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### MCO'S 45th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Audiences continue to be amazed at the value of a subscription to the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra.

Pairing the world's greatest music and finest concert musicians, the MCO presents nine concerts each year in the intimate, acoustically superb venue of Westminster Church.

"This season, we're embarking on something we're calling the New Concerto Project, a multi-year initiative that will feature a number of concerto commissions, most of them by Canadian composers," says MCO Music Director Anne Manson. "It starts with a bang, with a premiere of a piano concerto by Philip Glass."

As 2017/18 is the MCO's 45th anniversary season, it's fitting that we should also draw on this history. The season's roster of guest artist includes such longstanding friends of the MCO as Marc-André Hamelin, Tracy Dahl, and Measha Brueggergosman, who joins us as our Guest Artist-in-Residence.

Whether you're subscribing again or for the first time, join us at the MCO this season. Enjoy the benefits we offer all subscribers and, above all, be moved by our profound chamber music experience.

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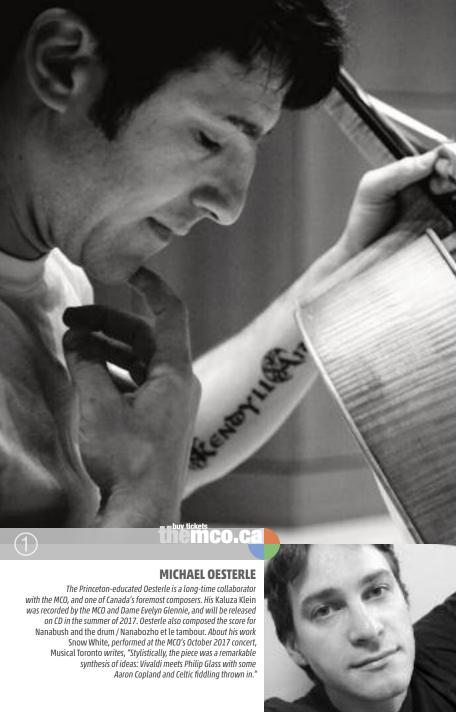
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# CONCERT 1 7:30 TUE 26 SEPTEMBER 2017 WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH 745 WESTMINSTER AVE

# ARIEL BARNES, CANADA'S CELLIST

Winnipeg audiences seem to have a unique appreciation for the cello, and Ariel Barnes is uniquely qualified to satisfy that appetite. A player of dazzling virtuosity and magnetic expressivity, Barnes is, in the words of Maestro Bramwell Tovey, "the outstanding Canadian cellist of his generation."

Canadians have noticed. His recordings have garnered two Western Canadian Music Awards, and a Juno nomination, and are met with critical acclaim. After taking in his Winnipeg performance, Canadians will eagerly line up to see him perform in venues across BC, where he tours with the MCO in the fall of 2017.

For his Winnipeg stop on this tour, Barnes performs Haydn's first Cello Concerto, a dashing entrée into the genre for Haydn, and a staple of the instrument's repertoire. After intermission, the MCO performs another fiery masterpiece of the classical period: Mozart's 29th Symphony. This concert also revisits Canadian repertoire cherished by MCO audiences. There's Jeffrey Ryan's Earthshine, the sleeper hit of the MCO's April 2017 concert. The 4x Juno nominated Ryan is one of Canada's most celebrated composers, and Earthshine testifies to his masterful command of colour and strong personal voice.

There's also a performance of Michael Oesterle's cello concerto *Ironman*, which concludes our season-opening concert. This piece was singled out by *MacLean's* magazine as one of the most "extraordinary" recordings on CBC Radio 2's *Concerts on Demand* website (check it out for yourself).

#### REPERTOIRE

Jeffrey RYAN Earthshine

Joseph HAYDN Cello Concerto in C Major (Hob. VIIb: 1)

Michael OESTERLE Ironman (cello concerto)

Wolfgang Amadeus MOZART Symphony No. 29 in A Major (K. 201/186a)

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olzza Glub CONCERT 2
7:30 TUE 17 OCTOBER 2017
WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
745 WESTMINSTER AVE

### NOSKY, MANDEL, AND THE AGE OF REASON

Goethe once described chamber music, an invention of the Age of Reason, as "rational people conversing." And arguably no chamber music is as orderly and dialectical as the great works of the baroque and classical eras.

At our October concert, the MCO performs three masterworks from these periods with the help of two gifted soloists: violinist Aisslinn Nosky ("Toronto's Eric Clapton of the violin," *Toronto Star*) and violist Max Mandel, who is one of most acclaimed chamber musicians of the day. What a musical exchange it will be!

The concert begins with a piece by the father of modern chamber music, Joseph Haydn. Composed at the tail end of the Enlightenment, his highly emotive 44th symphony is a masterpiece of classical counterpoint, an elaborate conversation between instruments with hints of the Romanticism that would flourish in the following decades.

Next up is Telemann's popular Viola Concerto in G Major, a synthesis of baroque and galant style. Then onto Oesterle's Snow White; a musical ode to mathematician Alan Turing, commissioned by Tafelmusik. Musical Toronto describes the remarkable work as "a showpiece for Nosky, written so that she was constantly playing."

Finally, our two rational interlocutors will take the stage to perform a duet together: Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola, and Orchestra. The iconic work has been described as a constant dialogue between viola and violin, with each instrument given the same importance throughout. It is, certainly, among Mozart's most beautiful in an oeuvre that has become synonymous with musical beauty itself.

#### REPERTOIRE

Joseph HAYDN Symphony No. 44 in E minor, 'Trauer-Symphonie' (Hob. 1/44)

Georg Philipp TELEMANN Viola Concerto (TWV 51:G9)

Michael OESTERLE Snow White

Wolfgang Amadeus MOZART Sinfonia Concertante in E-flat major (K. 364/320d)

# THE WINNIPEG SINGERS The Winnipeg Singers has long been regarded as one of Canada's finest choral ensembles. The choir's mandate is to make a diversity of choral music, performed to the highest standard, accessible to a growing audience. They are conducted by Yuri Klaz, an 'Honoured Artist of Russia' (a title bestowed upon him by President Yeltsin in 1995) and something of a musical legend in Manitoba.

#### **RESERVE YOUR SLICE!**

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CONCERT 3 **7:30 TUE 7 NOVEMBER 2017 WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH 745 WESTMINSTER AVE** 

# A DOUBLE 45th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT: **ARVO PÄRT & MORE**

Musically, Arvo Pärt strikes an unusual pose: one foot in the minimalist tradition of the twentieth century, and the other all the way back in the music of the Middle Ages. It is perhaps because he is a musical giant that Part is capable of accomplishing this act of extreme flexibility.

While the Estonian's mystical music once inflamed Soviet cultural authorities, today it is practically a pop cultural phenomenon. Works like Fratres, Spiegel im Spiegel, and Tabula Rasa have scored countless films (There Will be Blood, The Place Beyond the Pines, Gravity), and he remains the most widely performed living composer.

Still, local opportunities to enjoy a live performance of Pärt's Te Deum are somewhat rare, given the work's expansive orchestration. In it, choir, strings, piano and pre-recorded tape drift in out of the foreground to conjure an atmosphere that is serene and staggeringly beautiful. This performance of Te Deum is made all the more special because it's the 45th anniversary concert for both the MCO and The Winnipeg Singers.

But before Te Deum, we'll hear extracts from Eleanor Daley's Requiem, another moving contemporary choral work with a deep, contemplative quality. Requiem's a cappella arrangement will allow The Winnipeg Singers to take full advantage of our venue's superb acoustics, which respond so well to the resonance of voices. Our 45th anniversary concert concludes with a performance of Ola Gjeilo's Sunrise Mass, an uplifting work that seems, like the MCO and The Winnipeg Singers. to gaze optimistically upon new horizons.

#### **REPERTOIRE**

Fleanor DALFY Requiem, selections

Arvo PÄRT Te Deum

Ola GJEILO Sunrise Mass



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**CONCERT 4** 7:30 WED 13 DECEMBER 2017 **WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH** 745 WESTMINSTER AVE

# GUY FEW WITH THE MCO —A BAROQUE PAGEANT!

Guy Few is not only an outrageously gifted musician, he's also a consummate showman. The press have looked upon his performances with astonishment, proclaiming them "simply phenomenal" (Le Devoir, Montreal) and "sheer brilliance" (LA Times).

One probably shouldn't expect Few to don a costume or play two instruments simultaneously at this concert (not unusual tricks for Few), but the program's baroque selections add a dash of extravagance to the event. Bach's second Brandenburg Concerto is widely regarded as among the best orchestral compositions of the period. Presented originally as a gift to an aristocratic military officer, it's also one of the period's most delightfully pompous; a three-movement piece bejewelled with ornamental flourishes and perilously high trumpet lines.

Neruda's E-flat horn concerto, arguably his most significant work, was written at the tail end of the baroque era, and is teeming with infectious, Mozartian melodies. Few will have a lot to dig into. The baroque portion of our evening is rounded off with music by Handel, Corelli, and, in a pleasant surprise, Canadian composer Vivian Fung. Her playful Baroque Melting sounds a lot like what its title suggests.

#### REPERTOIRE

Johann Baptist Georg NERUDA Concerto in E-flat for corno da caccia, strings and b.c.

Johann Sebastian BACH Brandenburg Concerto No. 2, in F major (BWV 1047)

Arcangelo CORELLI Concerto grosso in G minor. Fatto per la Notte di Natale, Op.6 No.8 (Christmas Concerto)

David Raphael SCOTT New composition, Manitoba Arts Council commission World premiere performance

Georg Frideric HANDEL Concerto Grosso in C minor (HWV 326)

Vivian FUNG Baroque Melting





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# CONCERT 5 7:30 TUE 23 JANUARY 2018 WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH 745 WESTMINSTER AVE

# SIMONE DINNERSTEIN —PHILIP GLASS PREMIERE

One almost feels regal music should accompany the announcement itself: on January 23rd, the MCO will be performing the Canadian premiere of a new work by Philip Glass, the doyen of post-60s classical music.

Glass is a musical institution. If he's not the father of minimalism—a title that probably belongs to Terry Riley—he's certainly its most visible ambassador. The fact that works like Koyaanisqatsi, Mad Rush, and Einstein on the Beach have scored countless Hollywood films and advertisements does not diminish their significance; like Mozart or Gershwin, Glass composes irresistible ear-worms that have left an indelible mark on popular culture.

On January 23rd, the MCO premieres Glass' third piano concerto. Pianist Simone Dinnerstein, famous for interpretations of Bach, performs the commissioned work's solo in a concert that also, naturally, includes music by dear old Johann Sebastian.

Also programmed that evening is twentieth century music by Marjan Mozetich and William Walton. If neither are household names, they deserve to be. Mozetich, one of the most broadcast classical composers in Canada, has written a stunning body of work that has been divided into a post-romantic and minimalist period; his magical Fantasia... sul un linguaggio perduto straddles both.

A performance of Walton's exquisite *Sonata for String Orchestra* concludes what will surely be one of the most notable Manitoba concerts of early '18.

#### REPERTOIRE

Marjan MOZETICH Fantasia ... sul linguaggio perduto

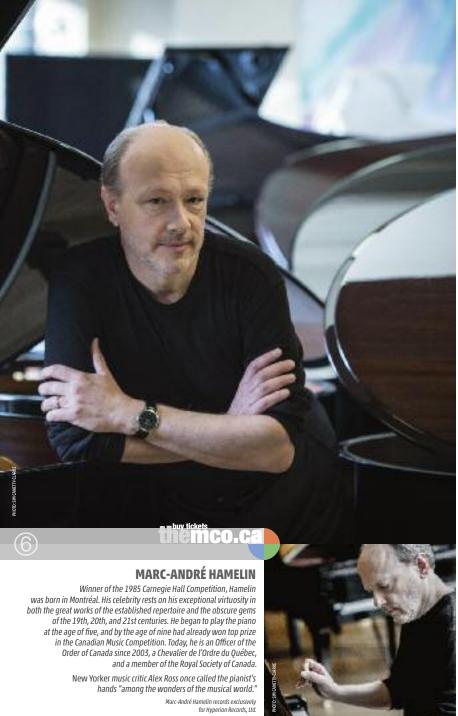
Johann Sebastian BACH Concerto in G minor, for piano and strings (BWV 1058)

Philip GLASS New concerto for piano and strings Canadian premiere

William WALTON Sonata for String Orchestra

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CONCERT 6
7:30 TUE 20 FEBRUARY 2018
WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
745 WESTMINSTER AVE

### MARC-ANDRÉ HAMELIN THE ART OF TOTAL PIANISM

MCO audiences have the good fortune of being on musically intimate terms with at least one pianist of historic stature: Marc-André Hamelin. Routinely touted as one of the world's greatest living pianists, Hamelin has appeared as a guest soloist with the MCO regularly since 1991.

By turns delicate and rhapsodic, *Bénédiction de Dieu dans la solitude* is one of Liszt's most personal pieces, and the longest entry in his somewhat unknown piano cycle *Harmonies poétiques et religieuses*. It amply demonstrates why Liszt (1811-1886) is considered so modern, and anticipates the impressionist experiments with colour and modalism that were soon to become de rigueur among progressive composers of French music.

With Debussy's *Images* collection we have impressionist music proper. About these lush and gorgeous pieces, Debussy correctly prophesied that they would "assume a place in the piano literature ... to the left of Schumann or to the right of Chopin."

For this concert, Hamelin, a dedicated explorer of the modern and contemporary, has plucked a handful of other exotic flowers from the landscape of solo piano music. He plays additional works by Feinberg and Godowsky, as well as Liszt.

An evening of unparalleled musicianship and modern music that is a must for discerning music-lovers.

#### REPERTOIRE

Franz LISZT Hungarian Rhapsody No. 13 (S 244/13)

Franz LISZT Bénédiction de Dieu dans la solitude, from Harmonies poétiques et religieuses III (S 173)

Franz LISZT Fantasy and Fugue on the Theme B-A-C-H (\$ 529/2)

Samuil FEINBERG Piano Sonata No. 4, Op. 6

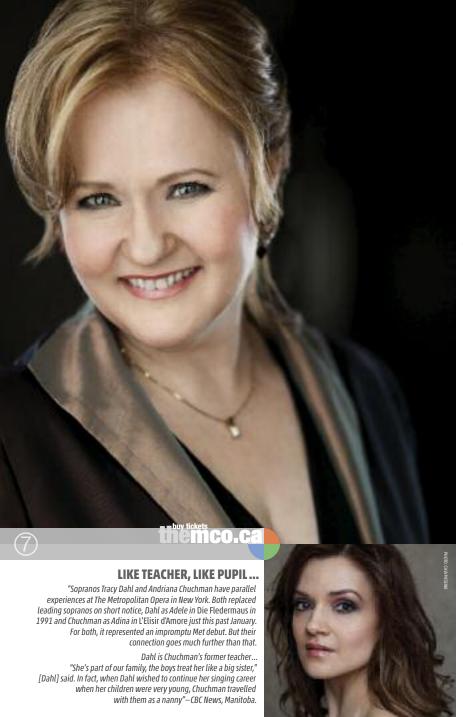
Claude DEBUSSY Images, Book I

Leopold GODOWSKY Wine, Women and Song, from Three Symphonic Metamorphoses on Themes of Johann Strauss II

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CONCERT 7
7:30 WED 21 MARCH 2018
WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
745 WESTMINSTER AVE

# TRACY DAHL & ANDRIANA CHUCHMAN: DUETS AND ARIAS

Sopranos Tracy Dahl and Andriana Chuchman have a special relationship with Winnipeg. They're both high-flying, international opera singers with roots in Peg City. They have another unique connection—Andriana is Tracy's former pupil.

Tracy is, of course, one of Canada's premier coloratura sopranos; a singer who carries off the agile runs, trills, and leaps of the coloratura repertoire "with sunshine, rainbows and laser light" (Opera Canada). There's no need to impress the reader by reeling off all the illustrious stages on which she's performed, but let's mention a few anyway: Théâtre du Châtelet, the Metropolitan, La Scala, the Hamburg Opera.

Even if Dahl hadn't been given a place on the Women's Executive Network's 2014 "Canada's Most Powerful Women" list, her list of accomplished former students (at the University of Manitoba and elsewhere) would surely testify to her indelible impact on the Canadian singing community.

One of those former students is Andriana herself, who just ten years ago was a star voice student at the U of M. Today she stars alongside the likes of Placido Domingo on the world's top opera stages. Praised by the New York Times and Chicago Tribune for her vocal brilliance, Chuchman cut her teeth learning Ukrainian folk songs with her sister in the Garden City home where they grew up.

It's not often that a guest artist sells out their debut concert with the MCO, but that's what Andriana did in December 2016. Seeing who she's sharing the stage with at our March 2018 concert, which features classic duets and arias, we'd recommend getting your tickets to this one ASAP.

#### REPERTOIRE

Jose EVANGELISTA Airs D'espagne for String Orchestra

Haydn or Mozart symphony (TBD)

Selected duets by Mozart, Vivaldi, Debussy & Saint-Saëns

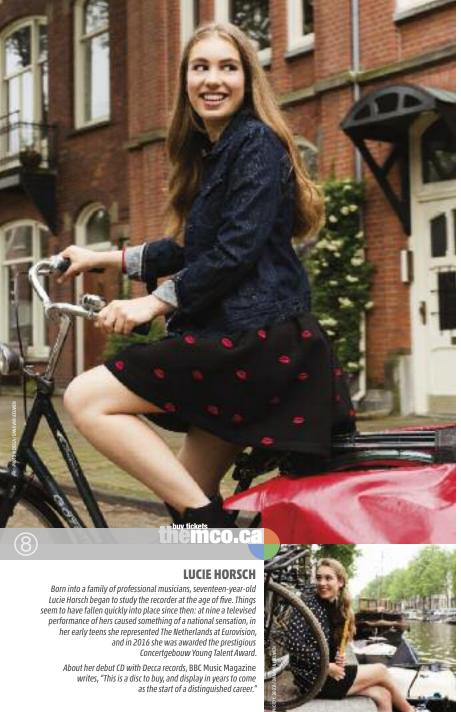
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CONCERT 8
7:30 TUE 24 APRIL 2018
WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
745 WESTMINSTER AVE

### LUCIE HORSCH: THE "LATEST BIG THING IN RECORDER PLAYING"

Just like modern audiences' strict routine of restraining applause and staying hushed between musical movements, the popular canon of solo repertoire is, in large part, an inheritance of the Romantic era.

This means that not only reams of traditional repertoire, but also whole groups of traditional instruments, have fallen into neglect as the casualties of musical "progress." Thankfully, the campaigns to rehabilitate the harpsichord, lute, cornet, and recorder and their associated repertoire haven't gone away.

In Lucie Horsch we have a leading ambassador for the recorder, which has claim to being the most beguiling classical instrument ever invented. The Decca-signed teenager is the "latest big thing in recorder playing" (*The Guardian*) who possesses "fearsome virtuosity and superb technique" (*BBC Music Magazine*).

At the MCO, we can't help but feel sorry for those who missed her performance with us in 2016, a sleeper hit of the season. Nearly everyone is obliged to play the recorder in elementary school. But where most of us squawked and hooted, Horsch fluttered and trilled with the graceful agility of a master quickly in the making.

Hear her perform the music of Bach and Vivaldi in true baroque style at our April 2018 concert. You may never see another recorder player, or teenager, as musically gifted as her.

#### REPERTOIRE

Antonio VIVALDI La Tempesta di Mare

Johann Sebastian BACH Oboe Concerto in D Minor (BWV 1059) — tr. for recorder

Giovanni Battista SAMMARTINI Recorder Concerto in F Major

Wolfgang Amadeusa MOZART Symphony No. 28, in C Major (K 200)

Dag WIRÉN Serenade for Strings, Op. 11

erenade for Strings, Op.

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#### **HEIDI OUELLETTE**

Composing is just where things start for Winnipeg-based Heidi Ouellette, who is also the co-founder/director of the Cluster: New Music+Integrated Arts Festival, and the Executive Director of GroundSwell. Her work often incorporates borrowed or recycled material, improvisation, and collaboration with other musicians and disciplines.



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#### **CONCERT 9** 7:30 THU 24 MAY 2018 **WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH** 745 WESTMINSTER AVE

### **MEASHA BRUEGGERGOSMAN: SONGS OF MAHLER**

Soprano Measha Brueggergosman hardly needs introduction.

She's not only one of Canada's most celebrated singers, she's an habitué of Winnipeg, who has endeared herself to audiences here.

As an up-and-coming soloist, the soprano performed an emotional concert with the MCO two weeks after the 2001 World Trade Center attacks. While establishing herself as an international star over the next 15 years, she would perform with the MCO no fewer than six times, as well as record her first CD with our orchestra for CBC Records. In the 2017/18 season, we're proud to say that she joins the MCO as Guest Artist-in-Residence.

An astoundingly eclectic interpreter with a special gift for post-Romantic repertoire, Measha will perform Mahler's almost decadently rich *Lieder eines* Fahrenden Gessellen (Songs of a Travelling Journeyman) at this concert. She explains her motivation for selecting this piece:

"When I almost died in 2009, I told myself three things: that I would live closer to my parents in the Maritimes, that I would have kids, and that I would sing more Mahler... It's something of a miracle as a classical singer to find repertoire that literally feels like it was written for you yesterday."

In addition to this decidedly Germanic offering, the MCO performs great music by Russian, Spanish, and Canadian composers.

#### REPERTOIRE

New composition, Manitoba Arts Council commission World premiere performance

Vasily Sergeyevich KALINNIKOV Serenade, Op. 48

Gustav MAHLER (arr. Schoenberg) Lieder eines Fahrenden Gesellen

Joaquín TURINA (arr. Vivian Fung) Tres Sonetos, Op. 54

Pyotr Ilyich TCHAIKOVSKY Serenade





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Manitoba Chamber Orchestra Unit Y300, Portage Place, 393 Portage Avenue Winnipeg MB R3B 3H6 / info@themco.ca

#### **VENUE & CONCERT INFO**

All evening concerts begin at 7:30 pm, in Westminster United Church, 745 Westminster at Maryland. Doors open at 6:30 pm. The venue is accessible via the following bus routes (call 311 for info):

29 Sherbrook (Logan or Windermere); 17 MacGregor Misericordia 20 Academy or Watt; 10 Wolseley Thanks to Epic Information Solutions, parking spots are available

Thanks to Epic Information Solutions, parking spots are available to MCO patrons in the parking lot at 167 Sherbrook Street (behind the Epic Information Solutions building), which is a 5-minute walk from Westminster Church. The Church is wheelchair-accessible through the entrance and lift located at the east Westminster door.

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	☐ Tuesdav. Aapril 24 / Anne Manson, Lucie Horsch				

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☐ Thursday, May 24 / Anne Manson, Measha Brueggergosman

2017/18 SEASON

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