

The Tárogató Project

Building a uniquely British Columbian Repertoire for the Tárogató

The Tárogató Project is fundamentally a refugee story. This year marks the 60th anniversary of an event that put to flight more than 200,000 Hungarians as the hope of democratic reform in their native country was crushed.

At the time, Canada held to a time-honoured yet xenophobic immigration policy. But as the Hungary Revolution foundered under the onslaught of Soviet tanks, Canadians opened their hearts and doors to an unprecedented number of refugees. In the early months of 1957, thousands of Hungarians arrived on over 200 chartered flights¹. At the University of British Columbia, the entire teaching staff and student body from the University of Sopron's Department of Forestry arrived *en masse*², thus forming (for a time) North America's only Hungarian-language forestry classes³.

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the arrival of the Hungarians to Vancouver, *The Tárogató Project* will premier two new works of music by local composers featuring that most Hungarian of instruments – the tárogató. While the composers (Jeffrey Ryan and Adam Hill) are Canadian, the tárogató will form the cultural bridge between Old World and New. *The Tárogató Project* will culminate in a concert in which I perform these new works alongside participation by local Hungarian cultural and refugee advocacy groups. The concert programme will also include concert works by great Hungarian composers such as Kodály, Liszt, and Bartók.

Below, you'll find a timeline for *The Tárogató Project*, which is designed to follow the events of the refugees from their native Hungary to Canada*.

Jason Hall, Vancouver



¹ *A Hundred Years of Immigration to Canada 1900 - 1999 (part 2)*. 1994, <http://ccrweb.ca/en/hundred-years-immigration-canada-part-2>. Accessed 27 Aug. 2016.






² *Canada, Citizenship Government of. Forging Our Legacy: Canadian Citizenship and Immigration, 1900–1977*. 1 July 2006, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/legacy/chap-5b.asp>. Accessed 13 Aug. 2016.

³ *The Sopron Division of the Faculty of Forestry*. UBC, Faculty of Forestry, <http://www.forestry.ubc.ca/general-information/ubc-forestry-history/sopron-story/>. Accessed 27 Aug. 2016.

* Note: This is the timeline as I put it to the BC Arts Council; therefore, it is subject to change.

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Timeline								
Planning	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
1956			 <p>Start of Hungarian Revolution.</p>	 <p>Soviet troops enter Budapest. Many people from the western city of Sopron flee to Austria.</p>	 <p>Dean of Forest Dept. (Univ. of Sopron) petitions 20 countries for place to continue studies.</p>	 <p>1957 - UBC Dept. of Forestry accepts all faculty and students.</p>	 <p>Sopron refugees adjust to new life in Canada.</p>	
2016	BCAC Grant requested sum received.	Begin Phase #1: Meet with composers. Workshop #1 - Jason, Milan, Jeffrey, Adam	Collaborate with Turning Point Ensemble (TPE). Work with student composers. Workshop #2 - Jason, Jeffrey.	End Phase #1: Composers work on compositions. TPE student performance.	Music written and parts printed.	2017 - Begin Phase #2 - Rehearsals for St. Philips concert. Finalize Sopron story presentation.	New commissions performed on concert at St. Philip's Anglican Church (Dunbar).	End Phase #2 and project: Report submitted to all stakeholders.