

# Bill Brennan and Andrea Koziol

## SWEET WILLIAM SOCIETY

*Bill Brennan and Andrea Koziol make music that is elegant, impulsive, sleek, unfiltered, sexy, funky, subtle, caring and as real as it can be. Let these songs into your world and you will have no choice but to be exactly where you are.*  
(Tom Allen, CBC's radio)

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### PROJECT BIO

The group *Sweet William Society* is the latest adventure for long-time musical collaborators vocalist Andrea Koziol and pianist Bill Brennan. Celebrated for an honest and emotive performance style that combines jazz, pop and classical influences, this Newfoundland and Labrador/Ontario-based songwriting team have dozens of albums in their discographies and have performed individually and collectively across Canada and the US for decades.

Their 2019 award winning jazz album *I'll be seeing You* inspired the duo to focus on writing together, and the result of this interprovincial compositional collaboration is their upcoming album *Keep the Faith*. It is a deep and moving collection of songs and meditations that reflect on the living they have done, the people they have loved and the joy that is always available if you look for it.

Joining them on *Bread and Roses* are some of Canada's finest musicians. Gifted double bass player Andrew Downing added his rich voice to the mix, guitarist Rob Piltch brought his masterful atmospheric approach, and drummer/percussionist Davide Direnzo anchored the album with fearless and sensitive groove. The results are unlike anything they have done before and are overwhelmingly special. Sweet William Society is looking forward to sharing their brand-new collection of powerful and intelligent songs with the world in September 2026.

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## **WHO'S ON TOUR?**

### **Bill Brennan (pianist)**

Bill's expertise as a pianist, percussionist, composer and producer can be heard on some 140 albums to date. His album *Kaleidoscope – Music for Mallet Instruments* won the 2024 ECMA and MusicNL Classical Album of the Year awards. Tom Allen of CBC Radio's *It's About Time* writes, "Bill Brennan's *Kaleidoscope* is perfectly named - a constantly shifting, twirling, entrancing and enchanting swirl of beauty and fascination." His recording with Andrea Koziol, *I'll Be Seeing You*, garnered the 2019 MusicNL Jazz and Blues Award. Brennan's album *Solo Piano* received nominations for MusicNL and ECMA Instrumental Album of the Year. His album *Solo Piano 2* won the MusicNL Instrumental album of the year in 2008. Bill's most recent album is "Dreaming in Gamelan", a project with co-composer Andy McNeill. This year saw him win his first Juno as orchestrator of Deantha Edmunds' piece "Angmalukisaa".

Brennan was musical director of CBC's beloved *Vinyl Café*, and a documentary composer for David Suzuki's *The Nature of Things*. Internationally, his work has been formally recognized through prestigious awards and commissions, including the Freddie Stone Memorial Award. Always in demand as a folk and jazz pianist, Brennan performs regularly with his own projects. He has performed across North America and around the world: Indonesia, Austria, Germany, France, Japan, Norway, the Czech Republic, England, Portugal and Switzerland.

Brennan currently directs the award-winning Jazz East Big Band and Gamelan Sagara Asih. More than 40 years of relentless experience have garnered Brennan a solid reputation as a performer, composer and arranger of contemporary classical, jazz, folk and world music — always exploring, always open to new ideas, Brennan's talents resist classification. The Toronto Star says: "Brennan ... is a central figure in this country's music."

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## **WHO'S ON TOUR?**

### **Andrea Koziol (vocalist)**

She is a performing songwriter, improviser and actor based in Toronto Canada. She has 5 solo albums to her name and her most recent release is a jazz collaboration with renowned Newfoundland musician/composer/director Bill Brennan. The pair also have a co-written original record coming out in 2026. She adores her work with The Bartholomaeus Collective which finds her creating and releasing electronica based singles with bassist and composer Ian de Souza. Andrea is a company member of the Canadian touring pops ensemble Jeans'n Classics, and is frequently on the road performing with symphony orchestras across Canada and the United States. She is a collaborative co-writer with numerous artists including Michael Kaeshammer and Ekaterina Shelehova. Her voice and her compositions appear on countless albums, and film/tv/online soundtracks.

Recent theatre credits include: ICE Workshop (JMar Electric 2024), The Cave (Soulpepper/Luminato 2019 and 2022, and the BC touring company 2022). Previous theatre credits include: The Ballad of Tam Lin (Puppetmongers Powell) and The Fantasticks (Victoria Playhouse Petrolia). Awards include: the KM Hunter Award for Music, music residences at Canada's Banff Centre for the Arts and recognition from Canadian arts councils at every level.

### **Andrew Downing (ensemble member schedule permitting)**

Andrew is a Toronto based double bass player, cellist, composer and educator born in London, Ontario in 1973. He plays primarily in the creative jazz scene in Canada, but also performs classical chamber music, improvised music, folk and roots music, and world music. His own projects span a wide variety of styles and practices. Most recently, his group *Utopia Ontario* released its debut album in November 2024. His ensemble *Otterville* was nominated for a Juno Award in 2016, and on the Longer List for the 2017 Polaris Music Prize. He also has a collaborative multi-media project with Canadian songwriter John Southworth and visual artist Yesim Tosuner called Easterween featuring songs written by John and arranged by Andrew for his 7-piece chamber ensemble. He also leads his chamber-jazz ensemble Melodeon, which plays live scores for silent films such as The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari and Phantom of the Opera (with choir). He has won two Junos, two West Coast Music Awards, a Socan Award, and the Grand Prix de Jazz from the Montreal Jazz Festival.

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## STAGE PLOT / TECH REQUIREMENTS

We prefer to tour this project as a trio with piano, vocals and acoustic bass, but a larger ensemble with guitar, drums is available when budgets permit. Duet configuration is also possible.

Trio stage plot available as a downloadable link.

## PRESS / PRESENTER QUOTES

*“...nimble interpretative panache and sure musical taste.”*

(Andrew Timar, The Wholenote)

*“Receiving a standing ovation, the group returned for an encore, once again wowing the crowd with Koziol’s impressive vocal capabilities and Brennan’s radiant piano playing.”*

(Wendy Rose – St. John’s Telegram)

*Koziol is brilliant throughout, and Brennan delivers his trademark honest and rich musical approach. To be savoured for years to come...”*

(Mark Forward – Stratford Summer Music Festival)

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(Tom Allen, host of CBC Radio’s “Shift”)

*Andrea Koziol brings delicate and powerful magic to songs. Teaming up with ivories tinkler Bill Brennan is too tasty. So great that the Chesterfield Inlet duo made their way back to weave their love of a good tune into a luscious music experience.*

(Derek Andrews – Music Curator/Artistic Director/Festival Promoter)

*Andrea Koziol and Bill Brennan gave an unforgettable performance on our stage... that resulted in a wonderful warm energy in the room! Well done!*

(Mary Stewart – General Manager Hugh’s Room Toronto)