



Symphony  
New Brunswick  
Symphonie  
Nouveau-Brunswick

**Mélanie Léonard**  
Music Director / Chef d'orchestre

## SNB's "New Horizons" Celebrates Rising Star and a Splash of Hollywood

SAINT JOHN, N.B., Apr 10 2023 – [Symphony New Brunswick](#) (SNB) is pleased to present *New Horizons*, the fifth concert in the orchestra's 2022/23 *Bravo* series.

The concert opens with *Manufactured Landscapes*, the first symphony by award-winning Canadian composer Heather Schmidt. The piece was commissioned in 2005 as part of Schmidt's residency with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra. The program's second half is devoted to Dvořák's famous *Cello Concerto in B Minor* featuring Lexie Krakowski, an exciting new talent who was included in CBC's "30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians Under 30" [2022 edition].

*Manufactured Landscapes* is inspired by Canadian photographer Edward Burtynsky's epic panoramas of large-scale industrial sites and commercial operations. SNB Music Director Mélanie Léonard observes that "like Burtynsky's striking portraits, Heather's sweeping, cinematic piece is both intensely provocative and deeply contemplative, inviting the audience to reflect on the ways in which we all contribute to shaping our world." Schmidt, who lives in Los Angeles and works as a Hollywood composer and producer, will be on hand for the performance as part of a three-week composer's residency in New Brunswick made possible by support from [arts nb](#).

The Dvořák, meanwhile, is considered to be a rite of passage for cello *virtuosi*: "This piece is widely regarded as the greatest romantic cello concerto ever written, and a favourite of such luminaries as Casals, Rostropovich, and Yo-Yo Ma" says Dr. Léonard. "The opportunity to hear this masterwork brought to life by a rising star on the Canadian music scene is definitely not to be missed!"

"We're absolutely thrilled with our opportunity to collaborate with both a well-established, prolific Canadian composer and an up-and-coming young Canadian soloist," says SNB President Reid Parker. "This concert is the perfect way to open Heather's residency with Symphony New Brunswick, which will culminate with the premiere of a newly commissioned work by Heather at The Beaverbrook Gallery on May 6th. Combining the performance of *Manufactured Landscapes* with the exceptional artistry of national musical festival winner Lexie Krakowski is a recipe for a tantalizing program we're confident will bring absolute delight to concert-goers."

*New Horizons* is made possible through the support of RBC Foundation's Emerging Artist Project and New Brunswick's Regional Development Corporation. The *Bravo* series is SNB's primary means to create, produce, and present exceptional live concert experiences for the benefit of everyone in the province.

The performance schedule for *New Horizons* is:

Friday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m. – Saint John - The Imperial  
Sunday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. – Fredericton - The Playhouse  
Monday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. – Moncton - The Capitol

For tickets or to view the full *Bravo* Series Program, visit [symphonynb.ca](#).

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### **About Lexie Krakowski**

Lexie Krakowski was the Grand Award Winner at the 2021 Federation of Canadian Music Festivals national competition. A 2021 graduate of the Victoria Conservatory of Music (VCM), she is currently working towards her Bachelor of Music in Cello Performance at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music. Lexie has received awards and scholarships from the VCM and the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival, winning at the provincial level in solo and chamber music, and additionally placing first in the Don Chrysler, Louis Sherman, and Roberto and Mary Wood Scholarship Competitions.



### **About Heather Schmidt**

Heather Schmidt pursued double majors in piano performance and composition at Juilliard and at Indiana



University, where, at age 21, she became the youngest student ever to receive a Doctor of Music degree. As a virtuoso soloist, Heather received First Place in the Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition, and First Place, the Audience Choice Award, and the Maestro's Choice Millennium Foundation Award at the Canadian Concerto Competition. Composition awards include three consecutive Broadcast Music Inc. Awards, SOCAN Composer Awards, the Zwilich Prize in the International League of Women Composers Competition, the Juilliard Composers Competition, and the Dean's Composition Prize at Indiana University. She has also been nominated for a Juno in the category of Best Classical Composition.

### **About Symphony NB**

SNB operates the province's only full-scale, full-season professional symphony orchestra as well as *Camerata New Brunswick*, its professional chamber orchestra. It also plays host to the *Saint John String Quartet*, *Ventus Machina* – a professional woodwind quintet based in Dieppe – and *Résonance*, a new music ensemble in Saint John. Through top-notch performances, educational programs, and community partnerships, SNB promotes the awareness and appreciation of symphonic music in an increasingly diverse New Brunswick.

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