

Open Ears Festival of Music and Sound

presents

Four Quartets

Penderecki String Quartet

with

Leslie Fagan, soprano

8:00pm, Tuesday June 10, 2014

Clay and Glass Gallery, Waterloo

Program:

Norbert Palej 'Four Quartets', String Quartet No.2 (2014 World Premiere)

J. Mark Scearce 'Four Quartets', String Quartet No.3 (2014 World Premiere)

This concert takes its inspiration from T.S. Eliot's famous collection of poems titled "Four Quartets". The poems are interlinked meditations with the common theme being human's relationship to time, the universe, and the Divine. Two new works will be premiered on this theme by Toronto composer Norbert Palej and J. Mark Scearce from North Carolina. Norbert's new quartet assigns each of the movements to one of the four classical elements: air, earth, water, and fire. The lyrical third movement includes a vocalise for soprano solo. The quartet alludes to several motives of the European art tradition, such as Beethoven's late quartets, Dante's Divine Comedy and the plain chant 'Veni Creator'. Scearce's work is structured similarly to Palej's but captures some of the more disparate sources of Eliot's poetry including Buddhism to the Bhagavad-Gita.