designers Normal brought the film to life on screens that immersed the orchestra and audience. This work was commissioned for the National Arts Centre Orchestra to commemorate the 75th birthday of the Right Honourable Joe Clark, P.C., C.C., A.O.E. by his family.

# **Stadacona Band of the Royal Canadian Navy**

Lt (N) Brad Ritson, Music Director

## **Flute**

PO1 Charmaine Chaddock

PO1 Susan Kulik

## **Oboe**

PO2 Hamish Gordon

## **Bassoon**

PO2 Christian Navrátil

## **Clarinet**

PO2 Neige Dupuis-  
Carbonneau

PO2 Edward Danilov

S1 Chelsea Alexi

S1 Sylvie Duchesneau (bass)

## **Saxophone**

S1 Matt Henry (alto/soprano)

MS Katie Vallar (baritone)

## **Trumpet**

PO2 Greg Moffat

PO2 Eric Sproule

S1 Emily Bellman

## **French Horn**

PO2 Blythe Heywood

S1 Ilana Domb

## **Trombone**

S1 Joshua Penney (bass)

PO1 David Moulton

Lt (N) Brad Ritson

## **Euphonium**

S1 Justin Chiang

## **Tuba**

S1 Tony Taylor

## **Double Bass**

PO1 Larry Bjornson

## **Percussion**

PO2 Jeff Brancato

S1 Mark Morton

S1 Trevor Brandenburg

## **Guest Performers with the Stadacona Band:**

<b>Flute</b>	Ella Burt, Andrea Kim
<b>Oboe/English Horn</b>	John Rowe
<b>Bassoon</b>	Lauren Park
<b>Clarinet</b>	Morgandy Levy
<b>Alto Saxophone</b>	Nicole Strum
<b>Tenor Saxophone</b>	Tristan De Borba
<b>Trumpet/Flugelhorn</b>	Margaret Hopkins
<b>French Horn</b>	Hope Gendron, Michelle Boyd
<b>Tuba</b>	Breton Hickey
<b>Percussion</b>	Noah Shankel, Zoe Strutt