

Chamber music up close and personal

23 SEASON 24

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VIRTUOSi
CONCERTS

Letter from the Directors



Dear Listeners,

This is your invitation to join us for a season of musical brilliance that will leave you inspired and moved. We have prepared a series of carefully crafted concerts to captivate the most discerning audiences with a perfect blend of technical mastery, artistic expression, and emotional depth. The stories that are currently shaping classical music will be told here, providing truly unforgettable musical experiences for all curious listeners.

With a fresh perspective, Virtuosi Concerts continues our tradition of presenting up-close and personal encounters with classical music in an intimate setting. The venue for each concert has been chosen to reflect the acoustic nature of the performance and to provide access and comfort to you, our valued audience.

When you subscribe to the season, you become part of Virtuosi's community. Your participation in the season through subscription, ticket purchase, or donation is immensely appreciated as we embark on this next chapter together. Please also save the date for our December concert with the incredible Winnipeg Boys' Choir, which doubles as a seasonal fundraising party!

Join us this season for the intimate conversation of chamber music—the music of friends.

Sincerely,

Heather Lewis
Executive Director

Jennifer Thiessen
Artistic Director

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023 • 7:30 PM
St. Andrew's River Heights United Church

The Voice of the Cello

STÉPHANE TÉTREAULT, *cello* & SANDRA MURRAY, *piano*

The cello is one of the more versatile instruments, and the love expressed for the instrument by composers past and present proves this fact. In this musical voyage across Europe, you will hear a sumptuous collection of transcendent and virtuosic works, both classics and discoveries, in the hands of the electrifying Canadian cellist Stéphane Tétréault.

Join Stéphane as he teams up with pianist Sandra Murray and his 1707 Stradivarius cello to explore the rich capabilities of the cello as it recounts the voices of composers who strived to put forth a musical authenticity. Finding one's voice in life is always a grand and meaningful undertaking, and these master composers knew how to do it best.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023 • 7:30 PM
St. Andrew's River Heights United Church

Pizzicato Landscapes

NEW ORFORD STRING QUARTET: ANDREW WAN &
JONATHAN CROW, *violins*; SHARON WEI, *viola*; BRIAN MANKER, *cello*

Four musicians with equally stellar pedigrees form the New Orford String Quartet. The result is an ensemble that maintains a remarkably fresh perspective while bringing a palpable sense of joy to each performance, described by the Toronto Star as “nothing short of electrifying.” This captivating program showcases the diverse ways in which the pizzicato technique of plucking the strings shapes the expressive landscapes

of string quartet music as demonstrated by Caroline Shaw’s *Blueprint*, Ana Sokolovic’s *Commedia delle’arte*, Ludwig van Beethoven’s *Harp quartet*, and Maurice Ravel’s *String Quartet in F major*. Throughout this program, pizzicato serves as a powerful tool for creating unique sonic dimensions in the string quartet repertoire of the past and present.



FUNDRAISER



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023 • 2:30 PM

Westworth United Church

A Virtuosi fundraising concert followed by a wine reception

Winter With You

WINNIPEG BOYS' CHOIR;

MONICA HUISMAN, *soprano; with strings & piano*

This essential mid-winter concert features the beloved Winnipeg Boys' Choir in their 99th season alongside the exceptional Dutch-Canadian soprano soloist Monica Huisman, with strings and piano. Let your heart be lifted and your own voice be raised on the exquisitely beautiful melodies and soaring descants

of seasonal works by J.S. Bach, G.F. Handel, Adolf Adam, Dan Forrest, Pink Zebra and more. This concert is programmed in addition to the regular season, with admission by donation and proceeds going to support Virtuosi's continued artistic activities. We can't wait to celebrate Winter With You.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024 • 2:30 PM
St. Andrew's River Heights United Church

Roots & Branches Mentorship Concert Project

PATRICIA VANUCI, *cello*; CAMRYN DEWAR, *soprano*; & MENTORS

The Mentorship Concert is back! Now in its second year, this concert is an opportunity for emerging classical musicians on the brink of their careers to work side-by-side with professional mentors in a chamber music ensemble. This year's brilliant emerging artists, cellist Patricia Vanuci and soprano Camryn Dewar, have been chosen through

our Young Artist Program application process and will be joined by professional chamber musicians to perform a riveting program of classical and contemporary works. Keep your eye out for the announcement of the mentor musicians and details of the program this autumn! This program is made possible with the support of the Manitoba Arts Council.





THURSDAY, FEB 1, 2024 • 7:30 PM
**Muriel Richardson Auditorium,
Winnipeg Art Gallery**

Moon Hunter

WU FEI: *guzheng virtuoso, vocalist, composer*

Prepare to be spellbound! Wu Fei's original work and improvisations will be woven together with traditional guzheng repertoire, folk songs, and Chinese opera, taking inspiration and influence from the old to create the new. All the pieces will be accompanied by brief educational descriptions by Wu Fei that encompass the history of the guzheng beginning more than 2,500 years ago, the regional linguistic character of different singing styles of the Chinese

operas, and Fei's own explorative improvisations and experiences of cross-cultural collaborations around the globe. Wu Fei's solo concerts are pure magic, driven by sensitivity, charisma, and virtuosity. You won't want to miss this rare opportunity to hear Wu Fei's solo recital in the same week as her appearance with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra! Presented in collaboration with the Winnipeg New Music Festival.



SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024 • 7:30 PM

Muriel Richardson Auditorium, Winnipeg Art Gallery

With sick and famish'd eyes

JONATHON ADAMS, *baritone*; & COLLABORATORS

In this offering of 17th century devotional song, traditional Indigenous musics, and their own poetry, Cree-Métis baritone Jonathon Adams imagines the intersection of culture, sound, and identity at the moment of first contact between their Cree ancestors and English colonizers at the mouth of the Nelson and Hayes rivers in northern Manitoba. As a soloist, Jonathon has performed gems of the baroque repertoire with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Collegium

Vocale Gent, Tafelmusik, and many others, while working with institutions such as the University of Toronto, Bard College, and Early Music Vancouver around themes of anti-coloniality, and right relations within the field of 'historically informed performance.' Please join Jonathon and their collaborators for an evening of story-singing as they weave with the legacies of colonial trauma and the ancient, resurgent voices of this occupied land and water.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024 • 2:30 PM
St. Andrew's River Heights United Church

Café Music

BOREALIS PIANO TRIO: OLEG POKHANOVSKI, *violin*;
MINNA ROSE CHUNG, *cello*; JUDITH KEHLER SIEBERT, *piano*

An all-star ensemble of professors from the Desautels Faculty of Music present an enticing program of dance-inspired works for piano trio. These three brilliant musical minds will share their in-depth research on works by Paul Schoenfeld, Florence Price, Alexander

Rosenblatt, Christos Hatzis and more while knocking your socks off with show-stopping virtuosity. This energetic program by powerhouse players who live right here in Winnipeg will literally move you!



SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024 • 2:30 PM

Muriel Richardson Auditorium, Winnipeg Art Gallery

Romantic Fantasy

CLAIRE HUANGCI, *piano*

Come and be transported by a vivid program of Romantic works, interpreted with irrepressible curiosity and imagination. The American pianist Claire Huangci, winner of the 2018 Geza Anda Competition, continuously captivates audiences with her “radiant virtuosity, artistic sensitivity, keen interactive sense

and subtle auditory dramaturgy” (Salzburger Nachrichten). This concert of works by the great composers of the Romantic piano is your ticket to encounter Claire in an intimate recital setting after her concerto program with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra! Presented in collaboration with the WSO.



CHOOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE

All prices inclusive of GST.

7-concert adult membership	\$260 x _____ = \$ _____
5-concert adult membership	\$210 x _____ = \$ _____
7-concert under-30 membership	\$185 x _____ = \$ _____
5-concert under-30 membership	\$155 x _____ = \$ _____

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CONTACT VIRTUOSI CONCERTS

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Buy tickets at VirtuosiConcerts.ca

VIRTUOSi

CONCERTS

CONNECT WITH THE MUSIC

Virtuosi Concerts is thrilled to present 7 live in-person concerts for the 2023/2024 season, and a very special holiday fundraising concert, featuring outstanding classical artists from across Canada and the United States.

- Pick from 7 unforgettable season concerts
- Enjoy our December fundraising concert with the Winnipeg Boys' Choir
- Pre-Concert Chats

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS

- Savings of up to 20% over casual tickets (\$47).
- Bring a Friend! 7-Concert members receive 1 free admission to a concert of their choice.
- Free ticket exchanges.
- Instalment payments available.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

