

# Murmurs of Memory

October 16 –18, 2025

Vancouver Public Library Central Branch

*Presented by Vancouver New Music  
in partnership with Vancouver Public Library*

Located in front of the Grand Staircase on Level 8  
Vancouver Public Library Central Branch (350 W Georgia St.)

## Hours

Thursday, October 16 9:30am-8:30pm

Friday, October 17 9:30am-6:00pm

Saturday, October 18 10:00am-6:00pm

## Contributors

Aaron Friend Lettner  
Abdulsalam  
Anabella Alfonzo  
Constantine Katsiris  
Donna Lytle  
Gabrielle Ng  
Heather McDermid  
Justine Langille  
Katherine Watson  
Kim Stewart

Matthew Tomkinson  
Pari Mokradi  
Raine Hermosa  
Ruby Singh's Vox.Infold  
Victoria Gibson  
Violet Grace  
WHY WHISPER? = Rafael Zen +  
Khalil Alomar  
Yvette Rodriguez  
Zita Diaz de Leon

Composed and Mixed by Giorgio Magnanensi

This installation is part of [VNM's 2025 Festival – \*Whispered Folds\*](#)

## Note from Giorgio Magnanensi Artistic Director, Vancouver New Music

*Murmurs of Memory* – presented in partnership with Vancouver Public Library – is an immersive installation weaving together whispered recollections from diverse communities into an ever-evolving sonic tapestry. Using an 8-channel audio system with custom wood resonators built from reclaimed BC timber, the installation transforms intimate recollections – hushed confessions, moments of transformation, echoes of places lost and found – into a continuous sonic meditation on connection and belonging. Through layered voices and unexpected harmonies, the piece invites listeners to experience memory not as something fixed, but as a living thread that ties us together across time and space.

## Notes from the contributors

In 2024, I was selected for a two-year artist in residence program at the Dunbar Community Centre. The focus of this work has been on intergenerational / intercultural connection, storytelling through images and collaborative bookmaking. This recording was made during one of these sessions, in which older and younger pairs sat together and took turns both telling a story and listening. This recording is their chatter.

– Aaron Friend Lettner, Roberts Creek, BC

*Memories are the Homes of the Exiles* – Memories and the many homes we still carry with us. This piece explores my intricate relationship with memories, especially those of growing up in Damascus, in homes I had to leave behind 13 years ago and will never see again. Those memories were often born from the mundane and the usual. There was nothing special about them, yet they now seem more precious than ever, as if part of a passing dream – feeling many exiles, whose home countries were forever changed by conflict, can relate to. This romanticized version of the past can be both painful and healing.

– Abdulsalam

*Tarde de domingo* (Sunday afternoon) emerged as an embodied nostalgia awakened by André's rendition of Chick Corea's *Crystal Silence*, bringing back smells, visions, and sounds from my childhood in Venezuela. My parents' jazz

tunes, the humid heat of the Caribbean coast, my school uniform sticking to my body. Memories folding and unfolding, like the pleats (pliegos) of the yellow dress I wear now in Canada; displaced, adrift, my hands searching, trying to grasp, to find myself. Uninvited guest here, uninvited guest there, endless search for belonging.

– Anabella Alfonzo, poem, vision; André Carrasquero, piano;  
Yvette Rodriguez, arrangement. Vancouver, BC

This is a recording of my daughter as a newborn baby, a short clip of her breathing and mouth sounds: noisy and irregular grunts, whistles, squeals, and snorts.

– Constantine Katsiris, Saskatoon, SK

*Horses* – These memories of place and time were recorded on a Nagra running 1/4inch tape in the 60's. They are universally reflective breathing enquiry and emotion across space.

*Water* – A whispered response to the past, present and future of trees, water, and children full of tiny sounds to deconstruct.

– Donna Lytle, Lund, BC

This is a voice message intended for my dad who passed away 3 years ago. Once in a while I dreamed about him and would wake up wanting to talk to him. Therefore, I would like to take the opportunity to record a VM in cantonese (our native language) for him, telling him that I was so happy to see him in my dream, and hopefully he can hear it sometime, somewhere, in the universe.

– Gabrielle Ng, Vancouver, BC

This is an autobiographical account of transphobia that I experienced in Langley, BC on Tuesday, September 9, 2025.

– Justine Langille, Langley, BC

*Room Dreams* – In this recording, I describe a type of recurring dream I have and what I think it means. My whole adult life, I've moved at least every 2

years from apartment to apartment, always on the brink of my financial limit/budget. These dreams are fantasy, but leave me feeling hopeful and optimistic that some great opportunity is right around the corner.

– Katherine Watson, Vancouver, BC

*Cowboy come home* - Cowboy is my friend's cat that went missing a couple days ago.

– Kim Stewart, Vancouver, BC

My piece, *Swingset Duet*, is about a sonic exchange I once overheard between a bird and a squeaky swingset – a surreal example of acoustic ecology, and the subliminal conversations unfolding at all times within anthropogenic landscapes.

– Matthew Tomkinson, Vancouver, BC

I offer a series of water recordings from Crab Park – a public space once won through struggle against industrial encroachment in the heart of the Downtown Eastside, which I have visited daily for the past five years. I recorded the Burrard inlet at different times: low tide murmurs slapping against rocks, high tide waves crashing with the wind, against the ever-present hum of the nearby Port of Vancouver. Cranes beeping, engines grinding, fences rising on unceded lands. Together, these layers invoke a soundscape of tension and rupture, where ancestral rhythms of *səlilwət* tides respond, resist the urgency of capitalist time.

– Pari Mokradi

This is a recording (soundscape) I took while waiting at Waterfront Station. Being a first year student who just moved to Vancouver, transit has become an essential part of my daily routine, as well as how I connect with my community. I believe providing accessible transit is one of the best ways to improve our cities and quality of life.

– Raine Hermosa

*9 Stillnesses in 3 Movements (part III)* was created by Ruby Singh's Vox.Infold, an a cappella group of Indigenous, Black and South Asian vocalists including Tiffany Ayalik and Inuksuk Mackay of PIQSIQ, Russell Wallace, Tiffany Moses,

Dawn Pemberton, Khari Wendell McClelland, Shamik Bilgi, Hussein Janmohamed and Ruby Singh. It is a non-linear speculative piece imagining into worlds that have yet to be born, that might be running parallel to our space time or what may collide with our futures.

– Ruby Singh's Vox.Infold, Vancouver, BC

*Guided Audio Journey* – A gentle introduction to conscious listening.

– Victoria Gibson, Vancouver, BC

*MURMURS OF ELECTRO-BIRDS* is a speculative soundscape that provokes the listener into a future of broken data and broken environments, a surreal electronic composition that uses sound collage and filtered vocalization to ask: deep into our ecological crisis, what will happen when nature is no longer there?

– WHY WHISPER? = Rafael Zen + Khalil Alomar

*Korea Interlude* – My story about leaving my safety net of Toronto, searching for identity outside of Canada, being lost and finding support in a new country, and the emotions of returning home.

– Violet Grace, Toronto, ON

*singing in braille* – a poem and composition

– Yvette Rodriguez/in53ct, assisting melodies by chinapoet, Vancouver, BC

*Reflexión* – My piece is a *reflexión*, and a call to make sense of what is happening with us as human beings, and stop the abuse of power in the sense of killing people just because money, and power, for what?

– Zita

Díaz de León, West Vancouver, BC

