



THE-LIST

GREAT THINGS TO DO TODAY

with Glen Schaefer



Tom Wayman reads from his latest collection, *Boundary Country*.

CONCERT

Soir de Semaine

Where: Studio 16, 1551 West 7th Ave.

Why: The concert by these Yukon-based francophone folkie-fusionists kicks off Vancouver's 11-day Festival d'Été. Something about long winters and endless summer days resulted in the quintet's irresistibly danceable blend of rock, funk folk and reggae, with lyrics that touch on personal, social and cultural themes. For more info on subsequent events at the 18th annual festival, call 604-736-9806 or check lecentreculturel.com.

When: Tonight at 8

Tickets: \$10 members, \$15 non-members

READING

Tom Wayman, *Boundary Country*

Where: VanDusen Room, Vancouver Central Library

Why: I was working at UBC's student newspaper, *The Ubyssy*, more than two decades ago when I first encountered the voice of this B.C. poet-author. He wrote a funny, irreverent reminiscence for the paper's anniversary edition about his time at UBC during the 1960s. That, among other things, helped convince me there was room for funny irreverence at newspapers. His latest, *Boundary Country*, is a collection of stories set in B.C.'s Kootenay mountains.

When: Tonight at 7:30

Tickets: Free

CONCERT

Adrian Glynn

Where: The Chapel, Cordova and Dunlevy

Why: Vancouver singer-songwriter Glynn has been championed by 54-40 guitarist Dave Genn, who produced Glynn's debut EP, which will also be on sale at tonight's show. Glynn's personal songs tell stories that mine the same dark territory worked by Steve Earle. Appropriately, Glynn is playing a venue that once was a funeral home. Also on the bill are Ryan McMahon and Victoria's Cheers in the Belfry.

When: Tonight at 8

Tickets: \$10 advance, \$12 at the door.

DANCE

Amjad

Where: The Centre for the Performing Arts

Why: The Montreal dance troupe La La La Human Steps has fused the classical with modern in this reinterpretation of some standards of the romantic ballet. *Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake* are among the inspirations for choreographer Édouard Lock and his dancers, who break down sequences from the classics and reinvent them to contemporary music played by a quartet of piano, cello and violins.

When: Tonight, Friday and Saturday at 8

Tickets: \$26-\$72 at Ticketmaster

Got an idea or suggestion? E-mail jpiper@png.canwest.com



Rena Sharon of the Vancouver International Song Institute says this is the first time this event has been attempted.

Be prepared to be moved

ART SONGS: Ambitious new festival celebrates intimate art form

In concert

Song: The Audible Soul
Where: UBC School of Music, 6361 Memorial Rd., UBC
When: June 17-27
Tickets: [Visi.ca](http://visi.ca) for schedule and info

BY JOHN MCLAUGHLIN
 MUSIC REPORTER

Come down from the back of the class, let your wonderfully detached sense of refined ironic humour fall away for just a moment, and Rena Sharon is betting she can get you feeling things you never knew you could.

She and her cohorts at the newly founded Vancouver International Song Institute, or VISI, are hell-bent on promoting the study and joy of something called the art song, and know they have a high cultural wall to scale before they can make their point.

The art song is poetry, not lyrics; it's a piece of writing defined as a poem and set after the fact to music. Sharon doesn't like to call it classical music — there's that cultural wall again — yet that's pretty much what it is, traditional or contemporary classical music.

And right away, many will think hoity-toity, pinky-in-the-air, change-

the-channel, but Sharon is only out to make the esoteric accessible. Because, she insists, it really is accessible. To anyone.

"I think it's important that people not be afraid to dip their toes into, well, let's call it an extreme art experience," says Sharon. "You know, people find this music extremely intimate and sometimes that's thought of as too challenging, too direct. Are you ready to come and really feel stuff, one on one? The singer is standing there facing you and telling you big feelings and big thoughts about the human condition, life on the planet. You may cry."

This is the first time anyone anywhere has ever attempted anything like this. And it's ambitious. For 11 days, absolutely world-class musicians, thinkers, teachers and singers will converge to inspect, dissect and celebrate both the art song and the effect of song generally and historically.

As VISI's artistic director Sharon points out, song is how a mother communicates with her baby from the start. What's with that? Alzheimer sufferers may lose great swaths of cognitive abilities, forget who their own family is, but they still remember that hit tune from their high-school days. Song has measurable healing powers. And, of course, there's a rich and very real

spiritual element to song and singing.

Internationally renowned guests for The Audible Soul will include pianist Graham Johnson and singer Stephen Varcoe from the U.K. American pianists Margo Garrett and Alison D'amato are coming, as are Canadian vocalists Tracy Dhal and Benjamin Butterfield and many, many more. Check www.visi.ca.

And it's worth noting the Montreal-raised pianist Sharon — who will also be performing and is no slouch herself — has been called a national treasure and one of the finest musicians of her generation. She's a music professor who lectures widely and has co-written theatre pieces, but this project, this big, big idea of a festival, is very close to her passionate heart.

"One of the things that haunts me," says Sharon, "is the idea of art sitting on the shelves in libraries, closed and mute, gathering dust. If poetic and musical art are not performed it's kind of like they don't exist. We played eight bars of something for a CBC-TV producer the other day, a Verlaine poem set by Debussy with a great opera singer. The producer practically fainted, she said, 'Oh my God, I had no idea how unbelievably beautiful this is.' She had to sit down."

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TOMORROW **ENTERTAINMENT**



A big day for movies, including Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer

The Province
 It starts here.