Toronto sings the Breithaupt Brothers’ Songbook
Saturday, November 2, 2019 at 8:00pm
This is the 982nd concert in Koerner Hall

Heather Bambrick, vocals
Kellylee Evans, vocals
Shelley McPherson, vocals
Patricia O’Callaghan, vocals
Jackie Richardson, vocals
Denzal Sinclaire, vocals
Don Breithaupt, piano & Musical Director
Justin Abedin, guitar
Russ Boswell, bass
Steve Heathcote, drums
John Johnson, saxophone
Jeff Breithaupt, emcee

As songwriters, we continue to be fortunate in our interpreters and are grateful to the incomparable all-Canadian roster of talent performing with us at Koerner Hall. This evening, we highlight songs from our second album, Just Passing Through: The Breithaupt Brothers Songbook Vol. II, and our musical, Seeing Stars (libretto by Shelley McPherson). We are also excited to share a handful of new songs; thanks for being the first to listen. Tonight’s performance is dedicated to that other brother, author Ross Breithaupt. – Don and Jeff Breithaupt

The Breithaupt Brothers
(Don Breithaupt, music; Jeff Breithaupt, lyrics)
The Breithaupt Brothers’ second CD, Just Passing Through: The Breithaupt Brothers Songbook Vol. II, featured 15 of Canada’s finest singers – including many on the line-up this evening – and was released on Alma Records to universal acclaim, including this from CBC Radio: “songs worthy of inclusion in the Great American Songbook.” Among the Broadway and jazz “royalty” who have interpreted Breithaupt Brothers songs at the songwriters’ Birdland and Public Theater revues in New York in recent years are Kelli O’Hara, Norm Lewis, LaChanze, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, James Naughton, Catherine Russell, Paul Shaffer, Janis Siegel, Chris Sullivan, the late, great Jan Maxwell, and many, many more. The Breithaupt Brothers are two-time finalists for the prestigious Fred Ebb Award for Musical Theatre Songwriting. Their musical, Seeing Stars, written with librettist Shelley McPherson, was first presented as a concert reading (featuring Tony Award-winner Kelli O’Hara and Modern Family’s Jesse Tyler Ferguson) at the Public Theater’s Joe’s Pub venue in New York City. From there, the show received a developmental workshop at the York Theatre and was produced as part of the New York Musical Festival, where it played to sold-out houses. The Brothers are two-time winners of both the USA Songwriting Competition and the International Songwriting Competition. Don was honoured with a 2009 Emmy Award for outstanding theme song for the television show, 6teen; his band, Monkey House, released its fifth album, Friday, in July. The Breithaupt Brothers are at work on new songs for their upcoming third album. Don and Jeff, proud ex-pat Canadians both, live in Los Angeles and New York City, respectively. They are members of the Dramatists Guild, SOCAN (Don), and ASCAP (Jeff), and are represented by Toronto’s Marquis Literary.

Heather Bambrick
Heather Bambrick is a Juno Award nominated vocalist who has worked with Fred Hirsch, Guido Basso, Gene DiNovi, Peter Appleyard, Rob McConnell, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra, and many others. She is a three-time ECMA nominee for Jazz Recording of the Year, a 2017 Juno nominee for Vocal Jazz Album of the Year, and has been named Vocalist of the Year at Canada’s National Jazz Awards. Her vocal talent is internationally recognized not only for her singing but also for her work as one of Canada’s top voice actors. She can be heard on various commercial campaigns and Emmy Award-winning animation series, including Wild Kratts, Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood, and Justin Time. She is also a celebrated broadcaster, producing and hosting shows on JAZZ.FM91 and JAZZCAST in Toronto.

Kellylee Evans
2018 Juno Award nominee Kellylee Evans is a high-octane, chameleon-like performer whose natural charm and improvisational vocal style embody jazz, soul, pop, and hip-hop. The singer-songwriter won a 2011 Juno Award and has been captivating audiences along the way, opening for stars such as John Legend, George Benson, and Willie Nelson.

Patricia O’Callaghan
Patricia O’Callaghan’s 15-year career has taken her across genres and continents. As a speaker of French, Spanish, and German, her concert repertoire is diverse and eclectic. She has sung with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Don Byron Quartet, and is a frequent collaborator with the Gryphon Trio. She has performed in venues ranging from London’s Royal Opera House to New York’s Le Poisson Rouge. As a Resident Artist at Toronto’s Soulpepper Theatre for six years, her responsibilities included teaching, mentoring, producing, curating, performing, and developing new work. As a songwriter, she has worked with Dennis Lee, David Braid, John Millard, Steven Page, Njo, Kong Kie, and as an interpreter she has premiered works by Omar Daniel, Christos Hatzis, and R. Murray Schaffer. She has six solo CDs and many collaborations. Recent albums include Matador: The Songs of Leonard Cohen, Deepest December, a Christmas Album, and the recently Juno nominated Corona Divinae Misericordiae.

Denzal Sinclaire
Denzal Sinclaire is one of Canada’s most popular jazz vocalists and is ranked among the finest jazz singers of his generation. From the moment he steps on stage, he seems to naturally and effortlessly evoke a profound emotional interaction with his audience, touching the listener with his passionate and sincere delivery and the purity of the message in every song he sings. He has graced the stages of numerous concert halls and festivals around the world, and performed with renowned artists such as Wynton Marsalis and the JALC Orchestra (coming to Koerner Hall on November 30), Michael Feinstein, The Count Basie Orchestra, and the WDR Big Band.

Shelley McPherson
Shelley McPherson is a New York City-based Canadian actor and playwright. She has performed in theatres in NYC and across the U.S. She can be heard on Toronto Sings the Breithaupt Brothers Songbook, a live album recorded at Soulpepper Theatre Company’s Cabaret Festival. Movies and TV include Fall Before Paradise, The Battle of Pussy Willow Creek, and The Guiding Light. She is also the librettist of the musical Seeing Stars (score by the Breithaupt Brothers). As playwright, other full-length plays include Exit Zero, Mommy Baby, and Knifeplay. She is a member of the Dramatists Guild, AEA, SAG-AFTRA, and the 72nd Street Writer's Gang; and she is represented by Toronto’s Marquis Literary.

Jackie Richardson
Well known for her magnitude of work on stage, screen, and studio, Jackie Richardson is highly recognized in Canada and a star in her own right. She began her career at the age of seven singing in her church choir and, at 17, she led her first group. Since
then she has acted in film, theatre, and television, and toured across Canada and the world performing with renowned artists such as Ray Charles, Anne Murray, Dr. John, and Céline Dion. She has also appeared in films directed by Sidney Lumet and Norman Jewison, and starred opposite Christopher Reeve, Sidney Poitier, Jane Seymour, and Keifer Sutherland. Ms. Richardson has also hosted radio, television, and stage shows. Her awards include a Canadian Black Achievement Award and nominations for a Juno, Gemini, and AMPAC award. In 2003, Marshmellow Records released her debut CD, *A Woman’s View Through A Child’s Eyes*, a profoundly personal synthesis of gospel, blues, and jazz.

*Kellylee Evans made her Royal Conservatory debut on October 27, 2018; Patricia O’Callaghan on April 22, 2016; Jackie Richardson on October 19, 201; Denzal Sinclaire on May 10, 2014; and John Johnson on October 18, 2014. All of the other artists are making their Conservatory debuts tonight.*