

# FREE CONCERT SERIES IN THE RICHARD BRADSHAW AMPHITHEATRE

PRESENTED BY



TD READY  
COMMITMENT

INSTRUMENTAL SERIES

October 24, 2023, 12 p.m.

## REBANKS FAMILY FELLOWSHIP SHOWCASE

Artists of The Glenn Gould School

Julia Mirzoev, violin (2023/2024 Rebanks Fellow)

Kevin Ahfat, piano (2018/2019 Rebanks Fellow)

Dior Quartet – The Glenn Gould School's Quartet-in-Residence

Noa Sarid, violin (2023/2024 Rebanks Fellow)

Tobias Elser, violin (2023/2024 Rebanks Fellow)

Caleb Georges, viola (2022/2023 Rebanks Fellow)

Joanne Yesol Choi, cello (2021/2022 Rebanks Fellow)

### THE PROGRAM

Violin Sonata No. 2, Op. 44 ..... Walter Kaufmann  
Molto moderato e tranquillo  
Molto adagio  
Vivace

Julia Mirzoev | Kevin Ahfat

Les Ombres ..... Elizabeth Raum  
Julia Mirzoev | Kevin Ahfat

Tre Arie Antiche (dalle 'Coplas Sefardies'), Op. 30 ..... Alberto Hemsí  
Ballata  
Canzone  
Rondo

Dior Quartet

String Quartet No. 3 ..... Robert Paterson  
Poet Voice  
Anthem

Dior Quartet

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](http://coc.ca/FreeConcerts).

## COMING UP NEXT AT THE FREE CONCERT SERIES

### INSTRUMENTAL SERIES

Wed. Oct. 25, 2023, 12-1 p.m.

Artun Miskciyan, piano

*The Piano Without Borders*

Pianist Artun Miskciyan presents a recital featuring select works by Chopin and Rachmaninoff, along with his personal arrangements of music from Italy, Ukraine, Armenia, Russia, Greece, Azerbaijan, France, and Turkey.

### INSTRUMENTAL SERIES

Thu. Nov. 2, 2023, 12-1 p.m.

Artists of the COC Orchestra: Brass

*Brass at the Opera*

Artists from the COC Orchestra's brass section present an afternoon of opera classics. Hear recognizable melodies, arranged specifically for brass, while humming along to your favourite tunes.

## YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE...

### VOCAL SERIES

Fri. Dec. 8, 2023, 12-1 p.m.

Artists of The Glenn Gould School

*Rebanks Family Fellowship Showcase*

This performance showcases vocalists from the Rebanks Family Fellowship and International Performance Residency Program at The Royal Conservatory's Glenn Gould School, which is designed as a catalyst for launching successful professional careers of extraordinary Canadian emerging artists who have completed their formal training.

---

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



**coc.ca**

Radio Sponsor:  
CLASSICAL 96.3 FM

FOUR SEASONS CENTRE  
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



### **Julia Mirzoev – violin**

Violinist Julia Mirzoev has been featured in Canada's "Top 30 Canadian classical musicians under 30", CBC Radio 94.1, and Classical 96.3 FM. Her top prizes include the commissioned work prize at both the Michael Hill and Klein International Competitions, the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal competition, Grand Prize at the Canadian Music Competition, and First Prizes at the Crescendo International Competition and Cremona Music Festival Competition. As a soloist, Mirzoev has performed with the Montreal Chamber Music Festival's Jeunes Virtuoses Orchestra, the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra, Sinfonia Toronto, the Canadian Sinfonietta, the University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Toronto, the Colorado College Summer Music Festival Orchestra, and the Toronto Symphony

Orchestra. A passionate chamber musician, Mirzoev has been a winner of the Yale Chamber Music Competition and invited to participate in the Sarasota, Manchester, Toronto, Yellow Barn, and Perlman Music Program Festivals. She is also a founding member of the Myriade String Quartet, coached by André Roy, who have been selected to compete in the live rounds of the Wigmore Hall and Trondheim String Quartet competitions. A graduate of the University of Toronto, McGill University, and the Yale University School of Music, Mirzoev has received the Broadus Erle Graduating Prize at the Yale School of Music, and the Golden Violin Award at McGill University. Her mentors include Andrew Wan, Ani Kavafian, Jonathan Crow, and Jacob Lakirovich. She is extremely excited to be part of the Rebanks Family Fellowship Program.



### **Kevin Ahfat – piano**

An artist that "leaves no question about his riveting presentation and technical finesse" (*Seattle Times*), Canadian pianist Kevin Ahfat is acclaimed to be "poised to become one of the young heirs of the classical piano realm, with a bold, boundary-pushing, millennial style matched by refined execution" (*Vanguard Seattle*). Possessing "a balanced mix of expressiveness and virtuosity" (*Musical America*), he "summons plenty of thunderpower in the big moments, but clearly values musicianship over mere showmanship" (*American Record Guide*).

Ahfat continues performances and recordings as the newest core member of the three-time Grammy-nominated ARC Ensemble, one of Canada's pre-eminent chamber ensembles and foremost cultural forces. He was named one of CBC Music's "30 hot Canadian classical musicians under 30" in 2018 and, that same year, was thrilled to give the North American Premiere of Camille Saint-Saëns' Third Sonata for Cello & Piano, recently published by Bärenreiter-Verlag.

Ahfat has had the privilege of sharing the stage with renowned artists across many genres, including Jean-Yves Thibaudet, SO Percussion, David Finckel, Jera Wolfe, and Sonia Rodriguez. Festival appearances include the Music@Menlo, Rockport, Fall for Dance North, Zhuhai, and Kyoto International Music Festivals, and he contributed his playing to Yamaha Canada's recent *Dear Glenn* AI Project.

A two-time winner of the Juilliard Concerto Competition, Ahfat completed principal studies at the Juilliard School under the tutelage of Joseph Kalichstein and Stephen Hough, and was in-residence as a Rebanks Fellow at the Royal Conservatory in Toronto. He is a grateful recipient of a 2019 Sylva Gelber Award.

---

**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**

## The Dior Quartet

Joined together from Israel, South Korea, Saint Lucia, Canada, and the U.S., the Dior Quartet is the Quartet-in-Residence at The Royal Conservatory's Glenn Gould School in Toronto. Winners of the 2023 Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition, the quartet formed in 2018 at the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University under the tutelage of Pacifica Quartet.

The Dior are laureates of the prestigious Chesapeake (Silver, 2021), and Fischhoff (Bronze, 2019) Chamber Music Competitions, as well as semi-finalists of this year's Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition and last year's Banff International String Quartet Competition.

The Dior Quartet is mentored by Barry Shiffman and Roman Borys, and have studied with members of the St. Lawrence, Alban Berg, Parker, JACK, Danish, Ébene, and Belcea Quartets, as well as Scott St. John and Bryan Epperson.

The quartet is a recurring ensemble at the Mostly Modern Festival in the Netherlands and New York, and Tippet Rise Art Center in Montana. Recent concert series include Big Lakes Festival, Prince Edward County Chamber Music Festival, Noe Music, Tahoe Music Alive, Music on Main, and Union Summer. They made their debut with the Schneider Concert Series in 2021. Their education includes the Britten Pears Young Artists Program, the Banff Centre's Evolution: Quartet program, the McGill International String Quartet Academy in Montreal, and the SLSQ Seminar at Stanford University.

The repertoire and projects they pursue intersect with their multicultural backgrounds and moral values, as they seek to explore the immigrant experience through art. The quartet takes their name from the French word "D'or" which means gold. It's a rare, elegant, and malleable element, precious to those who own it and often gifted to loved ones. Most importantly, gold holds the memory of the earth and absorbs the stories of the people who give it shape and form.



Noa Sarid



Tobias Elser



Caleb Georges



Joanne Yesol Choi

---

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