

Jean Coulthard and Her World

February 10, 2008, 8pm

Vancouver Playhouse (Hamilton and Dunsmuir)

Tickets: \$26/16 at www.ticketstonight.ca or by phone at 604.231.7535

Information: turningpointensemble.ca

In celebration of the centenary of Jean Coulthard's birth, the **Turning Point Ensemble** presents **Jean Coulthard and Her World**, an evening of music that pays homage to the pioneering Vancouver composer whose career spanned seven decades and multiple genres. The concert will feature Coulthard's *Shelley Portrait* for mezzo soprano and small chamber ensemble, as well as *Duo Sonata for Violin and Cello* (with Marc Destrubé, violin, and Peggy Lee, cello). While much of her prolific output consisted of educational music, these two exceptional pieces for professional-level performance showcase Coulthard at her highest level of compositional prowess.

As a tribute to her musical influences and inspirations, *Prelude a l'apres midi d'un faune* by **Claude Debussy** (arranged for chamber ensemble by Benno Sachs) and *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* (*Songs of a Wayfarer*) by **Gustav Mahler** (arranged for chamber ensemble by Arnold Schoenberg) are also included in the programme. Acclaimed mezzo-soprano Sarah Fryer, described as having a "passionate, beautiful tone... subtle and fervent" (Lloyd Dykk, Vancouver Sun), joins Turning Point for this special evening.



About Jean Coulthard

Dr. Jean Coulthard was born in Vancouver, in 1908. Her early professional training was at the Royal College of Music in London, where her teachers included R. O. Morris and Ralph Vaughan Williams. Throughout the 1950s and 60s Coulthard forged her own tonally-based musical idiom and laid the foundations of her extensive repertoire, which encompasses over 350 works in virtually all musical genres. During these years Coulthard also maintained her "parallel career" as a lecturer at the University of British Columbia. With her retirement from UBC in 1973 her musical activity as a composer continued with renewed vigour. In 1978 she was named a Freeman of the City of Vancouver and an Officer of the Order of Canada. In 1984 she was declared "composer of the year" by PRO Canada; in the spring of 1988, she received an honorary doctorate from UBC. Jean Coulthard passed away in 2000.

"She has her own musical language, partly West Coast, mostly from another golden universe. She was comfortable with herself, yet kept searching for a different shade of colour to start another canvas. She is a Canadian treasure."
— Peter Togni, Composer and CBC Radio Host

About the Turning Point Ensemble

The Turning Point Ensemble is a Vancouver based large chamber ensemble comprised of many of British Columbia's most accomplished instrumentalists. With a mandate to increase the understanding and appreciation of music composed during the past hundred years through innovative programming and outstanding musicianship, the Turning Point Ensemble has presented over 40 events since its founding in 2003. Their 2007/8 season has included a concerto program featuring a premiere by clarinetist and improviser François Houle, as well as a collaboration at UBC's Chan Centre with Gamelan Gita Asmara as part of the PuSh Festival.

Other Jean Coulthard Centenary Events include:

February 5, 2008 12pm University of British Columbia Gessler Hall—Lecture: "**JEAN COULTHARD AND HER WORLD**" with David Gordon Duke, William Bruneau and members of the Turning Point Ensemble. Free admission.

February 6, 2008 12:30pm Vancouver Public Library, Alma Van Dusen Room—Lecture: "**JEAN COULTHARD AND HER WORLD**" with David Gordon Duke, William Bruneau and members of the Turning Point Ensemble. Free admission.

February 10, 2008 2pm Unitarian Church, 949 W. 49th Ave, Vancouver, Vancouver Women's Musical Society presents "**A COULTHARD CELEBRATION**" with Michael Strutt (guitar), William Bruneau (piano), Paula Kremer (soprano) and two young artists. Coulthard won the Society's first traveling scholarship in 1928. Tickets \$15 at the door, or in advance from the Society. Website: www.vwms.ca

February 13, 2008 12pm UBC Recital Hall—"COULTHARD CENTENARY" with Christie Reside (flute), Sophie Dansereau (bassoon), Michael Strutt (guitar), Terence Dawson (piano) and Kenneth Broadway (piano). Tickets \$4, available at the door. www.music.ubc.ca

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