

FREE CONCERT SERIES IN THE RICHARD BRADSHAW AMPHITHEATRE

PRESENTED BY



VOCAL SERIES

May 30, 2024, 12 p.m.

LES ADIEUX

ARTISTS OF THE COC ENSEMBLE STUDIO

Ariane Cossette, soprano
Alex Hetherington, mezzo-soprano
Mattia Senesi, piano
Brian Cho, piano

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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FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

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THE PROGRAM

“Mira, o Norma...Sì, fino all’ore estreme” (*Norma*) Vincenzo Bellini
Ariane Cossette, Alex Hetherington | Mattia Senesi

Kalypso Cecilia Livingston
Songs From the House of Death Ian Cusson
Songs From the House of Death; Or How to Make it Through the End of a Relationship
Ariane Cossette, Alex Hetherington | Brian Cho

Drei Lieder, Op. 22 Erich Korngold
Was Du mir bist?
Mit Dir zu schweigen
Welt ist stille eingeschlafen

“These Summer Nights” (*12 Romances*) Sergei Rachmaninoff
Ariane Cossette | Mattia Senesi

“She Moved Thro’ the Fair” (*Six Irish Folk Songs*) Arr. By Geoffrey Pratley
At the Mid Hour of Night Arr. by Benjamin Britten
Ae Fond Kiss Arr. by Liz Upchurch
Alex Hetherington | Brian Cho

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Mira, o Norma... Sì, fino all'ore estreme (See, oh Norma... Yes, for all the rest of our days)

ADALGISA

Behold, o Norma, at your knees,
These dear, dear children!
Let pity for them move you,
If you feel no pity for yourself!

NORMA

Ah, why do you try to weaken me
With such soft feelings?
Such illusions, such hopes
Are not for one about to die!

ADALGISA

Relent, ah yield!

NORMA

Ah, leave me.
He loves you.

ADALGISA

And already he repents.

NORMA

And you?

ADALGISA

I loved him. Now I feel
Nothing but friendship.

NORMA

O my child! What will you do?

ADALGISA

Return to you what is yours,
Or hide myself, with you, from God and man
forever.

NORMA and ADALGISA

Yes, you have won. Embrace me.
I have found my friend again.
For the rest of my life
I shall always stay with you.
The earth is big enough
To shelter us both together.
Together with you, courageously,

We shall fight outrageous Destiny,
As long as in our breasts
Our loving hearts shall beat...

(Text: Felice Romani)

Was Du mir bist? (What you are to me?)

What you are to me? The sight of land,
A stand of fruit-laden trees,
Flowers in bloom at the water's edge.

What you are to me? The sparkle of stars
that breaks through the cloud,
The distant ray of light that through the
darkness says:
Traveller, don't lose heart!

And even if my life was one of resignation,
Where no good fortune came my way,
What you are to me? Need you ask?
What you are to me: my faith in happiness.

(Text: Eleonore van der Straten)

Translation: Uri Liebrecht

Mit Dir zu schweigen (Silence, when I'm with you)

To sit with you in silence in the dark,
Our souls resting in the lap of dreams,
Is to hear eternal melodies,
Is endless love, it seems.

To sit with you at twilight without words
Is to float towards the fullness of the earth,
Is to grow deep into the infinite,
Far removed, a tranquil berth.

Welt ist stille eingeschlafen (When the world has gone to sleep)

When the world has gone to sleep,
Resting in the moon-light
And in heaven's harbour
Eyes, pure and golden open,
God's violin sings sweetly
And my love, I think of you

Sailing in a boat of dreams,
I seek you in the stars,

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Beams of blissful love light up
The recesses of my heart.
Our souls in deep communion kiss,
In my dream ... in my dream.

*(Text: Karl Kobald
Translation: Uri Liebrecht*

These Summer Nights

These beautiful summer nights,
Illumined by the moon's bright light,
Give birth to uncertain feelings of alarm,
Give rise to outpourings of love.

Forgotten is the boundless grief,
That our unhappy life bestows on us,
And the abundant pleasures of another realm
Are revealed to us by some mysterious power...

And helplessly, to one another
We open up our enamoured hearts,
On these beautiful summer nights,
Illumined by the moon's bright light.

*(Text: Daniil Maximovich Rathaus
Translation: Philip Ross Bullock*

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Artists of the COC Ensemble Studio



Artists of the COC Ensemble Studio: (l-r) pianist Brian Cho, mezzo-soprano Alex Hetherington, tenor Wesley Harrison, soprano Karoline Podolak, mezzo-soprano Queen Hezumuryango, pianist Mattia Senesi, sopranos Charlotte Siegel and Ariane Cossette, and baritone Korin Thomas-Smith

Ariane Cossette – soprano

Canadian soprano Ariane Cossette is a graduate of Conservatoire de musique de Montréal and Université de Montréal. She has received bursaries from many foundations including Jeunesses Musicales Canada, Art Song Foundation of Canada, George-Cedric-Ferguson Foundation, Opéra Bouffe du Québec, and Jacqueline Desmarais Foundation. In 2023, she won Second Prize in the Louis and Christina Quilico Awards. As a concert soloist, she made her France debut in 2018 and 2019 in Chœurs Éternels Concert, under the direction of Andrei Feher and Aldo Salvagno. Her recent opera credits include Frasquita in *Carmen* (COC), Micaëla in *La tragédie de Carmen* (Université de Montréal) and Selene in *Endymion's Dream* (COSA Canada). Cossette is looking forward to returning

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for a second year in the COC Ensemble Studio. She can be seen on the COC mainstage this season as Pepik/Woodpecker in *The Cunning Little Vixen* and as Norina in the Ensemble Studio performance of *Don Pasquale*.

Alex Hetherington – mezzo-soprano

Mezzo-soprano Alex Hetherington, named in 2023 as one of CBC's "30 hot classical musicians under 30," was most recently seen on the COC mainstage as Mercédès in *Carmen* (2022) and the Attendant in *Salome* (2023). Her recent concert performances include Mozart's *Requiem* (National Arts Centre), *Songs from the House of Death* (Victoria Symphony), and *Neruda Songs* (University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra). Past operatic credits include Rosina in *The Barber of Seville*, Carmen in *La tragédie de Carmen* (UofT Opera), Nicklausse in *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, and [Riley] in Tapestry Opera's *R.U.R. A Torrent of Light*, for which she won a 2022 Dora Mavor Moore Award. Hetherington holds a master's in opera performance from the University of Toronto and has a passion for contemporary music, composition, and innovative recital programming. She can be seen at the COC this season as the Second Handmaiden in *Medea*, and in a relaxed performance of *The Cunning Little Vixen* as the Dog.

Mattia Senesi – piano

Mattia Senesi is an Italian pianist born in Arezzo, Italy. He graduated with honours at Istituto Superiore di Studi Musicali (ISSM) Franci of Siena and then completed his master's in piano performance with honours at ISSM Mascagni of Livorno. During his studies, Senesi won several national and international competitions, both as a soloist and as part of chamber music ensembles. He has collaborated with different choirs and opera ensembles in Italy and North America, such as Coro Voceincanto, Ensemble Modulation, Choir Massenet, University of Tennessee Opera Theater, and Opera Viva! Summer program in Verona, Italy. Currently, Senesi is completing his doctorate in Collaborative Piano at the University of Montreal, where he also served as a collaborative pianist for Projet Nouvel Opéra, Opéra de l'Université de Montreal, and for the university's École LUMI.

Brian Cho – piano

Brian Cho studied in London, Ontario, where he completed his Bachelor of Musical Arts and Masters in Collaborative Piano at Western University and has since participated in the Orford Summer Music Academy, the Accademia Europea Dell'Opera, and, most recently, Music Academy of the West. He won first place in the 2023 Marilyn Horne Song Competition and has been nominated numerous times in the Classical Musician of the Year category of the Forest City London Music Awards. In addition to being an accomplished concert pianist and music director, Cho is the co-founder and head coach of Can of Soup Collective, a non-profit organization dedicated to making opera accessible and relatable to wider audiences.

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