

**TOMSON HIGHWAY**

**presents**

**SONGS IN THE KEY OF CREE**



**TOMSON HIGHWAY - PATRICIA CANO - MARCUS ALI**

**EUROPEAN TOUR**

**late April - early May 2017**

Crafted for an audience of 50-200 and sung in Cree, French and English  
this cabaret show features

Tomson Highway - pianist, songwriter, author and living legend

Patricia Cano - one of Canada's powerful new voices

Marcus Ali - the amazing Toronto saxophonist



# Tomson Highway

[www.tomsonhighway.com](http://www.tomsonhighway.com) — official web-site



## Songs in the Key of Cree

*Songs in the Key of Cree* is a cabaret - in essence a concert of 14 songs from Mr. Highway's musical plays: *The Sage, the Dancer, and the Fool*; *Rose*; *The (Post) Mistress*; and songs from a new musical creation

Think Kurt Weill or Cole Porter ...  
(his main inspirations)  
...with Cree lyrics !

For samples of Mr. Highway's compositions  
with Patricia Cano and Marcus Ali  
please visit  
<https://soundcloud.com/tomsonhighway>

Tomson Highway Official Website  
<http://www.tomsonhighway.com/index.html>

SMALL VENUE TOUR  
50-200 seats

ONLY 2 WEEKS IN EUROPE !  
April 24 to May 9, 2017



# Tomson Highway

Tomson Highway was born in a snow bank on the Manitoba/Nunavut border to a family of nomadic caribou hunters. He had the great privilege of growing up in two languages: Cree, his mother tongue, and Dene, the language of the neighbouring nation, a people with whom they travelled and hunted.

His parents, with no access to books, TV or radio, would tell their children stories, and Tomson fell in love with the oral tradition of storytelling. When he was six, he was taken from his family and placed in residential school. Although he resented being taken away from his parents, he did learn music, and had plans to become a concert pianist.



Tomson enjoys an international career as playwright, novelist, pianist, and songwriter. His critically acclaimed works include the plays, "THE REZ SISTERS," "DRY LIPS OUGHTA MOVE TO KAPUSKASING," "ROSE," "ERNESTINE SHUSWAP GETS HER TROUT," and the best-selling novel, "KISS OF THE FUR QUEEN."

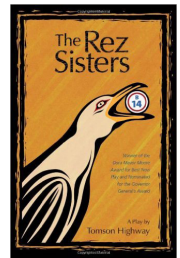
For many years, Tomson ran Canada's premiere Native theatre company, Native Earth Performing Arts (based in Toronto), out of which emerged an entire generation of professional Indigenous playwrights, actors and many Native theatre companies in Canada.

As one of Canada's most accomplished Indigenous writers and musicians, Tomson holds ten honorary doctorates from universities across Canada. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the National Aboriginal Achievement Award and the Order of Canada, which recognizes his outstanding contribution to the arts.



# Speaking Engagements

Tomson Highway is available to speak on a variety of subjects.



More on Tomson Highway:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsSZiZxKCmY>

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/highway-tomson/>

<http://www.macleans.ca/culture/in-conversation-with-tomson-highway/>

Tomson can lecture on topics including: Canadian literature, Aboriginal literature, Canadian drama, world mythology, music, diversity in the workplace, racial diversity, Canadian native residential schools, world travel, and other topics on request. A speaking fee will be negotiated.

Please also visit <http://www.tomsonhighway.com/speaking.html>

# The Players



## PATRICIA CANO | VOCALIST

Patricia Cano was born in Sudbury, Ontario where she grew up in a Peruvian household. Upon graduating from the University of Toronto in Theatre and Spanish Literature, Patricia spent five years working in Paris, France with the world-renowned theatre company Le Théâtre du soleil, during which time she travelled to Seoul to study traditional South Korean folk singing and drumming. Patricia has also spent time in Rio de Janeiro listening, playing, singing and feeling her way through the exceptional Carioca music scene!

In 2009, Patricia launched her singing career here at home with her debut album called “This is the New World”, co-created — in four languages — with her Brazilian musical partner, Carlos Bernardo. This album won “Best Album — Solo artist” at the NOMFA 2011 (North Ontario Music & Film Award Conference).

Check out these amazing links to hear the incredible Patricia Cano perform.....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCx3c6uY0Kw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrDf6aJiBHY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPlgpKsaCqE>

## MARCUS ALI | SAXOPHONE

Marcus Ali is a Toronto-based saxophonist and a graduate of York University’s jazz program. A versatile musician who is equally at home in a wide range of genres, he has played on over sixty albums on a variety of woodwinds (saxophones, flutes, clarinets, West African flutes, tin whistles). He has performed, toured, and recorded with dozens of bands including Grand Prix de Jazz award winner Nick Ali and Cruzao, Matt Dusk, Mr Something Something, Orquesta Fantasia, Tomson Highway, and The Composers Collective Big Band. Currently Marcus can be heard with the Ali Bros, Grüvoria, DRUMHAND, Soldiers of Song—a tribute to the Dumbbells and multi-Juno nominated Jason Wilson. He has toured extensively across Canada as well as throughout the US, the UK, the Caribbean and Japan.

