

FREE CONCERT SERIES IN THE RICHARD BRADSHAW AMPHITHEATRE

PRESENTED BY



TD READY
COMMITMENT

INSTRUMENTAL SERIES

December 12, 2023, 12 p.m.

cons^otell^oation / 星星 of contemporary wind

Jennifer Tran, saxophone
Jialiang Zhu, piano

The performers, Jennifer Tran and Jialiang Zhu, extend a warm welcome to the audience for an afternoon of music and connection, providing insights into the highlighted compositions. The program emphasizes the interplay of works by female-identifying artists, focusing on the depth of emotions and narratives woven into the musical journey. Inspired by Du Yun's *Dinosaur Scar*, the exploration centers on the significant impact of actions on human experiences. Dorothy Chang's *New Stories* reflects her second-generation Taiwanese-North American background, celebrating cultural connections and storytelling. Dr. Chen Yi's composition exemplifies the fusion of western and Chinese influences, illustrating the dynamic nature of culture. The performers draw a parallel between each composer and a band of stars in a musical constellation, collectively celebrating diverse cultures. The program also features Dr. Marilyn Shrude and Cait Nishimura, recognized composers contributing to the comprehensive musical experience. The performers express anticipation for a meaningful afternoon, inviting the audience to join them on a journey through time and space.

Description prepared by Jennifer Tran

THE PROGRAM

| | |
|---|----------------|
| <i>Chinese Ancient Dances</i> | Chen Yi |
| Ox Tail Dance | |
| Hu Xuan Dance | |
| <i>Dinosaur Scar</i> | Du Yun |
| <i>New Stories</i> for alto saxophone and piano | Dorothy Chang |
| Floating Worlds | |
| A Tale Tall Told | |
| Folksong | |
| <i>Renewing the Myth</i> | Marilyn Shrude |
| <i>Hiraeth</i> | Cait Nishimura |

Photography, video, and audio recording are strictly prohibited during the performance.
You are welcome to take photos before and after the performance and are encouraged to share with us on:



@CanadianOpera

#FreeConcertSeries

Programming is subject to change. For complete up-to-date listings, and to sign up for email updates, visit coc.ca/FreeConcerts.

COMING UP NEXT AT THE FREE CONCERT SERIES

Wed. Dec. 13, 2023, 12–1 p.m.

INSTRUMENTAL SERIES

Dmytro Udovychenko, violin

Schubert, Ravel & More

Ukrainian violinist Dmytro Udovychenko is the Grand Prize laureate of the 2023 Concours musical international de Montréal, where he stunned audiences with his spectacular performance of Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No. 1 with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, conducted by Rafael Payare. Born in Kharkiv and currently based in Germany, Udovychenko has also been a top prizewinner at major competitions in Finland, Italy, and Singapore. For his recital debut in Toronto, he will perform works for violin and piano by Schubert, Ravel, and others.

Thu. Dec. 14, 2023, 12–1 p.m.

VOCAL SERIES

Artists of the COC Ensemble Studio

Winter Celebrations

Artists of the COC Ensemble Studio celebrate the winter season with beloved songs, both sacred and secular, that evoke both the cold of the natural world and the warmth of the winter holidays.

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE...

Tue. Jan. 9, 2024, 12–1 p.m.

VOCAL SERIES

Sara Schabas, soprano

Isabelle David, piano

Robin Elliott, narration

in a dark blue night: From Vienna to New York City

Sara Schabas (soprano) and Isabelle David (pianist), both members of Barbara Hannigan's Equilibrium Young Artists, present *in a dark blue night: From Vienna to New York City*. The first half of the program features fin-de-siècle Viennese composers who fled Austria following the rise of the Nazi regime, including Alma Mahler, Erich Korngold, and Viktor Ullmann. The second half of their program presents the Canadian premiere of the Pulitzer Prize-nominated composer Alex Weiser's *in a dark blue night*, featuring Yiddish poetry written by immigrants to New York City in the 20th century. Narration will be provided by musicologist Robin Elliott.

The Free Concert Series in the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre is supported by the Free Concert Series Endowment Fund, established in honour of Richard Bradshaw by an anonymous donor



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FOUR SEASONS CENTRE
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



Jennifer Tran – saxophone

Jennifer Tran (she/hers) is a musician and legal professional with a strong commitment to music, education, and social change. She has a Bachelor of Music (Hons.) and a Master of Music in Saxophone Performance from the University of Toronto, with a focus on classical and contemporary music. Recognized by the CBC in 2020 as one of “30 hot Canadian classical musicians under 30,” she has demonstrated dedication to saxophone performance innovation. In her legal capacity, Tran specializes in landlord-tenant and small claims cases, offering crucial legal support. Additionally, she played a significant role in the soundtrack and on-screen performance in Atom Egoyan’s film *Guest of Honour*, and her recent musical contributions can be heard in albums by Canadian composers Alex Eddington and Frank Horvat.



Jialiang Zhu – piano

Chinese pianist Jialiang Zhu is a passionate collaborative artist, educator, and researcher. She is a featured pianist on composer Alice Ping Yee Ho’s album *A Woman’s Voice*. She is a co-founder of the Bedford Trio. A champion of contemporary music, the Trio adjudicates the annual University of Toronto Piano Trio Composition Competition and frequently performs in the UofT New Music Festival. This season, Zhu produces and performs in two concert series: “The Power of Words” and “Empowered by Friendship,” exploring her connections with fellow Canadian artists and showcasing their works of music and poetry.

Zhu specializes in Chinese art song and has performed this repertoire with vocalists from different cultural backgrounds in lecture recitals at Canadian Opera Company, University of Toronto, and University of Ottawa. Her article *Singing Classical Chinese Poetry* was published by Art Song Canada. Currently pursuing a Doctoral of Musical Arts Degree at the UofT under the tutelage of Lydia Wong, she is researching art songs inspired by classical Chinese poetry and creating a performance

guide for non-Mandarin speakers.

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