

Veronica Tennant, C.C. Speaker/Performer/Host Bio

Celebrated as a speaker and host as well as an actor, Veronica Tennant joined the Shaw Festival in 1992 in the leading role of Leonard Bernstein's *On the Town*. In 1997, she appeared in the title role in *The Piano Man's Daughter* in a 22 performance national tour with Timothy Findley, Sylvia Tyson and Joe Sealy, directed by Paul Thompson.

On the concert stage, Veronica Tennant has performed extensively as narrator and creator: with The Toronto Symphony and The National Arts Centre Orchestra, and debuted her own musical narrative of *The Nutcracker* with The Vancouver Symphony. Her collaborations of music and spoken word have brought her together with; Denis Brott's Festival de Musique de Chambre de Montreal – in English and French readings of Janacek's and Tchaikovsky's letters with Jean Louis Roux. She created a mixed discipline work; *The Little Match Girl*, combining narration, an original music score by Christopher Donison, launched at Harbourfront Toronto, and on to the Edmonton Symphony, Victoria Symphony and The Vancouver Symphony, and Calgary Philharmonic. Her concert evening *Invitation to the Dance*, which she hosted and directed – was performed with dancers Ronda Nychka & Richard Landry, and musicians Robert Kortgaard & Peter Tiefenbach – in BC, Ontario, New Brunswick, PEI & Nova Scotia.

A frequent guest of James Campbell, Artistic Director of The Festival of the Sound: She performed the late Patrick Cardy's *The Snow Queen* with The St. Lawrence Quartet; and Godfrey Ridout's *Exile* drawn from the journals of Susanna Moodie. She devised and performed with pianist Marc Andre Hamelin, a drama/dance piece, *Maud*, inspired by the journals of Lucy Maud Montgomery, and co-wrote and performed several performances of *Choice and Chance Encounters* with clarinetist, James Campbell, and jazz pianist, Gene DiNovi. Also at "The Sound" and on its United States tour, Miss Tennant narrated Igor Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat*. She performed *Peter and the Wolf* at the festivities opening the new theatre at Festival of the Sound. Tennant was the narrator of *The Weaving Maiden* by esteemed composer, Chan Ka Nin at it's 2006 premiere at the Glenn Gould, by Lawrence Cherney's Soundstreams, and on CBC Radio 11.

A specially commissioned work *Green Steps in Sunshine*, was created for James Campbell and Veronica Tennant, by composer, Andrew MacDonald, was performed and broadcast on CBC Stereo in 1994; in 2009 it was reprised for The Prince Edward County Music Festival. As actor and dancer, other performances include: *An Elizabethan Entertainment* with The Toronto Consort and with the late Nicholas Pennell in Rhombus Media's film, *Satie and Suzanne*, garnering her a Gemini Nomination for Best Performance.

Hailed as a "great communicator", Veronica Tennant has extensive credits as keynote speaker, master of ceremonies and lecturer, which include; addresses to The Canadian Club, The staff of the House of Commons, The Governor General's Performing Arts Awards, hosting Canada Day Protocol Show on Parliament Hill (bilingual), hosting a Gala for Queen Elizabeth II at Roy Thomson Hall, addressing the graduates on the occasion of her honorary degrees, including McGill University in 2005. She has twice been invited to lecture as the 2005 Chancellor's Distinguished Fellow at The University of California, Irvine. Veronica Tennant opened the *Unique Lives* Series as Guest Speaker at Roy Thomson Hall, February 2010.