

## Lamentations of Jeremiah Sanctuary Trio



discovered a musical empathy between them that is rich, intense and lyrical.

Premiered in 2007, Lamentations was released internationally on ECM records in March of 2010.

**LAMENTATIO JEREMIAE PROPHETAE**  
Peter-Anthony Togni's "Lamentatio Jeremiah Prophetae" is a contemporary concerto for bass clarinet and choir. Written in 5 movements for virtuoso soloist Jeff Reilly and the Elmer Iseler Singers conducted by Lydia Adams, it is an innovative and multi-faceted work; melodic, exploratory, passionate, and soulful.

*Lamentations* is the most ambitious and extensive collaboration to date of more than a decade of musical partnership between composer Peter-Anthony Togni and bass clarinetist Jeff Reilly. Peter and Jeff have worked together since 1998 in the trio Sanctuary, which has performed hundreds of concerts in Canada, the USA, Europe and Asia. Over these years Peter and Jeff have

Lamentations is a piece based on ancient texts, but it resonates deeply with our own time. The work is based on the sayings of the biblical prophet Jeremiah, whose heart-rending life and true prophesies of dire warning went largely unheeded by those he sought to warn. It is an exploration of grief, atonement, despair and finally, hope.

Lamentations of Jeremiah has been greeted warmly by critics and audiences alike: "*Of all the recorded offerings for Holy Week (2010), this is by some measure the most original and affecting that has come my way. Beneath a mixed chorus, Togni bravely inscribes a bass clarinet as his only instrumentation. It is a brilliant decision. The virtuoso clarinetist Jeff Reilly extends his cadenzas across the history of sound, from monotony to modernism, in a*

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"The Fresh Sound of Virtuosity"

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*performance that is dominant and often hypnotic.*

— Norman Lebrecht  
*La Scena Musicale* (March 29, 2010)

[www.petertogni.com](http://www.petertogni.com)

### SANCTUARY

The ensemble Sanctuary performs rich contemplative music that fuses the melodic simplicity of Gregorian chant with the sounds of free jazz and the rich colours of contemporary classical music, creating a plainsong for the 21st century.

The past five years have seen the core ensemble of bass-clarinetist Jeff Reilly, cellist Christoph Both (pronounced Boat) and organist Peter Togni (pronounced Tawnyee) develop and refine a unique sound of immense dynamic and tonal range.

Their many performances in St Mary's Basilica in Halifax, Canada attract hundreds of listeners each month, and it is clear that the soaring, rich acoustics of the church have contributed massively to the ensemble's characteristic sound.

The members of Sanctuary are dedicated to live performance and the trio re-defines accepted traditions of presentation. A Sanctuary concert is a unique contemplative experience, more of a personal sonic journey than any form of conventional concert.

Sanctuary has performed with a wide range of choirs across Canada, Germany and Latvia. They have presented concerts with the world-renowned trombonist Alain Trudel, the Electro Acoustic percussionist Jerry Granelli and the Evergreen Club contemporary Gamelan orchestra. In 2003 the ensemble formed its own string orchestra, which now performs regularly in the Halifax concerts. Great emphasis has always been placed on creating new works from within the trio and commissioning works for its extended collaborations. Over the past five years the group has created or commissioned over 25 new works.

[www.sanctuarymusic.ca](http://www.sanctuarymusic.ca)

March 2011

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