

# Contents

*Acknowledgements* xiii

Introduction 1

## The Repertoire

**Daniel T. Williams (ca. 1840–1887)** 39

Notebook 1872–1875 41

Letter to Hudson's Bay Company Factor, George Kennedy, April 12,  
1873 42

**Alfred Schmitz Shadd (1870–1915)** 43

To the Electors of the District of Kinistino 45

Defamation 46

Sorry but Happy 47

**Mildred Jane Lewis Ware (1871–1905)** 48

Letter May 4, 1898 50

Letter June 6, 1898 50

Letter June 20, 1899 51

**Reverend George Washington Slater, Jr. (1873–1940)** 52

Why I Became a Socialist 55

Emancipation 57

Our Negro Citizens (April 17, 1922) 59

**William Sylvester Alpheus Beal (1874–1968)** 62

Big Woody 64

3 Glass-Plate Photographs 63

- Rosa Shannon (ca. 1880–1931)** 70  
From *Window of Our Memories*: “We gave our lives to this part of the country” 70
- Alice Ethel Lewis (1886–1960)** 74  
In Loving Memory of Alberta 74
- Jefferson Davis Edwards (1888–1979)** 76  
From *Window of Our Memories*: “There was a cloud over Amber Valley” 77
- John Bell Bowden (1888–1982)** 82  
Interview with Velma Carter: “Always be a factor in the community!” 83
- Sylvester Long (1890–1932)** 88  
My Trail Upward 90  
From *Long Lance: The Autobiography of a Blackfoot Indian Chief* 96  
Canoe Song 102  
Death Song of Long Lance 103
- Martha Edwards (1890–1977)** 105  
From *Window of Our Memories*: “That is what pioneers had to go through” 106
- Amanda Janet (Nettie) Ware (1893–1989)** 108  
John Ware 109
- E.A. Cobbs (dates unknown)** 114  
Black Cultural Research Society Interview: “This bias was good, for it caused the black people to fight” 115
- Ellis Hooks (1907–1979)** 120  
From the Provincial Archives of Alberta Oral History Project: “The way I felt, I wanted to plead guilty: I wanted the world to know” 121
- Luther Gerard (1914–2004)** 127  
From *Window of Our Memories*: “Community spirit” 127
- Woody Strode (1914–1994)** 133  
From *Goal Dust* 134
- Lloyd Mayes (1916–ca. 1972)** 145  
From *North of the Gully*: “Homebrew” 145
- Golder (“Goldie”) Gordon (dates unknown)** 150  
From *North of the Gully*: “Even the bad was good” 150

- Gwendolyn Hooks (1920–2018)** 155  
 From *The Keystone Legacy: Recollections of a Black Settler*: “We were considered Indians” 156
- Fil Fraser (1932–1917)** 160  
 From *Alberta’s Camelot: Culture & the Arts in the Loughheed Years*: “Alberta’s own Quiet Revolution” 163
- Claire Harris (1937–2018)** 174  
 From *Drawing Down a Daughter* 176
- Addena Sumter-Freitag (1944–)** 183  
 From *Stay Black & Die* 184
- Linus Tongwo Asong (1947–2012)** 190  
 From *No Way to Die* 191
- Nigel Darbasie (1950–)** 202  
 Our Subdivision 203  
 Pan Man 203  
 New Terra 205
- Tololwa M. Mollel (1952–)** 206  
 Feasting on Words 207  
 Canada Dry 217
- Selwyn Jacob (ca. 1950s–)** 220  
 A Filmmaker’s Journey to an Untold Story 221
- F.B. André (1955–)** 224  
 Is There Someone You Can Call? 225
- Cheryl Foggo (1956–)** 232  
 From *Pourin’ Down Rain* 234  
 From *John Ware Reimagined* 240
- Lawrence Hill (1957–)** 251  
 Meet You at the Door 253
- Margaret Robinson-Gudmundson (1957–)** 267  
 The Severance 268
- George Bwanika Seremba (1958–)** 275  
 From *Come Good Rain* 276
- Valerie Mason-John (1962–)** 297  
 Self Portrait Two 299  
 Yellowknifed 300

- Nduka Otiono (1964–)** 302  
    Homeland Securities 303  
    Archive Fever 305  
    University of Work 307
- Sheila Addiscott (1964–)** 309  
    Coloured 310
- Suzette Mayr (1967–)** 316  
    From *Monoceros* 318  
    From *Dr. Edith Vane and the Hares of Crawley Hall* 323
- Dawn Carter (1968–)** 333  
    Restoration 334  
    A Monumental Love 335  
    Get into My Car 336
- Minister Faust (1969–)** 338  
    From *The Coyote Kings of the Space-Age Bachelor Pad* 339  
    From *The Alchemists of Kush* 344
- Deanna Bowen (1969–)** 354  
    sum of the parts that can be named 355
- Bertrand Bickersteth (1969–)** 366  
    Accidental Agriculture 367  
    What We Used to Call It 369  
    We, Too 370  
    The Invisible Man on the Prairies 371
- Troy B. Bailey (ca. 1960s–)** 373  
    From *The Pierre Bonga Loops* 374
- Wakefield Brewster (1972–)** 379  
    i can 380  
    mediumz 383
- Odario Williams (Mood Ruff) (1972–)** 387  
    Front from the Past, Pt. II 388  
    Front from the Past, Pt. III 390
- Bola Opaleke (1973–)** 393  
    The Autobiography of Water 394
- Chantal Hitayezu (birthdate unknown)** 398  
    My Grandfather's Poem, My Grandmother's Dance 398
- Ian Samuels (1975–)** 404  
    From *The Ubiquitous Big* 405

- Kaie Kellough (1975–)** 409  
     boy hood dub II 410  
     night gallery 413  
     vox versus 415
- Georges Edy Laraque (1976–)** 418  
     From *Georges Laraque: The Story of the NHL's Unlikeliest Tough Guy* 420
- Esi Edugyan (1978–)** 430  
     From *The Second Life of Samuel Tyne* 432
- Nestor Wyrush (Elliott Walsh) (1978–)** 439  
     Winnipeg South Blues 440  
     Ole Mine Town 444
- Nehal El-Hadi (1979–)** 446  
     Djinn in Saskatchewan 447  
     La Puerta 448
- Francisco Alexander Fwallah (ca. 1980s–)** 459  
     Na Corrente do rio (“In the River Flow,” trans. Erin Mouré) 460  
     Aquila que Mereces (“What You Deserve,” trans. Erin Mouré) 460
- Michelle Jean-Paul (1980–)** 462  
     Learning to Love Me 463
- Marika Warner (1981–)** 466  
     From *Mulatto Nation* 467
- Lisa Codrington (1982–)** 481  
     From *Cast Iron* 482
- Khodi Dill (1983–)** 494  
     Grey 495  
     Holes 497  
     Oil and Water 499
- Ahmed Ali (Knowmadic) (1984–)** 501  
     Child Soldier 502
- Tchitala Nyota Kamba (ca. 1984–)** 504  
     Récit d’un voyageur: Rêve ou utopie (“Tale of a Traveler: Dream or Utopia,” trans. Erin Mouré) 505  
     Makala! (Trans. Erin Mouré) 511  
     Je suis d’ici, je suis d’ailleurs (“I’m from Here; I’m from Over There,” trans. Erin Mouré) 514

**Títílopé Sónúgà (1985–) 519**

Grandpa Igbobi 520

Sacrifice 521

**Roland (Rollie) Pemberton (Cadence Weapon) (1986–) 526**

Oliver Square 527

30 Seconds 529

How Black? 531

**Frank Fontaine (Young Kidd) (1988–) 534**

Wonderful Winnipeg 535

Hometown 537

**Miranda Martini (1990–) 540**

The Drinking Gourd: Three Tales 541

*Works Cited* 549

*Copyright Acknowledgements* 567

*Index of Authors and Titles* 573