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under the stars



July 10-16, 2021

COLLINGWOOD SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL

with DRIVE-IN CONCERTS

COLLINGWOODFESTIVAL.COM



Philipe Turenne (age 4): March 2021
Wnner of the Youth Art Contest

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Dear Patrons and Friends,

We are thrilled to provide you with yet another summer of world-class music performances during what has been a particularly challenging time for arts organizations. Our amazing board and wonderful group of volunteers have been working tirelessly behind the scenes, in order to provide you with bona-fide, memorable music experiences.

We are especially proud of the new multi-disciplinary approach the Collingwood Summer Music Festival has taken in 2021: this year brings to Collingwood six brilliant Indigenous artists, three Canadian Premieres, two fine local painters who paint to music, two renowned poets, a series of free morning events for youth, two insightful movie screenings about the many distinctive cultural traditions of Indigenous people – and much more!

We looking forward to hosting artists who have already graced Collingwood's stages in the past, such as Mayumi Seiler, Serouj Kradjian and Nagata Shachu, while at the same time welcoming those with Collingwood debuts, such as the National Academy Orchestra of Canada led by Boris Brott, Vera Pavlova and Joyce El-Khoury.

Enjoy our live events from the safety of your car or home with $10 from every drive-in ticket going toward the Unison Benevolent Fund, a charity that alleviates the hardships experienced by many Canadian musicians as a result of the pandemic.

Yours Sincerely,

Daniel Vnukowski (Vnoo-koff-skee)
Artistic Director



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Collingwood Summer Music Festival. Like events everywhere this past year, the format may have changed somewhat. But, be assured, the focus remains on providing world-class music performances by award-winning, internationally-renowned artists.

Whether you enjoy this week-long digital experience from the comfort of your home, or in the back seat of your car at the New Life Church drive-in, I am confident that the presentations you attend will be memorable and world calibre.

We are fortunate to benefit from Daniel Vnukowski's vision of bringing top musicians and performers to our community each year to share their artistic talents. Whether your tastes run to jazz, classical or world music, or all of these, the Festival appeals to all audiences. And, it offers added advantages including seminars and workshops for up-and-coming students throughout the region.

I am proud that this year's event is financially assisted by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, a program of the Government of Ontario. And, I invite you to support all of the other sponsors and partners for their generous contributions to this worthy annual experience.

Have a wonderful festival.

Jim Wilson
Member of Provincial Parliament
Simcoe-Grey



As your Member of Parliament for Simcoe--Grey, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2021 Collingwood Summer Music Festival. Throughout the years, the Music Festival has featured some of Canada's finest musicians, artists, lecturers, and presentations on music-related topics. The festival attracts musicians from all over the world and many others from the Georgian Bay area. The festival brings together lovers of classical, world, and jazz to enjoy the music, culture, and the atmosphere.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has prevented us from gathering at festivals for the last year and a half. In one way or another, the pandemic has affected everyone. Music can enhance people's mood and help them to develop a sense of belonging in the community - something we need in our communities after this long battle against COVID-19. It is great to see this festival back in the Collingwood area attracting people from surrounding communities who welcome the opportunity to safely interact again and listen to wonderful music together.

Thank you to Daniel Vnukowski for his commitment and dedication to make his vision a reality in the Town of Collingwood. I also extend my thanks to all the sponsors, partners, advertisers, donors and volunteers for working together to make this happen.

Please sit back, relax, and enjoy the 2021 Collingwood Summer Music Festival.

Terry Dowdall
Member of Parliament
Simcoe-Grey



WELCOME FROM MAYOR BRIAN SAUNDERSON

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2021 Collingwood Summer Music Festival. This is the Second Annual Festival and it is wonderful to be gathering again for live music under the stars after 16 months of pandemic restrictions. This year the program brings world-class music performances by internationally-renowned artists from around the globe to Collingwood and promises to thrill audiences with eight diverse and eclectic performances.

The Festival opens Saturday, July 10 with Popopera featuring the National Academy Orchestra and Maestro Boris Brott. Other performances include Chocho by Nagata Shachu, The Powerhouse Trio with Mayumi Seiler, Angelko Park and electro-cellist, Cris Derksen, A Woman's Love featuring Russian poet, Vera Pavlova and, Scheherazade featuring Opera singer, Joyce El-Khoury with Serouj Kradjian and Ensemble.

On July 14 the Red Sky Performance, Canada's leading contemporary Indigenous dance group and a very special guest, Indigenous poet and historian Dr. Duke Redbird, will bring their unique and powerful celebration of Indigenous artistic expression to Collingwood.

Please join me in congratulating and thanking Daniel Vnukowski and his dedicated team for their continued vision and commitment to making this World-Class Festival a reality, and for bringing these incredible musicians and performers to Collingwood for our listening pleasure.

Please sit back and enjoy the wonderful sounds of today's performance.

Best regards,

Brian Saunderson
Mayor of Collingwood

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COLLINGWOOD SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2021

PopOpera



Inaugural Concert
Saturday, July 10
8:30 - 10:00 pm

Join Us for a Spectacular Opening Night

7:30pm - Gates Open
8:30pm - Pre-Concert Talk
9:00pm - LIVE Concert

RBC Wealth Management — RBC Dominion Securities – Geoffrey J. Belisle

Featuring over a dozen members of The National Academy Orchestra of Canada and several rising stars of the Canadian opera scene, directed by Maestro Boris Brott. The PopOpera programme will feature works by Mozart, Bizet, Leoncavallo, Puccini, Verdi, Gounod, Délibes, and Bernstein. It will conclude with two favourite ensembles by Verdi: Va, pensiero (Nabucco) and the Brindisi from La Traviata.

PROGRAM

- **"Viens, Malika!/Dôme épais" (Flower Duet) from Lakmé (Délibes)**
  Ekaterina Shelehova, soprano & Ellita Gagner, mezzo-soprano
- **"Votre toast, je peux vous le rendre" from Carmen (Bizet)**
  Nicholas Borg, baritone
- **"Que fais-tu, blanche tourterelle?" from Roméo et Juliette (Gounod)**
  Ellita Gagner, mezzo-soprano
- **"Deh, vieni alla finestra" from Don Giovanni (Mozart)**
  Matthew Kim, baritone
- **Allegro from Act I Finale ("Dammi un bacio, o mio tesoro") from Così fan tutte (Mozart)**
  Full Company
- **Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana (Mascagni)**
  Ensemble
- **"Ah, Mimi tu più non torni" from La Bohème (Puccini)**
  Scott Rumble, tenor, & Matthew Kim, baritone
- **"Vissi d'arte" from Tosca (Puccini)**
  Catherine Thornsley, soprano
- **"Vesti la giubba" from Pagliacci (Leoncavallo)**
  Scott Rumble, tenor
- **"Glitter and be Gay" from Candide (Bernstein)**
  Ekaterina Shelehova, soprano
- **"Va, pensiero" from Nabucco (Verdi)**
  Full Company
- **"Libiamo" from La traviata (Verdi)**
  Full Company
- **"Earth Melodies" (Shelehova, b.1995)**
  Ekaterina Shelehova, soprano

ARTISTS

National Academy Orchestra of Canada

- Maestro Boris Brott, Conductor
- Xavier Ménard-Brossard, Assistant Conductor
- Ekaterina Shelehova, Soprano
- Catherine Thornsley, Soprano
- Ellita Gagner, Mezzo-Soprano
- Scott Rumble, Tenor
- Nicholas Borg, Baritone
- Matthew Kim, Baritone

Violin 1	Corey Gemmel
	Katelyn Emery
	Jingpu Xi
	Jamie Godber
	Adrian Irvine
Violin 2	Tanya Charles
	Kimberly Durflinger
	Elizabeth Hendy
Viola	Caitlin Boyle
	Emily Hiemstra
	Adriana Arcila Tascon
Cello	John Helmers
	Ella Hopwood
	Peter Ryan
Bass	Robert Wolanski

COLLINGWOOD SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2021

Family Day MORNING



Sunday, July 11
10:00 - 11:00 am

Rock & Rumble - Free Events for Youth

Only available outdoors!
10:00am – Group I
10:30am – Group II

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Ages 2-6. FREE musical activities for preschoolers taking place outdoors on the lawn, helping them to learn the building blocks of music. ONE FREE RSVP required per family. Please signup online to one of the group sessions.

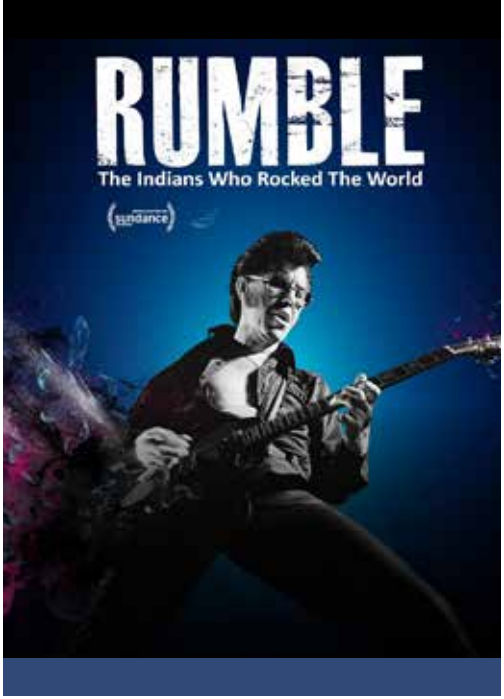
PROGRAM

Get ready to dance, play, sing and drum as we introduce the foundations of rhythm and music. We will travel to the jungle, to the ocean and we will meet some friendly animals who will help us to discover the world of music.

Lara Heaton, Local Host

COLLINGWOOD SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2021

Family Day MOVIE NIGHT



Sunday, July 11
8:30 - 10:30 pm

Rock & Rumble - Movie Night

Only available at the drive-in!
7:30pm – Gates Open
8:30pm – LIVE Discussion with the Executive Producer Stevie Salas
9:00pm – Movie Screening

SENSOR Sensor Technology

DRIVE-IN CINEMA. Screening of the award-winning movie "Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World" outdoors, preceded by a live discussion with the movie's executive producer, Stevie Salas. The film rocked the Sundance Film Festival in January, receiving a prestigious Special Jury Award for World Cinema Documentary. Ages 13+.

2018 Canadian Screen Award Winner
Stevie Salas, Executive Producer

COLLINGWOOD SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2021

A Woman's Love



Monday, July 12
8:30 - 10:00 pm

Enjoy in your living room or at the drive-in!

7:30pm - Gates Open
8:30pm - Pre-Concert Talk
9:00pm - LIVE Concert

Paul & Margaret Bridgman

A CANADIAN PREMIERE!

Starring Vera Pavlova, a contemporary, best-selling Russian poet together with her daughter Natalia Pavlova (soprano) who will be streaming in from Rome, Italy. Accompanied by a live music ensemble made up of local talents. Music by Robert Schumann, Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and Iraida Yusupova.

PROGRAM

Part I:
Vera Pavlova recites verses from her poetry book "The Children's Album" accompanied by local pianists and a string quartet, who perform the complete cycle of P.I. Tchaikovsky's "Album For The Young."

Part II:
Natalia Pavlova's performance of R. Schumann's "Frauenliebe und Leben" (A Woman's Love) is streamed in from Rome, Italy followed by Iraida Yusupova's "Andante Cantabile" written in memory of Steven Seymour and Alexander Dolghin, scored for voice, piano and electric guitar.

ARTISTS

Vera Pavlova, Poetry
Natalia Pavlova, Soprano
Peter Aidu, Piano

Local Musicians:
Lauren Kohut, Piano
Kari Zhang, Piano
Sunny Valdez, Piano
Jaden Benabdeslam, Piano
Sebastian Handley, Electric Guitar

String Quartet (youth members of the Whispering River Orchestra):
Lucas Salathiel, violin
Kevin Yi, violin
Miriam Elsawi, viola
Shannon Lai, cello

With special thanks to Keiko Yoden-Kuepfer and Brenda Margaret Muller for preparing the young talent for this concert.

COLLINGWOOD SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2021

Chocho by Nagata Shachu

Tuesday, July 13
8:30 - 10:00 pm



Enjoy in your living room or at the drive-in!

7:30pm - Gates Open
8:30pm - Pre-Concert Talk
9:00pm - LIVE Concert

CIBC Bank

Chocho – The Butterfly

Already well-known to Collingwood audiences but with a unique twist. Presenting the 'Butterfly' with Aki Takahashi on taiko and shamisen together with the unbridled energy of the celebrated Japanese drummers Nagata Shachu. In ancient Japan, boundaries were set by the sound of taiko drums: the point at which you could no longer hear a village's drums marked its outer borders. Today, the joyous drumming of Nagata Shachu's taiko erases boundaries and barriers, bringing together people from all nationalities. This concert will also feature the projection of a plein air painting session with local artist Shandelle McCurdie, during the song 'Tenkai', which means 'Heaven' or 'to evolve or unfold.'

Chocho by Nagata Shachu

PROGRAM

- Shin Kodama (New Echoes), composed by Kiyoshi Nagata
- Hitori Uchi (One person, one drum), composed by Aki Takahashi
- Harukoma (Spring Horses)
- Nebuta Daiko (Nebuta festival drumming)
- Hon-Choshi, (traditional) arranged by Aki Takahashi
- San Ren On (Rhythms of three), composed by Kiyoshi Nagata
- Tenkai* (Heaven)
- Araumi (Story Sea)
- Iwai (Celebrate)

**with accompanying painting session*

ARTISTS

Kiyoshi Nagata – taiko and bamboo flute
Aki Takahashi – taiko, voice and shamisen
Naoya Kobayashi
Andrew Siu
Kevin Zi-Xiao He
Briana Lee
Marie Gavin

Nagata Shachu, Japanese Drumming Ensemble
Shandelle McCurdie, Painter

COLLINGWOOD SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2021

Red Sky Performance



Wednesday, July 14
8:30 - 10:00 pm

Enjoy in your living room or at the drive-in!

7:30pm - Gates Open
8:30pm - Pre-Concert Talk
9:00pm - LIVE Concert

Scenic Caves Nature Adventures and Huronia Alarm & Fire Security Inc.

Featuring Celebrated Canadian Poet Dr. Duke Redbird

Celebrating the creativity and fire of Indigenous artistic expression with Red Sky Performance, Canada's leading contemporary Indigenous dance group and a very special guest – the established Indigenous poet and historian Dr. Duke Redbird, who will recite carefully-curated poetry from his latest book.

Red Sky Performance

Dr. Duke Redbird brings his breadth of cultural knowledge and artistic practice to the benefit of a global audience. He was instrumental in the implementation of innovative multimedia, technologies and beyond, bringing an Indigenous approach to art education that was rooted in his pioneering work at OCAD University.

Touring since 2003, Red Sky Performance has delivered over 2,755 performances across Canada including international performances in 17 countries on four continents: two Cultural Olympiads (Beijing and Vancouver), World Expo in Shanghai, Venice Biennale, and Jacob's Pillow, among others.

This event also features a screening of the 13-min. documentary "The Water Walker." Anishinaabe water activist Autumn Peltier travels from Manitoulin Island, Ontario to New York City to address the United Nations.

PROGRAM

- Introduction by Dr. Duke Redbird on the importance of sharing land resources.
- The Water Walker Movie (13 minutes).
- STAGE I: Poetry by Dr. Duke Redbird accompanied by Native American Flute.
- STAGE II: Red Sky Performance dancers, beginning with an introduction and a series of songs: Grand Entry song, Solo songs, Flute & Hand Drum song and Sneak Up song.

ARTISTS

Dr. Duke Redbird, Poetry

Red Sky Performance, Dancing Ensemble
Adrian Harjo
Ascension Harjo
Jennifer Martin

Jason Chamakese, Native American Flute

COLLINGWOOD SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2021

The Powerhouse Trio

Thursday, July 15
8:30 - 10:00 pm



Enjoy in your living room or at the drive-in!

7:30pm - Gates Open
8:30pm - Pre-Concert Talk
9:00pm - LIVE Concert

Donald and Catherine MacLean

Chamber Music For The 21st Century –
Violin, Piano and Electric Cello

A dramatic chamber music experience starring Mayumi Seiler on violin, Angela Park on piano and Cris Derksen on electric cello. Cris Derksen is a Juno Award–nominated, two-spirit, Cree cellist and composer, who will present specially-commissioned arrangements of her works specifically for this occasion. Music by Wolfgang A. Mozart, Johannes Brahms and Cris Derksen.

The Powerhouse Trio

PROGRAM

Wolfgang A. Mozart (1756-1791) – Violin Sonata in B flat, K. 454
Largo – Allegro
Andante
Allegretto

Cris Derksen (1990-) – Nice and Clean (Piano, Violin, cello)

INTERMISSION

C. Derksen – Planes (Cello, Violin)

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) – Violin Sonata in A Major, op. 100
Allegro amabile
Andante tranquillo — Vivace — Andante — Vivace di più — Andante — Vivace
Allegretto grazioso (quasi andante)

ARTISTS

Mayumi Seiler, Violin
Cris Derksen, Electric Cello and Composition
Angela Park, Piano

Special thanks to Jonathan Wentworth Associates, Ltd. and Latitude 45 Arts Promotion

COLLINGWOOD SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2021



Scheherazade

Friday, July 16
8:30 - 10:00 pm

Enjoy in your living room or at the drive-in!

7:30pm - Gates Open
8:30pm - Pre-Concert Talk
9:00pm - LIVE Concert

Jane Moysey, REALTOR® Royal LePage Locations North, Brokerage

A CANADIAN PREMIERE!
Starring acclaimed Lebanese-Canadian opera singer Joyce El-Khoury in the role of Scheherazade well supported by Serouj Kradjian and ensemble – a Canadian first! A exotic fusion of traditional masterworks featuring Maurice Ravel's Scheherazade alongside twentieth-century Lebanese songs and many other jewels of the East.

This concert will also feature the projection of a a plein air painting session with local artist Bill Franks, during the song 'Oblivion.'

PROGRAM

- Shéhérazade (Maurice Ravel)
  I Asie
  II La flûte enchantée
  III L'indifférent
- Give me the flute- Aateny el Nay (Najib Hankash-Kahlil Gibran)
- Swear to me little bird- Rah halfak bel ghosn ya asfour (Wadi El Safi)
- I love you Lebanon-Bahebbak ya Lubnan (Rahbani Brothers)

BREAK

- Due Vocalizzi Boghos Gelalian
- Enamored of roses-Ya Aashikata el wardi (Zaki Nassif)
- Flower of my dreams-Ya zahratan fee khayalee (Farid el Atrache)
- Oblivion* (Astor Piazzolla)
- Youkali (Kurt Weill)
- Beautiful Dream – Tcheknagh Yeraz (Arno Babadjanian)
- Por Una Cabeza (Carlos Gardel)

**with accompanying painting session*

ARTISTS

Joyce El-Khoury, Soprano
Serouj Kradjian, Piano and Arrangements
Joseph Petric, Accordion
Kathleen Kajioka, Violin
Jesse Dietschi, Double Bass
Naghmeh Farahmand, Percussion
Bill Franks, Painter

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



Saturday July 10
8:30pm
POPOPERA

The National Academy Orchestra
with Maestro Boris Brott

RBC Dominion Securities - Geoffrey J. Belisle



Sunday July 11
MORNING - 10am
FREE EVENTS FOR FAMILIES

Performances and activities for families



Sunday July 11
EVENING - 8:30pm
MOVIE NIGHT

Screening of the award-winning movie
'Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World'



Monday July 12
8:30pm
A WOMAN'S LOVE

Starring the renowned Russian poet Vera Pavlova

Paul & Margaret Bridgman

7 DAYS OF MAGICAL MUSIC



Tuesday July 13
8:30pm
CHOCHO BY NAGATA SHACHU

The Butterfly, with Taiko, Shamisen and Japanese Drummers

CIBC



Wednesday July 14
8:30pm
RED SKY PERFORMANCE

Celebrating Indigenous artistic expression

Scenic Caves Nature Adventures

Huronia



Thursday July 15
8:30pm
THE POWERHOUSE TRIO

Mayumi Seiler, Angela Park and electro-cellist Cris Derksen

Donald and Catherine MacLean



Friday July 16
8:30pm
SCHEHERAZADE

Opera singer Joyce El-Khoury, with Serouj Kradjian and Ensemble

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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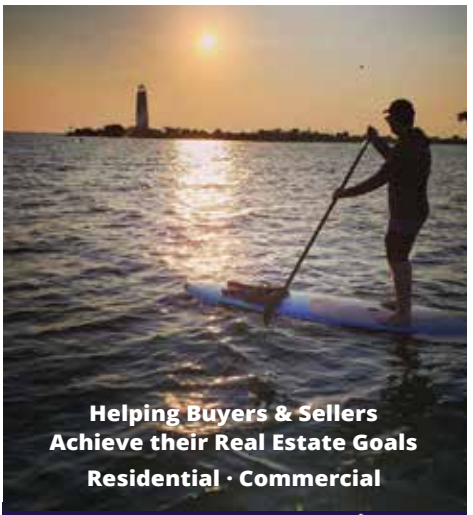
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COLLINGWOOD SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL

ARTIST BIOS



Daniel Vnukowski
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Hailed as "rapturous and glowing" by International Record Review and "an inspirational and devoted pianist" by Life & Arts – Financial Times, Polish-Canadian pianist Daniel Vnukowski has performed throughout Europe, North America, South America and Asia in prestigious concert halls.

He has performed with many orchestras, including The Orchestra Now, Polish Radio Orchestra, Sinfonia Varsovia, Windsor Symphony, Orchestra Filarmonica Marchigiana, Sinfonia Iuventus, Poznan Philharmonic, Arthur Rubinstein Philharmonic with conductors such as Leon Botstein, Jerzy Maksymiuk, Alain Trudel and David Amos. He has also performed in numerous International Festivals such as Chopin and His Europe in Warsaw, Poland; Festival Dei Due Mondi in Spoleto, Italy; Chopiniana in Buenos Aires, Argentina; and the Pre-LSO Concert Series in London, UK.

During the COVID-19 crisis, Vnukowski's virtual live streaming project from home has made waves internationally, reaching over half a million viewers. The livestreams have been endorsed by Fazioli Pianoforte and featured on NPR Radio, Classical FM, Ludwig Van Toronto and BBC Music Magazine playlists.

The music of interwar Jewish composers also occupies a special place in Mr. Vnukowski's repertoire and during 2019 he continued to focus on the music of Karol Rathaus, performing the composer's Piano Concerto with The Orchestra Now conducted by Leon Botstein, as part of a Rathaus Festival presented by the Copland School of Music at Queens College; made his sold-out Carnegie Hall recital debut in a program that included the composer's Piano Sonata No. 3, Op. 20; and released an all-Rathaus recording of solo piano music on the Toccata label. Mr. Vnukowski will be featured in a documentary on Rathaus produced by Lev Deych & Michael Haas.

Dedicated to giving back to the country that nurtured him as an artist, Vnukowski was recently awarded a grant from the Canada Council for the Arts and Ontario Arts Council to perform outreach concerts for remote, rural communities all throughout Canada together with five other pianists. He is also the founder and artistic director of the Collingwood Summer Music Festival.



National Academy Orchestra of Canada, ORCHESTRA

The National Academy Orchestra of Canada (NAO) provides an extraordinary opportunity for emerging young Canadian professional musicians to work as apprentice musicians alongside established professionals from some of Canada's finest orchestras.

The NAO was founded in 1989 by conductor Boris Brott and is primarily based in Hamilton, Ontario. It is recognized as a Canadian National School for professional training, and each winter over 450 potential applicants audition from across Canada for a position in the orchestra.

Since its inception, the NAO has been the orchestra-in-residence for the acclaimed Brott Music Festival, Canada's largest orchestral music festival. Each season features guest concertmasters and mentors from across the country, guest conductors, and internationally-renowned soloists, with performance opportunities ranging from full orchestra, to opera, and chamber.



Boris Brott
CONDUCTOR

Boris Brott is one of Canada's most visible and energetic conductors, leaving many traces of his work across Canada's music scene while taking important posts in the U.S. and Europe. He is also noted as a motivational speaker with a long list of corporate appearances.

He was born Jeremiah Brott in Montreal on March 14, 1944, to a violinist/composer father and a cellist mother. Brott took up the violin as a toddler and made his debut at five in a Montreal Symphony Orchestra concert for young people. He went on to study at the Montreal Conservatory and the McGill University Conservatory. In 1956, he went to Europe for conducting studies with veteran conductor Pierre Monteux, who hired him as an assistant even though he was only 12 years old. At 15, Brott founded and led a new orchestra of his own, the Philharmonic Youth Orchestra of Montreal. Brott won several important prizes on his way to his first formal post as the assistant conductor of the Toronto Symphony, under Walter Süsskind, from 1963 to 1965. He moved on to the Northern Sinfonia in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, UK, from 1964 to 1968, and then, in 1968 and 1969, to a post as the assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic under Leonard Bernstein.

In Canada, Brott took his first chief conducting posts at the Lakehead Symphony Orchestra (later the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra) in 1967, the Hamilton Symphony Orchestra in 1969, and the Regina Symphony Orchestra in 1971. He remained in Hamilton until 1990, building the orchestra from an amateur ensemble to a major regional symphony that spawned smaller groups, including the internationally successful Canadian Brass. By the time he departed, he proudly notes, the orchestra had more subscribers than the Hamilton Tiger Cats professional football team. He has worked to raise the professional standards of other Canadian orchestras, including those in Regina, CBC Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Kitchener-Waterloo, and Halifax (the Symphony Nova Scotia). Brott founded two important Canadian musical institutions, the Brott Music Festival (Canada's largest) and the National Academy Orchestra of Canada, and, in 1992, he returned to school, earning a law degree at the University of Western Ontario. A successful motivational speaker, he has given talks emphasizing the commonalities between music and corporate management to audiences, including the CEOs of IBM, General Motors, and American Airlines, among other firms.

Brott took a guest conducting tour of Italian opera houses in the early 2000s (and was named the principal guest conductor of the Petruzzelli Theatre in Bari, Italy, in 2011). He continues to conduct the National Academy Orchestra of Canada and the McGill Chamber Orchestra. Many of his recordings date from the 1990s, 2000s, and 2010s; in 2019, on the Analekta label, he released the album New Jewish Music, Vol. 2 with the Orchestre Classique de Montréal.



Xavier Brossard-Ménard
ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

Choral conductor and accomplished clarinetist Xavier Brossard-Ménard has a passion for bringing classical music to the general public. For the past ten years, he has directed various well-known organizations such as the Toronto Children's Chorus, McGill Conservatory Singers, the Drummondville Symphony Orchestra Chorus, the Université de Montréal's Faculty of Music Youth Choir, and the Vincent-d'Indy School of Music choirs. He was also an artist-in-residence at École F.A.C.E. Brossard-Ménard is a favorite conductor of choristers and audiences alike because of his contagious energy, enthusiasm for singing, innovative programming, and sense of humor.



Ekaterina Shelehova
SOPRANO COLORATURA

Ekaterina Shelehova began studying music at 3 years old, and performed in many operas as a child, including Carmen and Tosca. Ekaterina studied at the Conservatory of Music in Toronto where she received three Gold Medals in Vocal and diploma for Grade 10 Vocal. She finished her studies in Piano, and received her diploma for ARCT in Piano Pedagogy. In Autumn 2012 she recorded her solo CD "Moonlight". In 2019 she has completed her Bachelors and Masters in Opera performance with highest honors from the Conservatory Giuseppe Verdi, Milan, Italy and in the same year performed the roles of Olympia from 'Les Contes D'Hoffmann' and Zerlina from 'Don Giovanni' at Teatro Carcano, Milano. During the summer of 2019, Ekaterina participated in the Young Artist Program 'iSing Festival' in China, performing in cities such as Suzhou, Guanzhou, and Shanghai. Since then she has performed the roles Cunegonde from 'Candide', Adina from 'L'Elisir D'Amore' and even made on an appearance on Italy's Got Talent. Besides music, she enjoys fitness, latin dance, WoW, and playing the ukulele.



Catherine Thornsley,
SOPRANO

Soprano Catherine Thornsley was born and raised in Flagstaff, Arizona, where she began studying voice at the age of 16 with Dr. Judith Cloud. She received her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal performance from Northern Arizona University in 2015, and shortly thereafter relocated to Seattle where she began to build a career as a working professional. In 2018, Catherine was accepted into the University of British Columbia's opera program and began studying for her Master of Music degree in Opera performance. At UBC, she has had the enormous privilege of portraying Marta in the Canadian premiere of Weinberg's Pasazerka in January 2020. Catherine has sung internationally, recently travelling to the Czech Republic and Germany with the UBC Opera Ensemble. She also participated in the 2020 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and was a recipient of the Encouragement Award for the Utah District. She has continued to stay active throughout the pandemic by participating in UBC Opera's productions of socially distanced excerpt concerts, and two fully staged productions; Giachino Rossini's Il Viaggio a Reims as Madame Cortese and W.A. Mozart's Le Nozze di Figaro as Contessa Almaviva. Catherine is currently based out of Vancouver. where she is studying under the direction of Nancy Hermiston.



Ellita Gagner
MEZZO-SOPRANO

Mezzo Soprano Ellita Gagner was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, though her music education began at age 13 in Chatham, Ontario with teachers Christine and Jim Prosser. Ellita recently finished her Bachelor of Music with an Honours in Voice Performance at the Unversity of Western Ontario where she continues to study with acclaimed mezzo soprano, Patricia Green. Awards include first place in both the 2017 Ontario Music Festivals Association and the 2020 National Association of Teachers of Singing competition. In 2018, she won the London Community Orchestra's Young Soloists Concert Audition and performed La Captive and Villanelle by H. Berlioz, and Faites-lui mes aveux from Faust by C. Gounod with the orchestra in their winter season. Ellita's recent performances include Little London Opera's Dido and Aeneas, Peep Bo in UWOpera's production of The Mikado, and Dorabella in UWOpera's production of Così fan tutte. Prior to studying opera, Ellita performed the Narrator in Studio Black's Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat and Kurt in The Sound of Music. Ellita has a passion for the music of contemporary Canadian and female composers, as well as bringing classical music to communities with reduced access and is forming a collective which hopes to put on multiple small productions in London, Ontario in the coming season. She is very excited to learn from the artists at Brott Opera!



Scott Rumble
TENOR

Tenor Scott Rumble was a member of the Yulanda M. Faris Young Artist Program for Vancouver Opera's 2018/19 season. Heholds a Master of Music in Opera Performance from the University of British Columbia, and an Artist Diploma and Bachelor of Music (Honours) in Voice Performance from the University of Western Ontario. Rumble joins the Calgary Opera's Emerging Artist Development Program for his second year this 2020/2021 season. During his first year with Calgary Opera, Mr. Rumble sang the role of Flavio in Norma, Rooster in Bremen Town Musicians, and was scheduled to perform Bénédict in Béatrice et Bénédict and Tanzmeister in Ariadne auf Naxos before the Covid-19 pandemic. During his time with Vancouver Opera, Mr. Rumble sang the role of St. Brioche in The Merry Widow and covered both the title role in Gounod's Faust and Rodolfo in La Bohème. Other recent credits include Bacchus in Ariadne auf Naxos (Highlands Opera Studio), Bob Boles in Peter Grimes (Vancouver Symphony Orchestra), Luigi in Il Tabarro, Bacchus, Lensky in Eugene Onegin (University of British Columbia) and Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly (La Musica Lirica in Novafeltria, Italy). Mr. Rumble has also performed as the tenor soloist for Mozart's Requiem, Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, and Handel's Messiah.



Nicholas Borg
BARITONE

Praised as "an engaging visual and vocal actor" (Opera Canada) with a "warm, sonorous baritone" (Stage Door Toronto), Nicholas Borg was a member of the Yulanda M. Faris Young Artist Program at Vancouver Opera for the 2019/2020 season. Last summer Nicholas was involved with Brott Opera and the Manitoba Opera Digital Emerging Artists Program. This past season with Vancouver Opera Nicholas performed the role of Barone Douphol in La traviata, and Fiorello in Il barbiere di Siviglia. Previously, he performed the role of Action in West Side Story in Concert for the Windsor Symphony Orchestra and performed with the Canadian Opera Company Chorus in their productions of Elektra, Cosi fan tutte, and Otello. Nicholas has performed Marcello in La bohème and Eugene Onegin for Opera Muskoka, Pangloss in Candide and Pirate King in The Pirates of Penzance for Toronto Operetta Theatre, Figaro in Mercadante's lost opera I due Figaro for Voicebox: Opera in Concert, Belcore in L'elisir d'amore for the Centre for Opera Studies in Italy, Tarquinius in The Rape of Lucretia for MYOpera, and El Dancairo in Carmen for the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra. Nicholas has appeared as a guest soloist for the Grand Philharmonic Choir in Kitchener/Waterloo, and the Amabile Choirs and St. Mary's Choirs in London Ontario. Nicholas graduated with a Masters in Music degree from the University of Toronto Opera, under the tutelage of renowned soprano Wendy Nielsen, and he holds a Bachelor of Music degree from McGill University.



Matthew Kim
BARITONE

Matthew Kim recently graduated from the University of British Columbia, earning his master's degree in opera performance. In his time at UBC, Matthew studied with Dale Throness and Peter Barcza. His favourite roles have included Dr. Miracle/Lindorf (Les contes d'Hoffmann), Leporello (Don Giovanni), Harlekin (Ariadne auf Naxos), and Count Almaviva (Le nozze di Figaro). Matthew enjoys singing contemporary works and telling new stories to current audiences. He had the unique opportunity to sing the roles of Edmund Bertram and William Dale in Mansfield Park and Silent Night – both composed in the last decade. He also has a strong fondness for classical and romantic opera and German lieder. In addition to his performance pursuits, Matthew enjoys exploring culinary experiences both in the kitchen and out, playing video games, watching the UFC, working out, and discovering new movies. As the head counselor at UBC's summer music institute for four years, Matthew has enjoyed working with youths to broaden their musical horizons. Matthew began his professional singing career in the summer of 2020, singing outdoor concerts with local companies in Vancouver and Calgary. He looks forward to continuing his opera career by applying to young artist programs, participating in concerts, and collaborating with other musicians.



Lara Heaton
LOCAL HOST

Lara is from Vancouver Island. She grew up playing the trumpet and singing. After high school, Lara went to Circle in the Square Theatre School in New York City where she studied musical theatre. She then travelled and spent time in monasteries and ashrams in Asia, got her BScN, and in 2011 became a Montessori teacher. She has been working with young children ever since. She has a home-based daycare in Collingwood that she put on pause during the pandemic. She did Lynn Kleiner's Music Rhapsody teacher training, an Orff based curriculum to teach music to younger children, she writes songs and loves to sing. She will be sharing her passion for music with you on Family Day.



Stevie Salas
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

A guitar player, writer, producer, and composer, Stevie Salas has recorded on over 70 different albums with artists as diverse as George Clinton, Justin Timberlake, Buddy Miles, T.I., Mick Jagger, and Rod Stewart. Having sold over two million solo albums around the world, Stevie has been cited as one of the top 50 guitarists of all time.

An accomplished composer, Stevie is credited with providing the score for several films including Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure and the 2009 film Darfur. Over 50 of Stevie's compositions have been released on major labels. From 2006 to 2010, Salas served as music director and consultant for American Idol and 19 Entertainment, nurturing Kris Allen, Adam Lambert, Chris Daughtry, and their respective touring bands for subsequent American tours.

A Native American, Stevie has been involved in prominent projects that support indigenous communities, including serving as the Advisor of Contemporary Music at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. For his efforts in support of Native American culture, Stevie received the Native American Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009.

2017 has started off with a big bang for Stevie! His long-awaited film "Rumble" rocked the Sundance Film Festival in January, receiving a prestigious Special Jury Award for World Cinema Documentary. At the same time Stevie released a collaborative album with Japan's Koshi Inaba under the name "Inaba/Salas." "Chubby Groove" went to #2 on the Japanese Album charts supported by a sold-out CHUBBY GROOVE TOUR throughout Japan.



Vera Pavlova
POET

Vera Pavlova was born in Moscow in 1963. She studied at the Schnittke Academy of Music, sang in a church choir, majored in the history of music, and three years later launched her literary career with revealing poems that confronted many readers with repressed memories, concealed experiences and latent longings. Her esteemed career began in the most unlikely of places: a maternity ward:

"My first poem was a note I had written to send home from the maternity ward. I was twenty at the time, and had just given birth to Natasha, my first daughter. That was the kind of a happy experience I had never known before or after. The happiness was so unbearable that for the first time in my life I wrote a poem. I have been writing since, and I resort to writing whenever I feel unbearably happy or unbearably miserable. And since life provides me with experiences of both kinds, and with plenty of them, I have been writing for the past twenty-six years practically without a pause. I cannot afford staying away from writing. It could be called an addiction, but I prefer to describe it as my form of metabolism."
Her poems are written in rhyming Russian, contain an intimate tone and were translated into English by her late husband and translator, Steven Seymour. Due to the nature of Russian grammatical endings, many words rhyme with each other and allow poets wide avenues for poetic expression. This freedom in word choice and the richness of the Russian language enables Pavlova to explore her many topics with the depth and breadth she does. Her works have been published in The New York Times and The New Yorker and have been plastered in the New York City and Los Angeles public transportation systems. Her poetry has been published in twenty languages in the span of twenty years.



Natalia Pavlova
SOPRANO

Moscow and Rome-based soprano Natalia Pavlova (who is a descendant of Russian national poet Alexander Pushkin) has graced the stages of Carnegie Hall, Moscow Chaikovsky State Conservatory, Auditorium Parco della Musica (Rome), and many others throughout the world. Active in performing music from antiquity to today, she was a soloist for 6 years in the Moscow theater School of Dramatic Art, directed by Anatoly Vasiliev. Natalia has sung world premiere performances and recordings of works by composers Giovanni Sollima, Venus Rey and Iraida Yusupova, composed specially for her voice, as well as pieces by Vladimir Martynov. She serves on Artistic Council of The First Cultural International Festival, Russian-Rome, Palazzo Poli in Rome, and was recently awarded the Silver Lion at the Narnia International Festival, as well as the International "Clean Sound" Award.
She has recorded 3 CDs with contemporary music of Rey Jr and Yusupova in Da Vinci Classics and in Art Classics.



Peter Aidu
PIANO

The winner of numerous international competitions Peter Aidu is a truly virtuoso pianist. His mastery and performance range regularly astound his audiences: from Baroque to contemporary, from the delicate performance of the finest compositions to grand scale opuses that require two-hands performance on two grand pianos at the same time.
Peter Aidu has been a part of everything new and vital that's been happening on the Russian acoustic scene for the last ten years. The graduate of Moscow Conservatory with specialization in piano and organ is an architect, archeologist and artist of sound. He plays a number of instruments, some of them common, such as the harpsichord and grand piano, others — less common, such as the hammer clavier and lute. He performs on a giant bagpipe in Moscow parks; or arranges a show with marimbas, rung ladders, and rusty gear-wheels; or puts together a construct of sliced metal sheets that explores the correlation of sound and form.
Peter Aidu has organized a hospice for elder pianos and spends part of his time reconstructing vintage rarities. Using the 18th century textbook, he reconstructed some French dance music. His other creations include an experimental orchestra without a conductor, and Popov sound machines — clunky, but touching monsters that "speak" in place of thunderstorm, trains and fighter aircraft. His latest work is called the Sound Landscapes performance: it's a presentation of four audio canvases made with a help of old-time theatrical machinery, and as a result the audience experiences a transcendental listening experience of alternate injections of sounds such as a carpet bombing, or a tropical rain, or the Atlantic surf.



Nagata Schachu
ENSEMBLE

Nagata Shachu, based in Toronto, Canada, has enthralled audiences with its mesmerizing and heart-pounding performances of the Japanese drum (taiko) since its formation in 1998. The group has toured widely throughout Canada, the US and Italy, in addition to Lebanon and Mexico, performing in major theatres, concert halls, and festivals.
While rooted in the folk drumming traditions of Japan, the ensemble's principal aim is to rejuvenate this ancient art form by producing innovative and exciting music that seeks to create a new voice for the taiko. Taking its name from founder Kiyoshi Nagata and the Japanese word shachu meaning group, Nagata Shachu, has become renowned for its exacting, physically demanding and energetic performances on the taiko, as well as for its diverse repertoire. Their playing is the combination of unbounded spirit and passion with the highest levels of musicianship and discipline.
Nagata Shachu has the unique distinction of being the only group outside of Japan with the sponsorship of four major Japanese drum manufacturers, a testament to their mastery of the art form. In addition to having recorded five CDs of original music and four DVDs, Nagata Shachu, has produced its own annual concerts focusing on the presentation of new works. For the last seven years, Nagata Shachu has produced a three-concert season, featuring collaborations with both local and international artists.
Featuring an arsenal of taiko (including the massive O-Daiko drum), bamboo flutes, the three-stringed shamisen and an array of gongs, cymbals, shakers and wood blocks, Nagata Shachu will take you on a musical journey beyond all borders



Shandelle McCurdie
PAINTER

Shandelle Page McCurdie is a practicing artist who lives near the shores of Wasaga Beach. She grew up in Northern

Ontario and was raised by a mother who encouraged her creativity. She went on to study Visual Arts at Sheridan College, graduating in 2012, before she found her passion for travel. Falling in love with Georgian Bay between her adventures, she has always found her way back to this area between her time spent living and traveling abroad. Primarily, she paints with acrylic on canvas but also enjoys experimenting with other mediums and has recently begun her journey as a mural artist. Connecting with the community, sharing her love for art, and teaching young artists are all very important to her and her work. Shandelle is always finding inspiration from fellow artists, everyday moments, nostalgic photos, and any burst of colour that crosses her path.



Dr. Duke Redbird
POET

Dr. Duke Redbird is an Indigenous intellectual, poet, painter, broadcaster, filmmaker and orator. He brings his breadth of cultural knowledge and artistic practice to the benefit of a global audience. Dr. Redbird is instrumental in the implementation of innovative multimedia technologies, bringing an Indigenous approach to arts education that is rooted in his pioneering work at OCAD University. His legacy stretches far beyond his work in Canada. His art has been exhibited and his poetry has been published and translated in anthologies around the world.
Dr. Redbird has been described as a multifaceted artist, practicing across a number of disciplines including literature, painting, theatre, cinema and most recently rap poetry. A well known broadcaster and television personality, he is in demand as a public speaker in university, community college and elementary school settings. He delivers a unique perspective from his heritage that is both a positive and optimistic alternative to how we view our universe in the 21st century. In 2005, Dr. Redbird was honored by the Indigenous community of Toronto and recognized as an Urban Elder and Wisdom Keeper. In this capacity, Duke's presentation is a message of inspiration, hope and vision for the future. Presently, Dr. Redbird is an Advisor to the Toronto District School Board {TDSB) in the field of Indigenous Art & Culture; and the Curator of an inaugural art exhibition called Debwewin (Truth) of the Museum, Fine Art Collection and Archives of the TDSB. He is also an Advisor for the Board of Director's of Toronto's Jumblies Theatre and the Banff Centre for the Arts.



Red Sky Performance
ENSEMBLE

Red Sky Performance is a leading company of contemporary Indigenous performance in Canada and worldwide.
Our mission is to create inspiring experiences of contemporary Indigenous arts and culture that transform society. We drive our passion forward and elevate Indigenous arts and culture in ways that celebrate, uplift, and respect Indigenous cultures.
Now in our 20th year of performance (dance, theatre, music and media), Red Sky's work highlights the originality and power of contemporary performance, enabling new creations to expand the breadth and scope of Indigenous-made work in Canada.
The vision of Red Sky Performance derives from its creator Sandra Laronde (Misko Kizhigoo Migizii Kwe) which means "Red Sky Eagle Woman" in Anishinaabemowin (Ojibway) language from the Teme-Augama Anishinaabe (People of the Deep Water). Her vision is dedicated to expanding and elevating the ecology of contemporary performance informed by Indigenous worldview and culture.
Laronde's concept of performance explores the relationship between movement, live music, theatricality, and image. Her engagement in these disciplines involves collaborations with dancers, musicians, composers, choreographers, visual artists, actors, writers, designers, researchers, and culture keepers are integral to Red Sky Performance's distinct productions.
Touring since 2003, we have delivered over 2,755 performances across Canada including international performances in 17 countries on four continents, including two Cultural Olympiads (Beijing and Vancouver), World Expo in Shanghai, Venice Biennale, and Jacob's Pillow, among others. At the same time, we remain deeply rooted and invested on a grassroots level and regularly perform in urban, rural, and reserve communities across Turtle Island.
We are the recipient of 16 Dora Mavor Moore awards and nominations, two Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, three International Youth Drama Awards from Shenzhen, China, and the Smithsonian Expressive Award, among other recognitions.



Jason Chamakese
NATIVE AMERICAN FLUTE

Jason Chamakese is from the Pelican Lake First Nation in Saskatchewan, Canada. He is from the Plains Cree Nation and is a speaker of the Plains Cree language. He began his flute playing as a hobby in 1998. He later started to compose his own music and released an album of flute music entitled "Midnight at Clearwater, Native American Flute Songs, volume 1" in 2007. Later, he released the self-titled album "Jason Chamakese, Native American Flute Songs, volume 2" in 2010.
He is a multi-nominated artist and had nominations for Best Flute player at the Native American Music Awards, Canadian Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards, and Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards in 2011. He is the winner of the Best Traditional Flute CD category at the 2011 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards. In 2010, he had the honour of performing at the 4 Host Nations Pavilion and 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics.
He has traveled throughout North America sharing his music and stories and travelled to Scotland in 2013 for the Scottish International Storytelling Festival. He is currently a panelist/translator on APTN's Hometown Hockey in Cree and will be a graduate from the Blue Quills University with Cree being his major.



Mayumi Seiler
VIOLIN

A violinist of impeccably tailored artistry, Mayumi Seiler is renowned for her exciting performances of concerto, recital and collaborative works both live and on disc. She has graced stages from New York's Carnegie Hall to Toronto's

Roy Thompson Hall, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Vienna's Musikverein and in London at Wigmore Hall and the Royal Albert Hall for The Proms. In performances of depth and delight, she has collaborated with renowned soloists and conductors, and created a distinguished series of concerts which played to sold-out houses in Toronto over 14 seasons.

Mayumi Seiler has appeared as concerto soloist with major symphonies around the globe, including the Royal Philharmonic, Berlin Symphony, Moscow Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Montréal Symphony, Toronto Symphony, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Camerata Academica Salzburg, Bournemouth Symphony, City of London Sinfonia and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, among others. She has collaborated with such noted conductors as Kent Nagano, Peter Oundjian, David Atherton, Christopher Hogwood, Neville Marriner, Sandor Vegh, Hugh Wolff and Richard Hickox.

Among Ms. Seiler's extensive list of recordings are the Beethoven Concerto, the two Mendelssohn Concertos and three of the Haydn Violin Concertos with the City of London Sinfonia and Richard Hickox conducting on the Virgin Classics label. She has recorded Stravinsky's Le Baiser de la Fée with the Hong Kong Philharmonic and David Atherton, also on Virgin Classics. Her many recordings of chamber music, including works of Schumann, Dohnanyi, Boccherini and Mozart, appear on the Hyperion and Capriccio labels.

While nurturing a busy schedule as a soloist and chamber musician throughout Europe, Japan and the Americas, Ms. Seiler founded Toronto's Via Salzburg – acclaimed as "One of the best roads to our musical hearts" (Toronto Star). In Via Salzburg she led a string orchestra in regular performances at the Glenn Gould Studio for sold out audiences. Through 14 seasons she curated programs with renowned artists from Europe and Asia and combined varied art forms such as dance, pantomime and painting into Via Salzburg events, winning the embrace of audiences and the praise of critics citing the performer's "combustion of creative energy – they clearly love what they are doing" (Toronto Star).

She has collaborated with many of the world's leading soloists, including violinists Maxim Vengerov, Richard Tognetti and Ruggiero Ricci, violist Veronika Hagen, cellists Steven Isserlis and Colin Carr, pianists Menachim Pressler, André Laplante, Yael Weiss and Ikuyo Nakamichi, clarinetist David Shiffrin, and guitarist Elliot Fisk among many others.

An active and passionate teacher, Mayumi Seiler serves on the faculty at The Glenn Gould School in Toronto. She has held a professorship at the University Mozarteum in Salzburg, has given masterclasses worldwide and has adjudicated at numerous international violin competitions.

She began her musical upbringing in Osaka, Japan, where she was born of Japanese/German parentage. Wedded to the violin from the age of three, she received her musical education at the renowned Mozarteum during the formative years of her childhood in Salzburg.

Mayumi Seiler performs on the 1684 Croall Stradivarius.



Cris Derksen
ELECTRIC CELLO

Juno nominated Cris Derksen, originally from Northern Alberta, Canada, is an internationally respected Indigenous cellist and composer. Derksen braids the traditional and contemporary, weaving her classical background and her Indigenous ancestry together with new school electronics to create genre-defying music. As a composer she has her foot in many worlds working in choral, symphonic, film, theatre and dance, with a new commission from the Calgary Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra premiering in 2020. As a performer Derksen performs nationally and internationally. Recent destinations include Hong Kong, Australia, Mongolia, Europe, Mexico and a whole lot of Canada: the place Derksen refers to as home.



Angela Park
PIANO

Angela Park has established herself as one of Canada's most sought-after pianists. Praised for her "stunningly beautiful pianism" (Grace Welsh Prize, Chicago), "beautiful tone and sensitivity" (American Record Guide), and for performing "with such brilliant clarity it took your breath away" (Chapala, Mexico), Angela's versatility as both soloist and chamber musician has led to performances across Canada, as well as in the United States, Europe, Japan and Mexico. She has performed for such notable series as Montreal's Pro Musica, Ottawa Chamberfest, Toronto Summer Music Festival, Parry Sound's Festival of the Sound, Winnipeg Virtuosi, Debut Atlantic and Prairie Debut Tours, Orchestra London Canada, Sinfonia Toronto, Stratford Symphony, and the Northern Lights Music Festival in Mexico. She is a founding member of the award-winning Ensemble Made In Canada, Mercer-Park Duo, and the AYR Trio. Angela is also an artist for Piano Six – New Generation, an organization that brings world-class pianists to remote communities across Canada. Recent and upcoming seasons include a world premiere of John Burge's Second Piano Concerto with Sinfonia Toronto, tours with Prairie Debut, performances with Lyrica Baroque in New Orleans, Louisiana, collaborative recitals at the Interlochen Center for the Arts, and Ensemble Made In Canada tours of Canada and the United States. Angela has recorded solo albums, and collaborative discs with cellist Rachel Mercer and Ensemble Made In Canada for labels including NAXOS Canadian Classics, Centrediscs, and Enharmonic Records. In 2010 Angela earned her DMA in Performance from the Université de Montréal, and previously received her MMus and BMus degrees from the University of Toronto. From 2011-2014, Angela was Visiting Assistant Professor of Collaborative Piano-Woodwinds at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. She has been Artist-in-Residence at Western University with Ensemble Made In Canada since 2014.



Joyce El-Khoury
SOPRANO

The Lebanese-Canadian soprano has earned worldwide acclaim in a highly varied repertoire. In Great Britain she has starred as Violetta/La traviata at Glyndebourne Festival Opera and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (where she has also been heard as Musetta/La bohème and Sylvia/Donizetti's L'ange de Nisida) and as Elisabetta/Roberto Devereux at Welsh National Opera. Among her successes elsewhere in Europe are the title role/Rusalka (Amsterdam), Musetta (Madrid), Imogene/Il pirata (Bordeaux), and concerts with Elina Garanča (Austria) and Juan Diego Flórez (Spain). Appearances in North America include a triumph in the title role/Maria Stuarda (Seattle Opera), as well as

Tatyana/Eugene Onegin (Canadian Opera Company), Liù/Turandot (Canadian Opera Company, Opera Philadelphia), Salomé/Hérodiade (Washington Concert Opera), Micaëla/Carmen (Santa Fe Opera), and Tatyana Bakst/Jake Heggie's Great Scott (San Diego Opera). The soprano's debut solo album, "Echo," a program of bel canto repertoire with the Hallé Orchestra, is available on the Opera Rara label, as are her performances in L'ange de Nisida and two other Donizetti rarities, Les Martyrs and Belisario. She is an alumna of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.



Serouj Kradjian
PIANO

The New York Times has described Juno-award-winning and Grammy-nominated Kradjian's playing as a "persuasive balance between elegance and spirit," while the Frankfurter Allegemeine noted that he has "a fiery temperament and elegant sound" with "technique to burn." Mr. Kradjian has appeared with the Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton, Madrid and Göttingen Symphonies, the Russian National Orchestra, the Armenian Philharmonic and the Thailand Philharmonic. Solo, chamber music recitals and premieres of his compositions have taken Mr. Kradjian from all major Canadian cities, via the U.S – New York (Carnegie Hall), Boston (Jordan Hall) , San Francisco , Miami, Chicago and Los Angeles – to European concert halls in Paris, Munich, Salzburg, Trondheim, Lausanne, Geneva, Madrid, Barcelona and Bilbao and to the Far East in China and Japan.. He is regularly invited to the Ottawa, Bergen, Savannah , Colmar and Cortona music festivals.
As a collaborative artist, Kradjian has appeared in concert with sopranos Dawn Upshaw, Isabel Bayrakdarian, baritone Russell Braun, tenor Michael Shade, violinists Lara St. John, Jonathan Crow and Ara Malikian, violist Kim Kashkashian and the Pacifica, Cecilia and Arthur LeBlanc String Quartets.



Joseph Petric
ACCORDION

Joseph's passion for exploring solo works from C.P.E. Bach to Luciano Berio has opened and led vital international conversations about accordion equities for decades. Media critics describe his performances as "extraordinary, eloquent…moving" (Boston Globe) and "a union of poetic imagination… and profound musicianship." (Halifax Chronicle Herald); "strong, committed… particularly memorable." (New York Times). Joseph was the first accordionist laureate of the BBC3 Radio Auditions and recipient of the Canadian Music Centre's Friend of Canadian Music Award 2005 in recognition of his legendary collaborations.
Joseph's 20 concerto commissions continue to create new vocabularies in a canon ranging from minimalist to modernist, palimpsestic to post-digital. Brian Current's Koussevitsky Foundation concerto was cited for "… Petric's unusual insight into how to clarify and project detail as well as a superb sense of rhythmic design." (Halifax Chronicle Herald); the CBC commissioned Koprowski concerto premiere recording with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra "..full of …emotional power, virtuoso demands, gripping, large scale. (American Record Guide). Denis Gougeon's En Accordeon offered "..brilliant and subtle… powerful, exciting effects (Montreal La Presse); the London premiere of Gunnar Valkare's Sveriges Reikskonzerter commission Viaggio "… astonishing bravura." (Musical Opinion, London.) Joseph's explorations have been welcomed at international festivals including Huddersfield, Washington Festival, Montreal New Music, and Agora IRCAM. Petric's passion for accordion palimpsest includes a chamber version of Schubert's Winterreise with German tenor Christoph Prégardien and Pentaèdre presented at the Hohenems Schubertiade, the Tokyo Spring Festival, Tel Aviv Opera, Blaue Salle Brussels and the Berlin Philharmonic Festival. Petric's performance in the complete Sequenzas for Berio's 75th birthday tribute at Seiji Ozawa Hall, at the Boston Symphony's Tanglewood Festival, was cited in the New York Times as "…strong, committed… particularly memorable."



Kathleen Kajioka
VIOLIN

Hailed as "one of Toronto's most gifted, and searching, young musicians" (Globe & Mail), Kathleen Kajioka has established a reputation as a musical multi-linguist — from the Classical music establishment to the World music scene, from Early Music to New Music to Pop, Kathleen moves between worlds with agility and uncompromising depth. Since completing her studies on viola at the Eastman School of Music, she has performed in concert series and festivals across Canada, from the Halifax Jazz Festival to the Victoria Summer Chamber Music Festival, and internationally in the US and Europe. Kathleen has been heard frequently on CBC Radio as both soloist and chamber musician.
As a baroque violinist and violist, she appears regularly with Tafelmusik, Scaramella and Toronto Masque Theatre. She also performs with the Texas Early Music Project, and with the Montreal-based ensembles Masques and Arion Baroque.
She teaches Early Music at the Royal Conservatory of Music's Glenn Gould School, and brings all her musical experiences to bear in her role as broadcaster at The New Classical 96.3FM in Toronto, where she is the weekly host of "In the Still of the Night" and "Dinner Classics."



Jesse Dietschi
BASS

With performance credits ranging from orchestral soloist to jazz session player, Toronto bassist and international touring artist Jesse Dietschi is a truly versatile musician and composer equally experienced in jazz, classical, and popular music. He has been a featured soloist with orchestras in both Ontario and the US, and leads both his own jazz trio and chamber jazz group the Catalyst Ensemble. Serving as the Principal Bassist of Sinfonia Toronto, he holds an Artist Diploma from the Glenn Gould School in Orchestral Performance and Masters degrees in both Jazz Performance (U of Toronto) and Composition (Brandon University).
Jesse has toured internationally with groups ranging from modern jazz outfits Tunnel Six and the Nick Maclean Quartet to Canadian Tenors' star Ken Lavigne. Other performing and recording credits include the Canadian

Opera Company, the Niagara Symphony, The Headstones, and TV shows Murdoch Mysteries and Hannibal.



Bill Franks
PAINTER

Bill Franks started his painting career as a boy rowing A. Y. Jackson around the Go-Home Bay area of Georgian Bay. He was influenced by Jackson and started an oil painting career "en plein air". Jackson taught him how to make a sketch box and introduced him to the basics of colour. Franks' painting experience has taken him from one coast of Canada to the other, plus five trips to the High Arctic. His paintings hang in private collections across Canada and internationally.
Recently he has been active in group and one-man shows. He strives to present the rhythm, pattern, design and colour of the changing landscape of Canada.

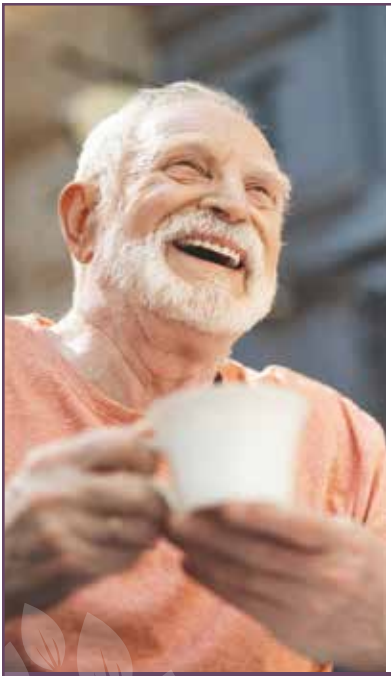


Naghmeh Farahmand
PERCUSSION

Naghmeh Farahmand is a Persian percussionist who comes from a musical family. She is the daughter of one of the leading percussion masters of Iran, Mahmoud Farahmand. Naghmeh grew up surrounded by music in a full house of drums.
Naghmeh showed great interest in rhythms during her childhood and started playing the tonbak when she was 6. While learning the rhythmic patterns of Persian traditional music under the supervision of her father, she was encouraged to learn a melodic instrument to gain insight into the melodic aspect of music as this would make her a better accompanist. So she started playing the santoor under the guidance of Faramarz Payvar and Pashang Kamkar. Besides learning traditional music, Naghmeh found the daf to be very powerful and spiritual and began learning Sufi and Kurdish rhythms on the daf from Bijan Kamkar and Masoud Habibi.
Naghmeh has performed in many well known Iranian traditional bands in Iran and festivals around the world in places such as Germany, Switzerland, Japan (Min On Festival), France (La fete de la music), Italy, Kuwait (Women festival), Austria, and London. She was honored to perform with Hassan Nahid, Iranian master of the ney and Hengameh Akhavan, a famous singer of traditional music for years.
In 2010 Naghmeh moved to Canada and started working with world music, Arabian, Bulgarian, Turkish, Indian and also Jazz. She has been teaching in different music institutes for 15 years and has taught master classes and workshops around the world.
Naghmeh founded a percussion ensemble (Sharghi) while collaborating with Iran's national TV and recorded numerous pieces and performed live for a decade. She is also skillful in playing darbuka (doumbek), dayereh, cajon, udu and drumset. She has published a book, Helheleh, that includes some pieces for the deaf and is currently publishing her percussion CD, Drums&Dreams.







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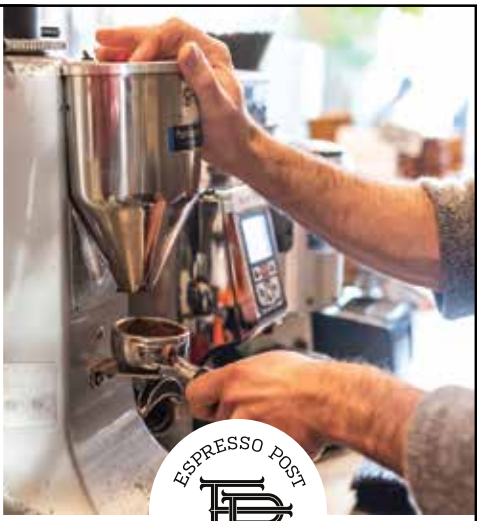
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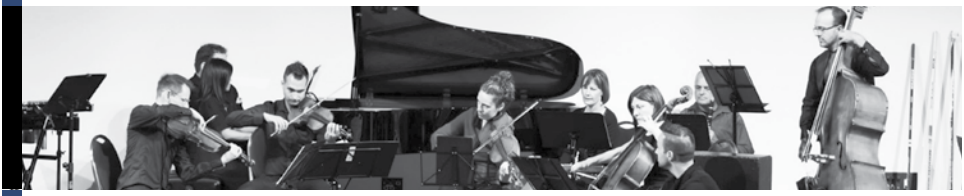

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