

FREE CONCERT SERIES IN THE RICHARD BRADSHAW AMPHITHEATRE

PRESENTED BY



TD READY
COMMITMENT

INSTRUMENTAL SERIES

February 27, 2024, 12 p.m.

LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP: Explorations with Mozart and Janáček

Nancy Kershaw, violin
Aya Miyagawa, violin
Josh Greenlaw, viola
Shannon Knights, viola
Olga Laktionova, cello
Scott Wevers, horn

THE PROGRAM

String Quartet No. 2, Intimate Letters.....Leoš Janáček
Andante - Con moto - Allegro
Adagio - Vivace
Moderato - Andante - Adagio
Allegro - Andante - Adagio
Nancy Kershaw, Aya Miyagawa, Josh Greenlaw, Olga Laktionova

Horn Quintet, K407Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Allegro
Andante
Rondo Allegro
Scott Wevers, Aya Miyagawa, Josh Greenlaw, Shannon Knights, Scott Wevers

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. Feb. 28, 2024, 12-1 p.m.

VOCAL SERIES

The Colour of Joy

Canadian Art Song Project

Jonelle Sills, soprano

Jorell Williams, baritone

Steven Philcox, piano

The Canadian Art Song Project will present an exciting performance of new and old work celebrating Black Canadian composers. Repertoire will include songs by R. Nathaniel Dett and the public premiere of *The Colour of Joy* by Maria Thompson Corley, commissioned by Canadian Art Song Project with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.

Tue. Mar. 5, 2024, 12-1 p.m.

INSTRUMENTAL SERIES

Voices of the Harp

Matt Dupont, harp

Jérémie Roy, narration

Discover harpist Matt Dupont's favourite pieces during this performance filled with gentle melodies that will stir the imagination. Poetry and music converge in brilliant dialogue throughout this historical journey. Come along on a musical voyage punctuated by literary masterpieces recited by actor Jérémie Roy.

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE...

Tue. Mar 19, 2024 | 12-1 p.m.

INSTRUMENTAL SERIES

Transcribed for the Piano

Elina Kelebeev, piano

"Transcribed for the piano" means to reinterpret, replay, and perform works originally written for other instruments or ensembles. Elina Kelebeev will present a program coming from a rich history of classical music tradition. It will include works by Bach, Saint-Saëns, Liszt, Rachmaninov, and Nina Simone.

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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Nancy Kershaw - violin

Originally from London, ON, Nancy Kershaw joined the COC Orchestra in 1997 and National Ballet of Canada Orchestra the following year. Between finishing her studies at McGill University and settling in Toronto, she held a position with Symphony Nova Scotia for three years.

In 1993, Kershaw moved to the UK where she freelanced in several London chamber orchestras and was on staff as a teaching assistant to Wen Zhou Li at the Yehudi Menuhin School. In 2010, she won a position with the Victoria Symphony and took a leave of absence for three seasons to experience west coast living.

Nancy is an active freelancer in and around Toronto when not performing at the Four Seasons Centre. Present and past engagements include playing with the Shaw Festival Orchestra, Esprit Orchestra, Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, and Santa Fe Opera Orchestra.



Aya Miyagawa - violin

A native of Vancouver, BC, Aya Miyagawa began her studies on the violin with Vivian Waters. She continued her studies with Gwen Thompson at Western University, and with Sidney Harth at Yale University, where she was the recipient of the Ender Scholarship.

Miyagawa has performed as a soloist with Orchestra Seattle, Pacific Symphony, the Western University Symphony Orchestra, and Orchestra London. In 2000, she won Second Prize and the Best Performance of the Commissioned Work award in the

Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition. Her performances have been broadcast on CBC Radio's West Coast Performance and In Performance. Miyagawa has performed with the Queen of Puddings Music Theatre Company in their production of *The Midnight Court* at Covent Garden.

Miyagawa is currently a member of the COC and National Ballet of Canada Orchestras.

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Joshua Greenlaw – viola

Joshua Greenlaw hails from Vancouver, BC where he was a member of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and performed with the Pacific Baroque Orchestra and CBC Radio Orchestra. Since then, Greenlaw has held Principal positions in both the Windsor and Kitchener-Waterloo Symphonies and has performed as guest Principal Viola with several orchestras, including the Bournemouth Symphony and Opera North (UK). Currently, Greenlaw is Assistant Principal Viola in the COC and National Ballet Orchestra of Canada Orchestras, and is also a member of the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra. Greenlaw has participated in chamber music series around North America, including the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Vancouver New Music, and the Inner Chamber series. He has also been featured on CBC Radio as both a soloist and chamber musician, and has received several provincial and national grants, including a Canada Council Artists grant to complete a residency at the Banff Centre. Greenlaw enjoys hiking and biking with his wife and two kids.



Shannon Knights – viola

Shannon Knights is a graduate of The Glenn Gould School of Music and McGill University, where she studied with Steven Dann and Andre Roy. Knights was a member of the Orchestre symphonique de Québec for four years and, while residing there, performed with the Cartier Quartet. Knights is now a member of the Venuti String Quartet, which plays many genres but specializes in classical and classical-jazz fusion. She has worked with such artists as Laila Biali, Robi Botos, Donavon Woods and Camila Cabello. You can see Knights play in and around Toronto with the Toronto Symphony, COC, National Ballet of Canada, and Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestras.

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Olga Laktionova – cello

Olga Laktionova is a native of Odessa, Ukraine, where she received her musical training at the Special Musical School of Professor Stolyarsky and Odessa State Conservatory with Elena Befani and Valentina Balon-Rymashevskaya.

Laktionova received additional training at Hochschule für Musik Freiburg in Germany with Christoph Henkel. She won Second Prize at both the Eugen Coca International Competition (Kishinev, Moldova) and City Competition for Young Artists in Odessa, and the Special Diploma at International Competition Jeunesses Musicales (Bucharest, Romania).

After immigrating to Canada in 2002, Laktionova participated in Brott Music Festival in Hamilton and won Second Prize at the Canadian Music Competition in Calgary. Currently, she is a member of the COC and National Ballet of Canada Orchestras.



Scott Wevers – Horn

Scott Wevers was appointed Principal Horn with the COC Orchestra in 2019 and has been a member of the National Ballet of Canada Orchestra horn section since 2006. As a freelancer, he has performed with many orchestras including the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, Hamilton Philharmonic, and the Orchestre symphonique de Québec. As an early horn specialist, he has performed regularly with Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra since 2001, participating in several of their tours and recordings (including the complete Beethoven Symphonies). In

2019, he had the privilege of playing Mozart's 4th horn concerto as soloist with Tafelmusik for Jeanne Lamon's farewell concert. Other early music ensembles for which he has played include Aradia in Toronto, Ensemble Caprice in Montreal, Apollo's Fire in Cleveland and American Bach Soloists in San Francisco.

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