

Innovations Advisory Panel - September 2007

Gordon Grdina is a Vancouver-based oud/guitarist whose sound reflects his interests in mainstream jazz, free-form improvisation and Arabic classical music. He studied Arabic music with acclaimed Iraqi oud virtuoso Serwan Yamolky and was mentored for five years by jazz great Gary Peacock. Gordon is a well-respected contributor to the jazz and world music scenes and is constantly being sought out for projects that need a fresh sound. Gordon maintains an active concert, recording and touring schedule with various ensembles including the Arabic/Persian/Indian group Sangha, Box Cutter and the East Van Strings. His main touring ensemble, Gordon Grdina Trio, is a combination of all of his musical interests. As a freelance musician Gordon has performed or recorded with Eyvind Kang, Paul Motian, Gary Peacock, Mark Helias, Gerry Hemingway, Fredrik Ljungkvist, Tom Varner, Jon Ballantyne, Simin Ghanem, Andy Milne, Mariam Matossian, Gunter Heinz and Quinsin Nachoff.

Lori Hamar began dance training in Edmonton, Alberta and continued with professional training at Les Ateliers de danse moderne de Montréal (LADMMI), Dancers Studio West in Calgary, MainDance in Vancouver and various summer programs in the U.S. She founded Motivity Modern Dance in Fort McMurray, Alberta and, after moving to the west coast, co-founded Suddenly Dance Theatre with David Ferguson and Miles Lowry. Lori later became a founding member of the tripod dance collective. She has performed works by Conrad Alexandrowicz, Barbara Bourget, David Earle, Lynda Raino, Darryl Hoskins and Helen Walkley. She has choreographed numerous works within companies and dance studios. Lori's choreography highlights themes of human understanding and discovery within one's self and between one other. Lori currently works with the tripod dance collective, a group of professional dancers and musicians who work independently and as an improvisational group. She has just completed a one-year tenure with the Crimson Coast Dance Society as Acting Artistic Director for Holly Bright in Nanaimo, B.C.

Pamela McKeown has recently left her position of nine years with the City of Surrey where she was the founding artistic director of the growing Surrey Children's Festival. Pamela was also the producer of the annual Whalley's Wandering Angels Lantern Procession and served as Community and Public Art Coordinator, helping to establish that program. She has 13 years of experience working with organizations in Vancouver, including Public Dreams Society, and has served as Board Chair for the Community Arts Council of Vancouver.

Connie Watts is a mixed media artist and a business owner. She is of Nuu-chah-nulth, Gitksan and Kwakwaka'wakw ancestry and lives in both Port Alberni and West Vancouver. Connie graduated from the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design with a B.F.A. in Intermedia, and has received a Bachelor of Interior Design from the University of Manitoba. She has shown her artwork across Canada and the U.S, including shows in New York, Portland, Seattle, Ottawa, Winnipeg and Vancouver. Returning to her interior design background, Connie has completed a large executive office project that unites her expertise in art with design. She recently began working for VANOC (Vancouver Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games) as a Project Manger for the Venues Aboriginal Art Program. She is continuously working on commissioned work for various corporate and private collectors, with the

largest installation being the Thunderbird sculpture, Hetux, for Vancouver International Airport.

Sherry Yoon: As Artistic Director of Boca del Lupo, Sherry has co-created 20 new full-length productions. Her most recent was Quasimodo or The Bellringer of Our Lady of Paree, Boca Del Lupo's fifth free, all ages, outdoor, roving summer productions. She is passionate about new creation and collaborative work and has toured the company's award-winning productions in Canada and Mexico. Other local and national committees she is currently involved in include: the REAC advisory of the Equity Department for Canada Council, Performance Creation Canada, Studio 58's Advisory, and Progress Lab.