

## **An Evening with Tomson Highway**

**Friday, May 12, 2017 at 8:00 pm**

This is the 728th concert in Koerner Hall

**Patricia Cano**, vocals

**Marcus Ali**, saxophone

**Tomson Highway**, piano

### **PROGRAM**

For this presentation, Mr. Highway will present songs from five of his shows produced across Canada (and beyond) over the years. As follows, they are:

*The Sage, the Dancer, and the Fool*

*Rose*

*The Incredible Adventures of Mary Jane Mosquito*

*The (Post) Mistress*

*Songs in the Key of Cree*

What makes his songwriting (and piano playing) unique is that he writes cabaret that betrays the influences of such world artists as Cole Porter and Kurt Weil ... but with Cree lyrics ...

### **Tomson Highway**

Tomson Highway is a Cree writer/musician from northern Manitoba who writes plays, novels, and music that are studied in many countries the whole world over. As a trained classical pianist who has since moved on to other forms of music, notably cabaret and musical theatre, he holds a Bachelor of Music Honours degree from the University of Western Ontario in London. He has, as well, honorary doctorates from ten Canadian universities and the Order of Canada. His best-known works are the plays, *The Rez Sisters*, *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing*, *The (Post) Mistress*, and the best-selling novel, *Kiss of the Fur Queen*. Among the many awards he has either won or been nominated for are Dora Mavor Moore Award (several wins) and the Juno (Aboriginal Album for the Year 2015, finalist).

### **Patricia Cano**

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, Canada's premier Cree playwright, novelist, and composer. 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 Coano's songs have been featured on TVO's medical drama, *Hard Rock Medical*, and with her sophomore album, *Madre|Amiga|Hermana* (Spring 2017), she hopes to hit the road again soon.

**Marcus Ali** is a jazz saxophonist from Brampton, now based in Toronto. He has worked in too many jazz combos and private engagements both in the city and across the country (and beyond) to list. As a jazz improviser and interpreter, he is highly respected and admired.

*Patricia Cano made her Royal Conservatory debut on April 19, 2017, in an evening with Monsieur Periné. All of the other artists are making their Conservatory debuts tonight.*

*Please join us for a postlude performance with **Lacey Hill** in the Leslie & Anna Dan Galleria.*