

# FREE CONCERT SERIES IN THE RICHARD BRADSHAW AMPHITHEATRE

PRESENTED BY



TD READY  
COMMITMENT

VOCAL SERIES

March 6, 2024, 12 p.m.

## WIRTH VOCAL PRIZE WINNER 2022/2023

Jingjing Xu, mezzo-soprano  
Christopher Knopp, piano

### THE PROGRAM

*Mooring by the Maple Bridge at Night* ..... Li Yinghai

Liederkreis Op.39 ..... Robert Schumann

In der Fremde  
Intermezzo  
Waldeggespräch  
Die Stille  
Mondnacht  
Schöne Fremde  
Auf einer Burg  
In der Fremde  
Wehmut  
Zwielicht  
Im Walde  
Frühlingsnacht

“Wie du warst! Wie du bist!” (*Der Rosenkavalier*) ..... Richard Strauss

“Près des remparts de Séville” (*Carmen*) ..... Georges Bizet

“Anderò, volerò, griderò” (*Orlando finto pazzo*) ..... Antonio Vivaldi

“Se Romeo, t’uccise un figlio” (*I Capuleti e i Montecchi*) ..... Vincenzo Bellini

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:



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Programming is subject to change. For complete up-to-date listings, and to sign up for email updates, visit [coc.ca/FreeConcerts](http://coc.ca/FreeConcerts).

## COMING UP NEXT AT THE FREE CONCERT SERIES

Wed. Mar. 13, 2024 | 12-1 p.m.

VOCAL/DANCE SERIES

*COC March Break: Cendrillon*

Artists of the Community Partnerships & Programs Department

Join COC Teaching Artists Karine White, Annemarie Cabri, and Timothy Cheung as they present an interactive workshop inspired by Massenet's 1899 opera, *Cendrillon*. Learn about Massenet's musical retelling of the Cinderella story through dance, set design, and listen to one of the opera's most famous arias.

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, Rachmaninoff, and Nina Simone.

## YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE...

Tue. Mar. 21, 2024 | 12-1 p.m.

VOCAL SERIES

*An Afternoon at the Italian Opera*

Artists of the COC Ensemble Studio

Artists of the COC Ensemble Studio explore opera classics, including works by Verdi, Puccini, and Donizetti, while touching on other composers who left their mark on the Italian opera canon.

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FOUR SEASONS CENTRE  
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

# FREE CONCERT SERIES IN THE RICHARD BRADSHAW AMPHITHEATRE

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## Mooring by the Maple Bridge at Night

The moon sets, crows sing, and frost fills the sky.  
Maple trees along the river and fires in fishing  
boats

face me, sleepless with lament.  
The bell of Cold Mountain Temple outside Suzhou  
tolls,  
At midnight, the sound reaches this boat.

*(Text: Zhang Ji)*

## In der Fremde

From my homeland, beyond the red lightning,  
The clouds come drifting in,  
But father and mother have long been dead,  
Now no one knows me there.

How soon, ah! how soon till that quiet time  
When I too shall rest  
Beneath the sweet murmur of lonely woods,  
Forgotten here as well.

## Intermezzo

I bear your beautiful likeness  
Deep within my heart,  
It gazes at me every hour  
So freshly and happily.

My heart sings softly to itself  
An old and beautiful song  
That soars into the sky  
And swiftly wings its way to you.

## Waldesgespräch

It is already late, already cold,  
Why ride lonely through the forest?  
The forest is long, you are alone,  
You lovely bride! I'll lead you home!

'Great is the deceit and cunning of men,  
My heart is broken with grief,  
The hunting horn echoes here and there,

O flee! You do not know who I am.'

So richly adorned are steed and lady,  
So wondrous fair her youthful form,  
Now I know you—may God protect me!  
You are the enchantress Lorelei.

'You know me well—from its towering rock  
My castle looks silently into the Rhine.  
It is already late, already cold,  
You shall never leave this forest again!'

## Die Stille

No one knows and no one can guess  
How happy I am, how happy!  
If only one, just one person knew,  
No one else ever should!

The snow outside is not so silent,  
Nor are the stars on high  
So still and taciturn  
As my own thoughts.

I wish I were a little bird,  
And could fly across the sea,  
Across the sea and further,  
Until I were in heaven!

## Mondnacht

It was as though Heaven  
Had softly kissed the Earth,  
So that she in a gleam of blossom  
Had only to dream of him.

The breeze passed through the fields,  
The corn swayed gently to and fro,  
The forests murmured softly,  
The night was so clear with stars.

And my soul spread  
Her wings out wide,  
Flew across the silent land,

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As though flying home.

### **Schöne Fremde**

The tree-tops rustle and shudder  
As if at this very hour  
The ancient gods  
Were pacing these half-sunken walls.

Here beyond the myrtle trees  
In secret twilit splendour,  
What are you saying, fantastic night,  
Obscurely, as in a dream?

The glittering stars gaze down on me,  
Fierily and full of love,  
The distant horizon speaks with rapture  
Of some great happiness to come!

### **Auf einer Burg**

Up there at his look-out  
The old knight has fallen asleep;  
Rain-storms pass overhead,  
And the wood stirs through the portcullis.

Beard and hair matted together,  
Ruff and breast turned to stone,  
For centuries he's sat up there  
In his silent cell.

Outside it's quiet and peaceful,  
All have gone down to the valley,  
Forest birds sing lonely songs  
In the empty window-arches.

Down there on the sunlit Rhine  
A wedding-party's sailing by,  
Musicians strike up merrily,  
And the lovely bride—weeps.

### **In der Fremde**

I hear the brooklets murmuring  
Through the forest, here and there,  
In the forest, in the murmuring  
I do not know where I am.

Nightingales are singing  
Here in the solitude,  
As though they wished to tell  
Of lovely days now past.

The moonlight flickers,  
As though I saw below me  
The castle in the valley,  
Yet it lies so far from here!

As though in the garden,  
Full of roses, white and red,  
My love were waiting for me,  
Yet she died so long ago.

### **Wehmut**

True, I can sometimes sing  
As though I were content;  
But secretly tears well up,  
And my heart is set free.

Nightingales, when spring breezes  
Play outside, sing  
Their song of longing  
From their dungeon cell.

Then all hearts listen  
And everyone rejoices,  
Yet no one feels the pain,  
The deep sorrow in the song.

### **Zwielicht**

Dusk is about to spread its wings,  
The trees now shudder and stir,  
Clouds drift by like oppressive dreams—  
What can this dusk and dread imply?

If you have a fawn you favour,  
Do not let her graze alone,  
Hunters sound their horns through the forest,  
Voices wander to and fro.

If here on earth you have a friend,  
Do not trust him at this hour,  
Though his eyes and lips be smiling,

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In treacherous peace he's scheming war.

That which wearily sets today,  
Will rise tomorrow, newly born.  
Much can go lost in the night—  
Be wary, watchful, on your guard!

### **Im Walde**

A wedding procession wound over the mountain,  
I heard the warbling of birds,  
Riders flashed by, hunting horns peeled,  
That was a merry chase!

And before I knew, all had faded,  
Darkness covers the land,  
Only the forest sighs from the mountain,  
And deep in my heart I quiver with fear.

### **Frühlingsnacht**

Over the garden, through the air  
I heard birds of passage fly,  
A sign that spring is in the air,  
Flowers already bloom below.

I could shout for joy, could weep,  
For it seems to me it cannot be!  
All the old wonders come flooding back,  
Gleaming in the moonlight.

And the moon and stars say it,  
And the dreaming forest whispers it,  
And the nightingales sing it:  
'She is yours, is yours!'

*(Text: Joseph von Eichendorff  
Translation: Richard Stokes)*

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### **Jingjing Xu – mezzo-soprano**

Jingjing Xu, a mezzo-soprano from China, recently finished her master's degree at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University where she studied closely with Annamaria Popescu, Michael McMahon, and Esther Gonthier. At the age of 22, she made her operatic debut in the title role of *Orlando* with Opera McGill and won the Wirth Vocal Prize the following year. In addition to opera, she has a passion for art song. This summer she attended the Franz-Schubert-Institut where she worked with Elly Ameling, Julius Drake, Helmut Deutsch, and Robert Holl as well as other masters. She and Montreal based pianist Christopher Knopp have been working together as a duo since 2021.



### **Christopher Knopp – piano**

Christopher Knopp is a pianist from Vancouver, BC. While he began his studies of music as a solo pianist, his love for poetry and collaboration eventually led him to focus his career on art song and chamber music. Last season, he was one of the first participants in the new residency program in vocal accompaniment at McGill University and the University of Montreal.

Knopp has been a professional accompanist since high school who, for over a decade, has developed and maintained a schedule of diverse collaborations, presenting recitals with singers, instrumental soloists, chamber groups, choirs, and orchestras in many major Canadian cities. His primary mentor is Michael McMahon while he has also studied with Graham Johnson, Elly Ameling, Helmut Deutsch, John Churchwell, James Vaughn, Jeff Cohen, Boris Berman, and Ilya Poletaev.

As a solo pianist, Knopp has performed concerti by Mozart and Shostakovich with orchestra. He has also won prizes at a variety of competitions and festivals, including Fourth Prize at the Concours Prix d'Europe in 2022. A passionate supporter of music as a living art, he has commissioned and premiered a number of works for piano solo, chamber ensembles, and opera.

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