

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Toronto, ON

Toronto Laboratory Theatre

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Media Contact: Nina Kaye 647-770-3837 nina_bea@hotmail.com

TORONTO LABORATORY THEATRE AND THEÁTRUS

PROUDLY PRESENT

THE TORONTO PREMIERE OF

[The ... Musician: An Étude.](#)

Conceived and directed by Art Babayants

Based on V.G. Korolenko's classic novella

Featuring Clayton Gray, Kevin Kashani, & Shelley Liebembuk

Paul J. Stoesser, Scenic and Lighting Designer

Dmitry Zhukovsky, Assistant Director

Allison Leadley & Isabel Stowell-Kaplan, Dramaturges

Virginia Cardinal, Stage Manager

Produced by Art Babayants, Mark Rochford and Dmitry Zhukovsky (Theátrus)

Toronto Laboratory Theatre (TLT) is proud to present this ambitious, moving and innovative new play as the company's inaugural production. [The ... Musician: An Étude](#) runs January 17-26 at Dancemakers Centre for Creation in the historic Distillery district. Discounted previews on January 11 and 12. Tickets range from \$20 - \$25 and are available at www.themusician.brownpapertickets.com

Contact TLTenquiries@gmail.com regarding discount tickets and group rates.

DATES AND SHOWTIMES

- Preview: January 11 (Sat) at 7:30 pm
- January 12 (Sun): 7:30 pm - Industry and Press Night
- January 17 (Fri): 9 pm - Opening Night
- January 18 (Sat): 2:30 and 7:30 pm
- January 19 (Sun): 2:30 and 7:30 pm
- January 25 (Sat): 9 pm
- January 26 (Sun): 2:30 and 7:30 pm

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ABOUT THE PLAY

Adapted from the 19th century Ukrainian-Russian novella *The Blind Musician* by Vladimir Korolenko, The ... Musician. An Étude is an inventive new play that tells a powerful story of a boy born without sight who learns to communicate through music. The sixty-minute drama explores the senses and their limitations through the innovative interplay of lighting, spoken text, physical gestures and live piano music. The “stunning” stylistic invention of The ... Musician. An Étude challenges the audience’s perceptions, inviting spectators to dive into a world where the most common signs of communication are perpetually concealed. With the aim of accessibility, the performance pairs stunning visuals with a rich auditory experience. We invite visually impaired audience members to attend with a companion who will receive a complimentary ticket.

“Powerful!” - Smiljka Tasic

“Daring!” - Antje Budde

“A feast for the senses!” - Kathleen Gallagher



Photo by Moush Sara Jonh. Featuring Kevin Kashani and Shelley Liebembuk

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

“I loved the play! Whoever would have thought that so much emotion could be displayed in the feet?” - Merrill Swain

“In the dark, I felt like my sense of hearing became stronger, so that the music you played was much more powerful.” – Smiljka Tasic

EXCERPT

Plastic, melodious, rich in colour, the music came pouring forth into the hall—now swelling into a majestic anthem, now sinking into gentle, pensive melancholy. At times, it would be a thunderstorm, rolling across the heavens, echoing out into space; at times—the soft steppe, swaying the grass on some old burial mound, bringing dim dreams of times long past.

From *The Blind Musician*, translated from the Russian by Helen Altshuler

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TLT is thankful to the University of Toronto’s **Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies** for hosting the workshop production of *The ... Musician. An Étude.* in 2012.

ABOUT TORONTO LABORATORY THEATRE

TLT was founded in 2012 in order to support and produce artistic and educational work. Uniting theatre with research in humanities and social sciences, the company aims to bridge the theatre and academic worlds. The company’s mandate is to explore the social and educational benefits of theatre through practice-based research. TLT is an open collective that welcomes ideas that call for unorthodox combinations of theatre practice and theatre research. www.torontolab.org

ABOUT THEÁTRUS

Theátrus is an English-Russian theatre company based in Toronto that was founded in 2013 by Dmitry Zhukovsky a Russian acting coach, teacher, director and producer. The mandate of Theátrus is to explore cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural spheres, particularly with drama and language, English and Russian, studying and performing.