



UBC School of Music
Attn: UBC Opera Ensemble
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Louis Riel Opera Symposium – Public Events Detailed Schedule

Wednesday, February 3

7:30 p.m. Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Symposium Gala: *Louis Riel: Constitutional, Historical, and Cultural Perspectives*

The gala includes an opening address by Madame Chief Justice of Canada **Beverley McLachlin**, a presentation of the Trial Scene from the opera *Louis Riel* featuring the esteemed opera singer **Bernard Turgeon**, who created the title role of 'Louis Riel' in the 1967 world premiere, and a roundtable discussion moderated by UBC President **Stephen Toope**, with **Jean Teillet**, noted Aboriginal lawyer and Louis Riel's great grand niece, and **Bruce Dumont**, President of Métis Nation B.C., and **Dr. Bruce Granville Miller**, Professor, Department of Anthropology.

Thursday, February 4

3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Green College Coach House

Colloquium: *Resistance and Representation: Manifestations of Louis Riel in Canadian Art Works*

Sherry Lee, Assistant Professor of Music, University of Toronto. Paper: "Radical Modernism, Operatic Failure, and the Refusal of Reconciliation in Louis Riel"

Colleen Renihan, Doctoral Candidate in Music, University of Toronto. Paper: "Exploring the conventional limits of subjectivity and expression in Louis Riel"

Sherrill Grace, Professor of English, University of British Columbia. Paper: "Inventing Louis Riel: Riel in the Arts"

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Chan Centre for the Performing Arts (Royal Bank Cinema)

Pre-performance address by Madame Chief Justice of Canada **Beverley McLachlin**. Topic: *Louis Riel - Patriot Rebel*

8:00 p.m. Chan Centre for the Performing Arts (Chan Shun Concert Hall)

Western Canada premiere of Harry Somers' opera *Louis Riel*

Words of Welcome - **Larry Grant**, representative of the Musqueam Band, and **Bruce Dumont**, President of Métis Nation B.C., and **Bernard Turgeon**, Canadian opera singer.

Friday, February 5

3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Green College Coach House

Colloquium: *Indigenous Dramatic Expressions*

Dylan Robinson, Postdoctoral Fellow in Music, University of Toronto. Paper: "Métissage and Canadian Art Music"

Klisala Harrison, Postdoctoral Fellow in Ethnomusicology, UBC School of Music. Paper: "Musical Form as Theatrical Form in Native Canadian Stage Plays"

Beverley Diamond, Canada Research Chair in Ethnomusicology and Trudeau Fellow, Memorial University. Paper: "Decentring Opera: Early 21st-Century Indigenous Production"

Dr. Mary Ingraham, University of Alberta. Paper: "**Assimilation, Integration and Individuation: The Evolution of First Nations Musical Citizenship in Canadian Opera**"

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Chan Centre for the Performing Arts (Royal Bank Cinema)

Pre-performance dialogue: *The Métis of BC: Riel's Legacy West of the Rockies*

Mike Evans, Canada Research Chair in World's Indigenous Peoples, UBC-Okanagan

Jean Barman, Professor Emerita of History, UBC

On the eve of his death, Louis Riel said about the Métis: "It is true that our Indian origin is humble, but it is indeed just that we honour our mothers as well as our fathers. Why should we be so preoccupied with what degree of mingling we have of European and Indian blood? No matter how little we have of one of the other, do not both gratitude and filial love require us to make a point of saying, 'We are Métis.'"

In British Columbia there is a tendency to think of the Métis as either recent prairie immigrants, not fully part of the BC Aboriginal Community, or as dis-organized and largely accidental descendants of the occasional First Nations-European liaison from the fur trade era. Our research has shown that the presence of Métis communities west of the Rockies is demonstrable, and further that these communities are both of British Columbia, rooted in relationships with British Columbian First Nations people, and linked to the wider Métis community of the parkland and prairies east of the Rockies.

In this presentation we introduce cousins and countrymen of Louis Riel, and describe how they fit into the Métis world that he died trying to defend.

8:00 p.m. Chan Centre for the Performing Arts (Chan Shun Concert Hall)

Performance of Harry Somers' opera *Louis Riel*

Saturday, February 6

9:00 – 4:30 p.m. First Nations House of Learning, Museum of Anthropology, and Chan Centre

Louis Riel Youth Symposium: Métis Experience and Performance

Speakers and Presenters include: Lieutenant Governor Steven Point; **Mr. Bruce Dumont** (President of Métis Nation BC); **Jean Teillet** (Great Grand Niece of Louis Riel); **Dr. Linc Kesler** (Director First Nations House of Learning); **Spy Dénomme Welsh** (Composer); Rick Ouellet (Métis UBC doctoral student); **Bernard Turgeon**, creator of the role of 'Louis Riel' in the opera's premiere in 1967; **Yvonne Chartrand** and the **Louis Riel Dancers**; Melody Mercredi, Classical Métis singer; Aboriginal musician **Cris Derksen** and dancer **Shyana Pria**; Nancy Hermiston, Head, UBC Voice and Opera Divisions and the UBC Opera Ensemble.

In celebration of the performance and recognition of the vibrancy of Métis culture, UBC Opera with UBC School of Music presents the Louis Riel Youth Symposium: an engaging and interactive exploration of Métis experience and performance inspired by the legacy of Louis Riel. Youth Symposium events are in collaboration with the First Nations House of Learning, the Museum of Anthropology and the Métis Nation BC. All youth are welcome to attend this exciting event. Lunch is provided (suggested donation 5 dollars).

2:30 p.m. Chan Centre for the Performing Arts (Chan Shun Concert Hall)

Performance: *Tradition and Innovation: A Showcase of Indigenous Music and Dance*

Address by Lt. Gov. **Steven Point** and **Mrs. Point**

Performers include: **Yvonne Chartrand and the Louis Riel dancers**; co-composer **Spy Dénomme-Welsh** introducing excerpts from the new Aboriginal Opera *Giiwedín*, Métis classical singer **Melody Mercredi**; cellist **Cris Derksen** and dancer **Shyama Pria**.

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Chan Centre for the Performing Arts (Royal Bank Cinema)

Pre-performance talk

Jean Teillet, noted Aboriginal lawyer and Louis Riel's great grand niece

8:00 p.m. Chan Centre for the Performing Arts (Chan Shun Concert Hall)

Performance of Harry Somers' opera *Louis Riel*

Sunday, February 7

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Chan Centre for the Performing Arts (Royal Bank Cinema)

Pre-performance talk: *Métis Nation: Yesterday - Today*

Henry Hall, Minister Responsible for Housing and Education, Métis Nation B.C.

2:00 p.m. Chan Centre for the Performing Arts (Chan Shun Concert Hall)

Performance of Harry Somers' opera *Louis Riel*

We would like to thank:

The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts – Green College – First Nations House of Learning -- Métis Nations B.C. -- UBC Faculty of Law

