



VEDA HILLE

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BOOKING & MANAGEMENT

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*She prays for the
miracle of radio but
there's just the rain's
soft staccato. oh good.
another warm wet night.*

- Driven, Path of a Body, 1994

Veda Hille was born in 1968 in Vancouver Canada. She started playing piano when she was 6. Her family moved around a lot, from the city to the country and back again. Veda ran around in the woods and the streets, practiced piano, read books, used her Junior Scientist Microscope, and thought that maybe she would be a psychiatrist.

First she played classical music. Then came pop music, and a few years of jazz. There was the ill-fated year as an inept lounge musician. Then Veda went to art school. She studied sculpture, film, and performance art. She also worked as a cook. She began to get a handle on the idea of making things. She put that idea together with the music idea, and started writing songs in 1990. It became pretty obvious that she would not be a psychiatrist.

Veda put out an indie cassette in 1992. People liked it and she started playing around town. She slowly started the business of touring Canada, and also began a long relationship with the Canadian modern dance scene. In 1994 she released her first cd, and has released an album roughly every 18 months since then. By the time she started working with her current band (assembled in 1997) she was regularly touring Canada, the US, and Germany. Touring and recording and various special projects have kept her busy ever since.

Veda plays piano and tenor guitar, dabbles in banjo, accordion, and protocols, and has a new love affair going on with a nord electro keyboard and a handful of casios. She writes about the natural world, the trickiness of love, the constant threat of tragedy, and anything else that amazes her.

Lately the Hille empire has been diversifying further. Veda is a member of two new bands: **Duplex!** (rock music for kids) and **The Fits** (vaudeville duets). She continues to make her own records, and does so in cahoots with **Ape Records**, run by XTC's Andy Partridge. Her new album, *This Riot Life*, will be released on Ape in early 2008, and will be followed by touring in Canada, the UK, and Europe. Veda is the in-house composer for Theatre Replacement and collaborates with them on at least one show per year. She has also been performing with the CBC Radio Orchestra, writing for the Leaky Heaven Circus, and working on a new choral piece for the Winnipeg New Music Festival. Stay tuned, because as Veda frequently admits in her music and her life, nobody knows what the heck is going to happen next.



Canada Council
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*She was nice to me.
I was nice to her.
I liked her pretty dress.
She liked my pretty fur.*

- Queen of the Many, Return of the Kildeer,
2005

ART SONGS ON PARADE *or* THE LIVE SHOWS

THE INTIMATE SOLO SHOW

Veda performs solo on tenor guitar, piano, and assorted keyboards. She presents a compelling survey of her own work and a few choice covers. Her record *Field Study* has a specially designed formal show for small theatres and art spaces. In 2000 Veda commissioned Vancouver video artist Shawn Chappelle to make a 50 minute video that accompanies the music from *Field Study*. The video, constructed from footage shot in the northern landscapes of Canada, is projected on a large screen behind Veda as she plays the music on a grand piano. It is a mesmerizing moving picture show.

"Hille is one of the most acclaimed artists in the country- visceral, luminescent, fierce, haunting, and with talent to burn . . . seeing her live is like discovering that the giant talking wizard's head actually is a giant talking wizard's head."

- Anna Lemond, The Coast, Halifax

"She's a gift from God, or at least from Canada."

- The Independent, Santa Barbara, CA

The songs from *Here is a picture*, an album about Canadian painter Emily Carr, can also be performed as a formal set, either with the band or by Veda on her own.

THE SWELL BAND

Veda's current touring band consists of Martin Walton (bass), Skye Brooks (drums) and Patsy Klein (vocals, flute, toys). They are sometimes joined by any or all of the following: Barry Mirochnick (drums, yes that's right, two drummers!), Ford Pier (guitar), Peggy Lee (cello), Jesse Zubot (violin), and AK Coope (clarinet). These people are all superb players, and most of them have been working with Veda for well over a decade. The skill and camaraderie they have together is evident on *This Riot Life*, where they played as a live ensemble in studio.

"Superb musicians, ecstatic music . . . your total teamwork is absolutely inspiring for us in the effort of creating architecture."

Bjorn, a Swedish architect, after a show in Berlin

"A gifted player and composer, with a crack band to match."

Hot Press, England



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7. *To all peaks carry water.*
8. *Clean the wound, and take note of the metal.*
9. *Buy what you can.*

- Instructions, Spine, 1996

THE RECORDS

***This Riot Life*, 2008**

A record of personal ecstatic hymns and rallying cries, performed by a stellar 9 piece band and many special guests. Released on Ape Records.*

***Return of the Kildeer*, 2005**

A lushly orchestrated collection of songs, Veda's first release on Ape Records*.

***Escape Songs*, 2004**

A minimalist computer manipulated album of tiny songs, made with Christof Migone.

***Auditorium*, 2002**

A live recording of Veda and her band and guests, taken from two nights at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre.

***Silver*, 2002**

A quick and dirty document of the song cycle written for the Vancouver Folk Music Festival. Made as a limited edition of 500, out of print.

***Field Study*, 2001**

A solo album of songs about science and nature.

***You do not live in this world alone*, 1999**

An epic band recording. A collection of fairy tales for adults.

***Here is a picture*, 1998**

A song cycle about the Canadian painter Emily Carr.

***Spine*, 1996**

Veda's dark pop record. Made with a fine cast of Canadian musicians.

***Live at women in (E)motion*, 1996**

A document of two performances in Bremen, Germany.

***Path of a body*, 1994**

Veda's first full length cd.

***Songs about people and buildings*, 1992**

The independent cassette that started the whole shebang. Out of print.

All albums except *Escape Songs* are available in Canada through Festival Distribution.

*www.apes.uk.net



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small cells
clump together
to share the work of
living
food to keep from being

- carnage, Field Study, 2001

COMPLETED ASSIGNMENTS

Veda has been composing for dance, film, theatre and special events since 1994.
Here is a selection of recent projects.

2007

Performed songs by Buffy Sainte Marie with the CBC Radio Orchestra, arrangements by Giorgio Magnanensi.
Composed the score and songs for Theatre Replacement's *Yufu!*.
Premiered the songs from *This Riot Life* as commissioned by the PuSH Festival, Vancouver.

2006

Produced Bob Bossin's album *The Roses on Annie's Table*.
Scored Bonnie Klein's NFB film *Shameless: The ART of Disability*.
Wrote songs for Theatre Replacement's *Sexual Practices of the Japanese*.

2005

Created a karaoke score for Theatre Replacement's *The Empty Orchestra*, received a Jessie nomination (Vancouver's theatre awards).

2004

Wrote and performed a lecture at Trampoline Hall (NYC) and at The Longest Night (Whitehorse) entitled *Our Animal Friends*.

2003

Wrote and performed the song cycle *LuckLucky* in honour of the Vancouver East Cultural Centre's 30th anniversary.
Music director for the Guild Theatre's production of *Hair* (Whitehorse).

2002

Wrote songs for Sean Dixon's play *The Death of the Finance Minister's Mother*
Wrote and performed the song cycle *silver* in honour of the Vancouver Folk Music Festival's 25th anniversary.

2001

Wrote and directed a short film *Happyland* as part of the Vancouver Crazy8s project.

2000

Took part in The Yukon Journey, curated by the Yukon Arts Centre. Spent three weeks in the northern territories of Canada, with the resulting commission being *Yukon Suite*, recorded on the album *Field Study*.

1998

Commissioned by Mascall Dance (Vancouver) to write the score for a full-length modern dance piece *The Brutal Telling* about Canadian painter Emily Carr, recorded on the album *Here is a Picture*.