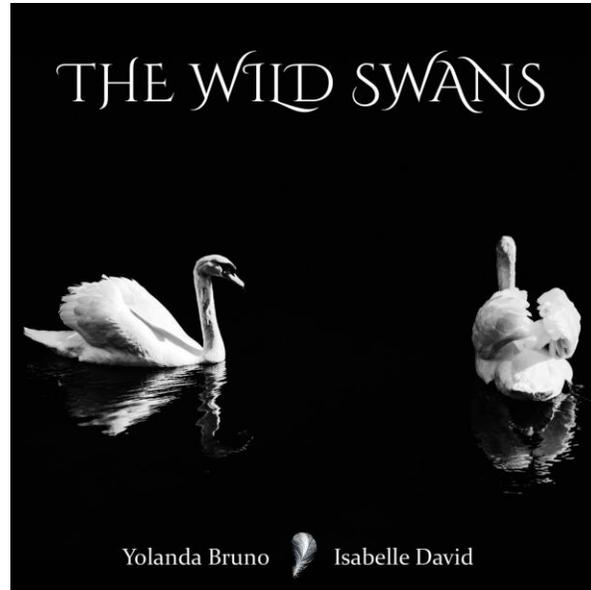


Online distribution and worldwide release:

December 13th, 2019



The Wild Swans repertoire:

Kala Ramnath (1967) – *Aalap and Tarana*

Lera Auerbach (1973) – *24 Preludes for Violin and Piano, Op. 46* (selections)

Elena Kats-Chernin (1957) – *Bucharian Melody*, and *Eliza Aria* from *Wild Swans Suite*

Alexina Louie (1949) – *Beyond Time* (Premiere Recording)

Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179) – *O Virtus Sapientie*

Roxanna Panufnik (1968) – *Down the Rabbit Hole*

Lili Boulanger (1893-1918) – *D'un matin de printemps* and *Cortège*

Elena Langer (1974) – *Snow*

Jennifer Higdon (1962) – *Echo Dash*

Kelly-Marie Murphy (1964) – *The Swan Parapraxis* (Commission and Premiere Recording)

Pauline Viardot-Garcia (1821-1910) – *Bohémienne*

▶ [Click here for a video about The Wild Swans album](#)

▶ [Click here to view our Composer profile series](#)

**Yolanda Bruno, violin
&
Isabelle David, piano**

*“Yolanda’s and Isabelle’s
superlative performances on
violin and piano enthralled
audiences.”*

- Northern Journal



Yolanda Bruno and Isabelle David have been performing together since meeting at McGill University in 2008. The duo is particularly drawn to music from their own country of Canada, digging up works of lesser-known or forgotten composers as well as designing programs that promote gender parity. Together, they have premiered works written for them by Canadian composers Michel Szczesniak and Richard Covey, as well as the Canadian premiere of *Broad and Free* by Pulitzer winner Caroline Shaw. Their recitals have aired on CBC Radio 2 as well as ICI Musique. The duo will make their Vancouver debut this spring 2020 at the Music on Main Festival in a special program broadcast on CBC’s *Revival Hour*.

Yolanda, branded one of CBC’s 30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians under 30, is the winner of the OSM Standard Life Competition, the inaugural Isabel Overton Bader Violin Competition, and she is the recipient of Canada Council’s Virginia Parker Award. She is currently serving as concertmaster of the Kingston Symphony and joined the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in 2019.

Isabelle, a fifth-generation pianist, has performed across North America and Europe including Carnegie, Zipper, Jordan and Wilfrid-Pelletier halls and has won a slew of competitions and awards, including the Borromeo String Quartet Guest Artist Award. She is the recipient of a Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship for her doctoral project on Canadian composer Auguste Descarries.

Yolanda and Isabelle’s decade-long partnership owes much to a shared enthusiasm for musical discovery driven by inquisitive natures. *The Wild Swans* is their debut album, released in 2019.

***The Wild Swans* CD launch events**

Monday, November 25th at 8p.m.

Freiman Hall, Ottawa University Perez School of Music (Ottawa)

Free entry / RSVP

Tuesday, November 26th at 7p.m.

Salle Cécile-Romaine, École de Musique Vincent-d'Indy (Montréal)

Free entry / RSVP

Monday, December 2nd at 7:30p.m.

Gallery 345 (Toronto)

Tickets: \$25 for general admission / \$10 for students <http://www.gallery345.com>

It is a great honour to announce that Canadian composer Alexina Louie will be attending the Toronto launch at Gallery 345 as our keynote speaker.

About the project

We are delighted to announce the launch of our debut album, *The Wild Swans*!

The Wild Swans is a Contemporary Classical Album, with elements of folk music as well as fusions of Eastern and Western musical traditions. The album features a total of eleven composers, eight living, including a **premiere recording** and a **commissioned work** by Canadian composers.

The music draws inspiration from novels, fairytales, Irish folklore and spiritual texts. The album's title — *The Wild Swans* — is taken from a fairytale written by Hans Christian Andersen in 1838. The wonderful Australian composer **Elena Kats-Chernin** used the Andersen story as the basis for her ballet *The Wild Swans*. Her “**Eliza Aria**” comes from that enchanting work. In Andersen's story, the main protagonist Eliza must save her eleven brothers, who have been turned into wild swans by an evil stepmother. It is by chance that we realized there were eleven swans in the story, and there are eleven composers on our album: serendipitous!

The central works are the premiere recording of *Beyond Time* (violin/piano) by Canadian composer **Alexina Louie** and the newly commissioned *The Swan Parapraxis* (violin/cello) by Canadian composer **Kelly-Marie Murphy** which is performed by sisters, Carmen and Yolanda Bruno. Alexina Louie is the 2019 recipient of [Canada Council's Molson Prize](#) and Kelly-Marie Murphy is the 2018 recipient of the [Azrieli Prize](#), Canada's biggest competition award. We are honoured to share the premiere recordings of two of Canada's leading composers.

Among the contemporary composers on this album, there is an exception; one of the first identifiable composers in the history of Western music, **Hildegard Von Bingen**. Her 12th century Gregorian chant, *O Virtus Sapientie* inspired an enchanting arrangement which includes spellbinding improvisations by respected artists **Nazih Borish** (Syrian Oud) and **Didem Basar** (Turkish kanun).

The album was recorded in December 2018 at the **Isabel Bader Centre** in Kingston, Ontario. *The Wild Swans* album is among the first recordings produced in this mesmerizing space with state-of-the-art acoustic possibilities. Juno and Grammy award-winning producer, **Denise Ball**, joined us as well as CBC audio engineer, **Doug Doctor**. The violin on the album is a **1737 Domenico Montagnana** made in Venice, on generous loan to Yolanda Bruno from Groupe Canimex Inc. (Drummondville, Québec). This project was funded by 150+ Kickstarter backers and Groupe Canimex Inc.

We have been inspired by the momentum that is growing with women composers at a time in history when society is demanding gender equality. This is great music *from* our musical history, and great music that is *becoming* our musical history! Moreover, we are sharing works that we love and hold close to our hearts.

Sincerely,

Yolanda & Isabelle