



SOUNDING THUNDER: THE SONG OF FRANCIS PEGAHMAGABOW

FRIDAY, JULY 29 — 7:30 PM | Charles W. Stockey Centre

Timothy Corlis, *composer*; Armand Garnett Ruffo, *librettist*; Brian D. McInnes, *narrator, cultural consultant*; Jodi Baker Contin, *singer, songwriter, actor*; Keenan Keeshig, *actor*; Larry Beckwith, *conductor, actor*; Mark Fewer, *violin*; James Campbell, *clarinet*; Christian Sharpe, *bassoon*; Beverley Johnston, *percussion*; Rachel Thomas, *trombone*; Guy Few, *trumpet*; Joel Quarrington, *double bass*; Gabriel Cropley, *stage and lighting designer*; Jennifer Norton and Emile Surett, *projection design*; Alanis King, *dramaturge*

Sounding Thunder: The Song of Francis Pegahmagabow

With libretto by Armand Garnett Ruffo

Timothy Corlis
(b. 1972)

ACT I: FAITH

Scene i – Call to Action
Scene ii – Spiritual Encounter
Scene iii – Power

ACT II: WAR

Scene i – Enlisting
Scene ii – The Warrior
Scene iii – Wounded

ACT III: STRUGGLE AT HOME

Scene i – A Returned Hero
Scene ii – The Activist
Scene iii – The Good Fight

A musical journey into the life of the renowned Ojibwe WWI sniper and decorated officer of the Canadian military, Francis Pegahmagabow. Composed by Tim Corlis and written by Ojibwe poet Armand Garnett Ruffo, *Sounding Thunder* is a complex work divided into three acts, exploring Pegahmagabow's early years immersed in the world of the Anishinaabe spirits, his extraordinary accomplishments in the trenches of WWI, and finally his political life as Chief of the Wasauksing Ojibwe and founder of the early Indigenous political moment in Canada.

Written for multiple roles, both human and non-human, *Sounding Thunder* draws upon the memoirs of Pegahmagabow himself, family memories, and historical sources to introduce spectators to a little-known side of Canadian history while offering a fascinating story and a dynamic musical experience.

A multi-disciplinary production. Produced by Festival of the Sound, Artistic Director James Campbell, a Canada 150 project.

"If we can get this kind of art to mend the injustices of several centuries, maybe truth as well as reconciliation actually stand a chance." – *John Terauds, Toronto Star*

"The overall effect was moving and deeply thought provoking and one of the best pieces created as a conscious contribution to Truth and Reconciliation that I have experienced." – *Opera Ramblings*

"Sounding Thunder: the Songs of Francis Pegahmagabow showed how collaboration should be done" – *Natasha Gauthier, Artsfile*

Learn more about Festival artists! Scan the QR code for full artist biographies.

Festival of the Sound is committed to decreasing our ecological footprint by using less paper for our programmes. If you require any assistance please let any member of our staff team know and we will be happy to help.



LINK TO ARTIST BIOS