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## Composer's public transit cross-country tour reaches North Bay

### 'Dark' concert to draw attention to environmental issues

Posted By MARIA CALABRESE The Nugget

Updated 20 days ago



Toronto composer Frank Horvat warms up at Brava Music Studios Saturday evening as part of his 'sustainable' Green Keys Tour to raise awareness about environmental issues. MARIA CALABRESE The Nugget

Frank Horvat looked out his window in Toronto's west end and saw gridlock on Lake Shore Boulevard, a major artery along the city's waterfront.

"I'm just thinking to myself how many people are in those cars right now that could be on the streetcar or on the subway . . . and they're sitting in a traffic jam with their exhaust spewing," he said during a phone interview from his home earlier this week.

By the time the weekend is over, the composer and pianist will have taken three buses in four days to perform three concerts along the Highway 11 corridor in hopes of inspiring others to think about their actions and encourage them to make sustainable choices.

Horvat was in North Bay Saturday night at Brava Music Studios as part of The Green Keys Tour which started in March and will wrap up more than 50 cities later in 2011 to promote his new CD of original compositions A Little Dark Music.

He's a member of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association and offered to give a workshop to the roughly 20 members of the organization's North Bay branch.

"He did it on improvisation and composition which for us teachers is not something that we're really taught about," said Beth Chartrand, president of the local branch.

ASIDE

Frank Horvat

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When I was ten, I not unlike many young boys had a flare for doing things that more often than not injured me. I had been scraped, bruised, and bloody more times than I care to remember; and being a kid from the country it was almost expected. The worst injury I sustained during my youth was only

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**Take this job and....**  
The other day I strolled into a Mike's Mart, the door bell jingled as I walked through and the girl behind the counter smiled the familiar beam of, "this is my job, and I have to smile at you." Once I had found my items I made my way to the counter through the maze of shelves each design

**Pretty Sad..**  
Its nice to see everyone going ahead and making plans so that your loved ones do not have to when you pass but it is pretty sad that the government taxes you all three your life.. and once you are dead.. One thing I think should not be a part of this HST it is Ridiculous ..

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**North Bay Tennis Centre to Host 2 Open Houses**  
Tennis is becoming more popular as a social, competitive, recreational, and physical outlet for athletes and sport enthusiasts. Many people follow the ATP tour on

"The teachers that were all here were quite enthusiastic about it. It was all things we can use in our own studios. That's what a good workshop is all about."

Horvat's style is at times chaotic and frenzied, and grows surprisingly melodic. The 60-minute piece Earth Hour was composed in the dark and is performed that way to encourage his audience to become introspective instead of hitting them over the head with a green message to reduce their carbon footprint.

"Just because you have a fuel-efficient car doesn't mean that you're not polluting or that you're not emitting carbon," he said.


To make his point, his Toyota Prius Hybrid is parked at home while his tour relies mainly on public transportation, carbon offsets and a few plane trips as a last resort.

Horvat describes himself as "outdoorsy" with a soft heart that prevents him from shaking off the injustice he sees around him, everything from littering to poverty.

He and his wife live in a draft-proofed century home with a programmable thermostat. They also buy their electricity from tour sponsor Bullfrog Power which invests in renewable energy like wind and hydro.

He bristles at the belief that going green is expensive, pointing out this has been Canada's position for not signing climate accords.

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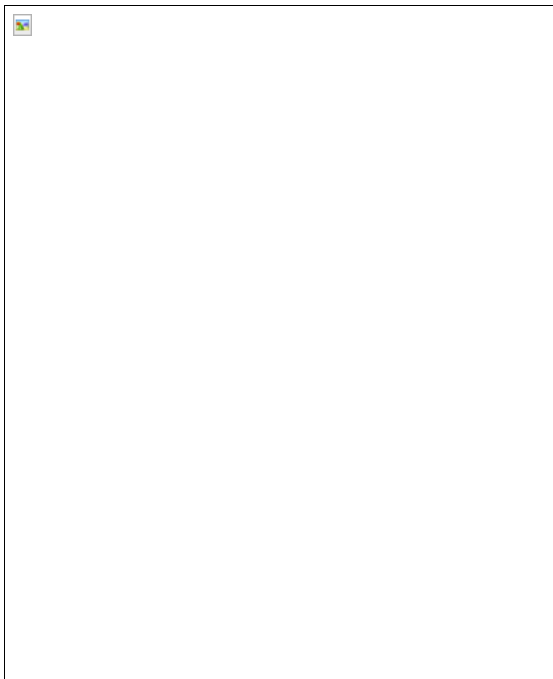
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"They're looking at it as a liability when we would probably make money and create jobs off this," Horvat said.

"The only thing that I know how to do is play piano and write music and share music . . . If people listen to it and become influenced by it or inspired by it . . . then I guess I feel like a winner and that I did accomplish something."

Horvat does not charge an admission fee for his concerts, preferring to donate 25% of proceeds from CD sales to the World Wildlife Fund - Canada.

[mcalabrese@nugget.ca](mailto:mcalabrese@nugget.ca)



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In hope to attract new faces to the centre and the sport, The North Bay Tennis Centre is offering free tennis clinics for both juniors

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If Legislation hasn't yet passed why are drug stores raising their prices - isn't this a form of double dipping - hello, they are still

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