



Public Energy

THE POWER OF PERFORMANCE

Public Energy is Peterborough's animator of contemporary dance, theatre, performance and interdisciplinary work. Since 1994 we have presented a mainstage series of artists drawn from across Canada, commissioned new work in concert with other Canadian presenters on the CanDance Network, and supported the development of the local dance, theatre & performance community by presenting area artists and arranging specialized classes and workshops.

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BECOME A PUBLIC ENERGY SUPPORTER

Your donation helps us keep ticket prices accessible and our programming electrifying. It's easy to do on line: Monthly tax-deductible donations can be made at canadahelps.org.

CONTACT

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Photo: Sean Howard



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Indigenous Studies Program,
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PUBLIC ENERGY AND TD CANADA TRUST PRESENT

TOMSON HIGHWAY Songs in the Key of Cree

With Patricia Cano &
Marcus Ali

May 11 at 8pm
Market Hall Performing Arts Centre,
140 Charlotte Street, Peterborough

PublicEnergy.ca
THE POWER OF PERFORMANCE

Songs in the Key of Cree

A SELECTION OF SONGS FROM FIVE PLAYS BY TOMSON HIGHWAY

Tomson Highway music, words, piano

Patricia Cano vocals

Marcus Ali saxophone

Taansi Nimiss (from *The (Post) Mistress*)

Hey, Good-lookin' (from *The (Post) Mistress*)

Kisaageetin Means I Love You (from *Rose*)

Somewhere a Star (from *The Incredible Adventures of Mary Jane Mosquito*)

Quand je danse (from *The (Post) Mistress*)

Ki-maskimoot (from a work-in-progress, as yet untitled)

The Robins of Dawn (from *The (Post) Mistress*)

The Lunch (from a work-in-progress, as yet untitled)

The Waves (from a work-in-progress, as yet untitled)

White Boys Fall in Love (from *Rose*)

The Sage, the Dancer, and the Fool (from play of same name)

The Thank You Song (from *Rose*)

TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE IS A SPECIAL FUNDRAISING EVENT, with box office proceeds shared between Public Energy and Tomson Highway. Monies raised for Public Energy will support the operating and programming costs incurred as we fulfill our mission to provide adventurous and inspiring performing arts programs in Peterborough and area. Special thanks to **Thomas Olszewski** (Grandfather's Catering), **Christopher Wilton** (Wilton Wine Consulting) and **Marianne Beacon** (Elderberry Herbals) for putting together the amazing food and drink for our VIP reception.

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR PUBLIC ENERGY, OUR ARTISTS AND AUDIENCES.

Public Energy's Strategic Plan calls for the creation of a sustainability fund that will allow much more flexibility in filling our role as a cultural catalyst. Currently, Public Energy relies on funding tied to specific short-term projects and outcomes. This fund would allow PE to **respond quickly to new ideas** and would make it possible to **engage in long-range artistic planning**. What if Public Energy had a fund that would allow us to commit to an artist's new creation two or three years in advance of its premiere? This is what artists need in order to do their best work: creative support over years, not months. It is a rare arts organization that can provide such support, but it's a necessary part of a healthy arts ecology. **If you'd like to be in on the ground floor of this initiative, please consider using the enclosed card to make a charitable donation.** Or give us a shout at the office later on. You can email me at bill@publicenergy.ca or call us at (705) 745-1788.

Thank you! —Bill Kimball, Artistic Producer, Public Energy



MANY THANKS TO PUBLIC ENERGY'S FUNDERS



BIOS

Marcus Ali is a Toronto-based saxophonist, originally from Brampton, and a graduate of York University's jazz program. A highly respected and admired jazz improviser and interpreter, Marcus is a versatile musician - equally at home in a wide range of genres - who has played on over sixty albums on a variety of woodwinds (saxophones, flutes, clarinets, West African flutes, tin whistles). He has performed, toured, and recorded with dozens of bands including Grand Prix de Jazz award winner Nick Ali and Cruzao, Matt Dusk, Mr Something Something, Orquesta Fantasia, and The Composers Collective Big Band. He can currently be heard with the Ali Bros, Grūvoria, Drumhand, Soldiers of Song - a tribute to the Dumbells, and multi-Juno nominated Jason Wilson. He has toured extensively across Canada as well as throughout the US, the UK, the Caribbean and Japan.

Patricia Cano was born and raised in a Spanish-speaking Peruvian household in Sudbury. Upon graduating from the University of Toronto in Theatre and Spanish Literature, she spent four years working in Paris with the world-renowned theatre company, le Théâtre du Soleil. In 2009, she launched her music career here at home with her debut album, 'This is the New World', composed in collaboration - and in four languages - with her Brazilian musical partner, Carlos Bernardo. Since that time, Cano's band has toured extensively in Ontario, Quebec, and parts of western Canada, playing multiple jazz and folk festivals as well as music venues. An exceptional musical influence in her artistic career is Tomson Highway. Since 2001, Patricia Cano has toured the world alongside Highway, performing Cree cabaret, featuring songs in English, French, Spanish, and Cree. In 2013, her voice was featured on Highway's first studio album, 'Patricia Cano Sings Songs from *The (Post) Mistress*', which was nominated for a 2015 Juno Award in the Aboriginal Album of the Year category. In January 2017, she reprised her role in a Vancouver production of Highway's one-woman musical, *The (Post) Mistress* (Arts Club), and back in the fall of 2016, she performed the role in Toronto (TFT/Pleiades) in both French and English. Patricia Cano's songs have been featured on TVO's medical drama, *Hard Rock Medical*, and her sophomore album, *Madre/Amiga/Hermana* is due to be released in the Fall.

Tomson Highway was born in a snow bank on the Manitoba/Nunavut border to a family of nomadic caribou hunters. He had the great privilege of growing up in two languages: Cree, his mother tongue, and Dene, the language of the neighbouring nation, a people with whom they travelled and hunted. His parents, with no access to books, television or radio, would tell their children stories, and Tomson fell in love with the oral tradition of storytelling. When he was six, he was placed in residential school. Although he resented being taken away from his parents, he did learn music and, following Bachelor of Music Honours and Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of Western Ontario, had plans to become a concert pianist.

Today Tomson enjoys an international career as a playwright, novelist, pianist, and songwriter. His critically acclaimed works include the plays *The Rez Sisters*, *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing*, *Rose*, *Ernestine Shuswap Gets her Trout*, the best-selling novel *Kiss of the Fur Queen*, and three children's books. For many years, Tomson ran Canada's premiere Native theatre company, Native Earth Performing Arts (based in Toronto), out of which has emerged an entire generation of professional Indigenous playwrights, actors and theatre companies across Canada. Highway's many awards include the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best New Play and Best Production, the Floyd S. Chalmers Canadian Play Award (two wins), the Toronto Arts Award (for outstanding contributions made over the years to the City of Toronto cultural industries), the National Aboriginal Achievement Award (2001), and the Order of Canada (1994).