

◆◆◆ collectif9 ◆ RITUALS ◆◆◆



collectif9 presents *Rituals*, a new show that is built to be performed in churches - spaces that are central in communities, that impose their own tradition and beauty, that are often very reverberant. *Rituals* exploits the acoustic and architectural qualities of the church - instead of building a set on a stage, we have created an artistic experience for the existing set. The concert space is more than just a venue, but part of the musical inspiration. The concert itself can be seen as an overarching artistic ceremony with the potential to bring together people of different communities and beliefs. *Rituals* is an acoustic concert with lighting, scenography and staging that maximizes the dramatic effects of the space, and the musicians perform from many locations rather from a single stage.

collectif9 has chosen repertoire that will invite contemplation and introspection, using musical techniques that are suited to the space (string instruments, voices, and organ):

- ◆ **Arvo Pärt** (b. 1935): *Summa and Psalom*
- ◆◆ **Nicole Lizée** (b. 1973): *Another Living Soul*, for strings, voices, and small instruments
- ◆◆◆ **Bryce Dessner** (b. 1976): *Tenebre*, for strings and voices
- ◆◆◆◆ **Heinz Holliger** (b. 1939): *Eisblumen*, for strings and choir or organ
- ◆◆◆◆◆ **New Canadian commission** (composer TBC)
- ◆◆◆◆◆◆ **Others** (Caroline Shaw, Britten, Stravinsky) TBC

Arvo Pärt's *Summa* exists in vocal and instrumental forms, based on the text of the Latin *Credo*. By performing the work for strings only, we add a secular dimension to a once-sacred work. **Nicole Lizée** is inspired by art forms of the recent past (in this case stop-motion animation) and creates a serene world that is backed by intense detail, within which "the impossible becomes possible—souls emerge from where once there were none." The relationship between darkness and light guides **Bryce Dessner's** *Tenebre*, and **Heinz Holliger** creates a delicate harmonic world with a flexible instrumentation that can include organ or choir. There is a long tradition

of vocal music in churches, and the sound of the voice in this type of space is striking in its simplicity and purity, even in more complex works. The musicians of **collectif9** use string instruments, our voices, the church organ, and other small instruments. The church's organist or a local choir may contribute to the concert as well.

In Quebec, as in many places around the world, places of worship are community landmarks and sometimes community centres. As

collectif9 considers our practice of chamber music to be a model of social interaction and collaboration, *Rituals* encourages togetherness and the possibility of collaboration with local musicians as a matter of course.



Watch teaser video here: <https://bit.ly/35ojQLx>

◆ **About collectif9**

Montreal's classical string band **collectif9** has been attracting varied audiences since their 2011 debut. Known for energized, innovative arrangements of classical repertoire, the group performs "with an infectious energy and vigour that grabs an audience's attention" (The WholeNote). **collectif9** has performed across North America, Europe, and Asia. The ensemble believes that a change of context can influence communication and experience.

> Visit www.collectif9.ca for the group's complete biography.



◆ **Technical information**

On tour: 9 musicians (4 violins, 2 violas, 2 cellos, 1 double bass) + 1 light technician

Performance space/Equipment: minimum of 20 feet (6 meters) wide x 13 feet (4 meters) deep. Presenter provides 13 music stands and 2 piano benches. Organ optional.

Lighting: equipment needed to light the performance space with clear and homogeneous light.