

great  
chamber music  
*downtown*

**CONCERTS 2019-2020**



*Music*  
**TORONTO**

**2019-20 season - 48 seasons since founding!**

*Music* TORONTO is 13 concerts featuring

- interesting artists from across Canada and around the world,
- music of 4 centuries, from the earliest string quartets of Haydn to new works commissioned and premiered in the 21<sup>st</sup> century,
- all taking place in a perfect small concert hall downtown.

*This was music that entertained as well as offered insights that deepened the experience ... Concerts like this give one hope that chamber music, the lowest profile branch of the art-music world, stands a chance in a world filled with larger, brighter, shinier objects.*  
The Toronto Star

# Music TORONTO

## **President of the Board**

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## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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[www.music-toronto.com](http://www.music-toronto.com)



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THE CITY OF  
TORONTO

**Cover photo:** St. Lawrence Hall at the corner of King and Jarvis Streets, designed by architect William Thomas, was built in 1854  
- digital art by Susan Limin

**strings**  
**QUARTETTO DI CREMONA**

Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 8 pm



Toronto debut

Since its formation in 2000, the Quartetto di Cremona has established a reputation as one of the most exciting chamber ensembles on the international stage. Unanimously considered the true heir of the great Quartetto Italiano, 2018 brought the release of their recording of the complete Beethoven string quartets (Audite). Of special interest is that the Nippon Music Foundation has entrusted them with the Stradivarius “Paganini Quartet” of instruments, well known to us from the final years of the Tokyo Quartet.

<b>Boccherini</b>	<b>String Quartet in C Major, Op. 2, No. 6</b>
<b>Verdi</b>	<b>Quartet in E Minor</b>
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<b>Puccini</b>	<b>I Crisantemi</b>
<b>Respighi</b>	<b>Quartet in D Major</b>

With the support of Istituto di Cutura Toronto

TICKET PRICES

A seats \$52.00 B seats \$47.50

B seats are the back 4 rows of the theatre, O P Q R

Student Tickets \$10

Accompanying non-student ½ price

18→35 pay-your-age

**Additional fees may apply**

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**piano**  
**PIANO 6 GALA**

Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 8 pm



Between 1994 and 2004 the original Piano 6, founded by Janina Fialkowska, performed in small communities throughout this country's most remote regions. Piano 6 Next Generation is a collective of six internationally-acclaimed Canadian concert pianists - Marika Bournaki, Angela Park, Daniel Wunowski, David Jalbert, Ian Parker, and Anastasia Rizikov – who have come together with a renewed purpose. Piano 6 New Generation makes community visits, between April and December each year; a typical visit lasts 2-3 days and includes several outreach events which culminate in a concert for the whole community to enjoy.

**Programme will include  
Schumann, Ravel, Milhaud, Bernstein/Musto,  
Korngold, Rzewski, Kapustin, Gershwin and a new  
work of Kevin Lau.**

**For solo pianists and 2 pianos/4 hands.**

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**strings**  
**VISION QUARTET**

Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 8 pm



Toronto debut

*...amazingly vivacious, vivid and electrifying... the hot-blooded guys from the Vision String Quartet seem to be completely fearless.* Der Tagesspiegel

Founded in 2012 and based in Berlin, Vision is unusual in performing all their concerts completely from memory, and standing. The Quartet has studied in Berlin under the Artemis Quartet, and Günter Pichler of the Alban Berg Quartet in Madrid. In 2016 the Quartet not only won first prize in two major competitions but all the audience and special prizes too, the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Competition in Berlin and the International Concours de Genève.

<b>Haydn</b>	<b>Quartet in G Major, Op. 77, No. 1</b>
<b>Bacewicz</b>	<b>Quartet No. 4</b>
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<b>Schumann</b>	<b>Quartet in A Major, Op. 41, No.3</b>

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# strings GRYPHON TRIO

with operatic bass **ROBERT POMAKOV**

Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 8 pm



The Gryphon Trio celebrated its milestone 25th anniversary throughout 2018. The Gryphon does it all: repertoire from the traditional to the contemporary, commissioning more than 50 mostly Canadian works, teaching and touring. The Gryphon's 20+ years at *Music* TORONTO included 10 years as our ensemble-in-residence (1998-2008).



Canadian operatic bass Robert Pomakov was born in Toronto, graduated from St. Michael's Choir School and later studied at the Curtis

Institute of Music. He gave a memorable recital on our stage in January 2002. He now enjoys a great career in the major opera houses of the world.

**Beethoven**                    **Kakadu Variations, Op. 121a**  
**Mussorgsky**                **Songs and Dances of Death**  
**(arr. Gary Kulesha)**

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**Dvořák**                        **Piano Trio No. 3 in F Minor, Op. 65**

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piano

## JONATHAN PLOWRIGHT

Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 8 pm



*How richly satisfying to hear playing of such unimpeachable musical honesty and awe-inspiring grandeur. Gramophone*

Jonathan Plowright was born in Yorkshire, England, and won a series of major awards in the early 80s. We have a fondness for Hyperion Records distinguished roster of pianists, and with thirteen critically acclaimed CDs, Jonathan is now well established there. Between 2012 and 2017 Jonathan recorded the complete solo piano works of Brahms for BIS Records to great critical acclaim.

**Brahms**  
**Schumann**

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**Mozart**

**Paderewski**

**Four Ballades, Op. 10**  
**Kinderszenen, Op, 15**

**Variations on "Ah! Vous  
dirai-je, Maman," K.265**  
**from "Humoresques de  
Concert," Book II:**  
**1. Menuet,**  
**2.Sarabande,**  
**3. Caprice**

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# strings MIRÓ QUARTET

Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 8 pm



Formed in 1995, the Miró Quartet performs throughout the world. Based in Austin, TX, the Miró Quartet took its name from the Spanish surrealist artist, Joan Miró. Previous *Music* TORONTO concerts in 2001, 2005 and 2013.

Part of the Miró Quartet's Archive Project, this programme was performed by the Kneisel Quartet on January 28, 1910 at the Schubert Club in St. Paul, MN.

Pre-concert talk at 7:15pm.

<b>Mozart</b>	<b>Quartet in B-flat Major, K.458,</b>
<b>Glière</b>	<b>Quartet in A Major, Op. 2,</b>
	<b>III. Andante con variazioni</b>
<b>Franck</b>	<b>Quartet in D Major,</b>
	<b>II. Scherzo: Vivace</b>
<b>Servais</b>	<b>Fantaisie sur deux Airs Russes,</b>
	<b>with pianist Lydia Wong</b>
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<b>Schubert</b>	<b>Quartet in D Minor, D 810,</b>
	<b>"Death and the Maiden"</b>



**Lydia Wong** is a new music specialist and one of Canada's most sought after collaborative pianists. On faculty at the University of Toronto since 2000, she was appointed Head of the Piano Department in 2016.

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**strings**  
**ST. LAWRENCE QUARTET**  
**with pianist STEPHEN PRUTSMAN**  
Thursday, January 30, 2020 at 8 pm



Established in Toronto in 1989, the SLSQ came to *Music* TORONTO in 1992 and returns annually. One of the world's great ensembles, the quartet has been the Ensemble-in-Residence at Stanford University since 1998. This special programme celebrates their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



Stephen Prutsman is a laureate of both the Tchaikovsky (Moscow) and Queen Elisabeth (Brussels) Piano Competitions. He also received the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant. He is active as a classical and jazz pianist and composer.

Pre-concert talk at 7:15pm.

**Haydn**

**Quartet Op. 20, No. 4 in  
D Major**

**R. Murray Schafer**

**String Quartet No. 3 (1981)**

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**Franck**

**Piano Quintet in F Minor**

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piano

## FRANCESCO PIEMONTESE

Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 8 pm



*It was playful, assertive, intelligent music making, with bone-china clarity from Piemontesi.*

The Times (London, UK)

Born in Locarno, Francesco Piemontesi studied with Arie Vardi before working with Alfred Brendel, Murray Perahia, Cécile Ousset and Alexis Weissenberg. He rose to international prominence with prizes at several major competitions, including the 2007 Queen Elisabeth Competition. Between 2009-11 he was a BBC New Generation Artist.

**Bach/Busoni**

**Prelude in E-flat Major,  
Nun komm der Heiden  
Heiland, BWV 659**

**Bach**

**Cantata No. 140, "Wachen  
auf, ruft uns die Stimme"**

**Bach/Kempff**

**Italian Concerto, BWV 971  
Siciliano, from Flute Sonata  
in E-flat Major, BWV 1031**

**Bach**

**Fugue in E-flat Major,**

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**Debussy**

**Images, Book II**

**Rachmaninoff**

**Sonata No. 2 in B-flat Minor,  
Op. 36**

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**strings**  
**SCHUMANN QUARTETT**

Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 8 pm



The Schumann Quartett made its Toronto debut on this series in April, 2018 and we wanted to hear them again. The three brothers Mark, Erik and Ken Schumann were joined in 2012 by violist Liisa Randalu. Study with the Alban Berg Quartet, a residency at the Robert-Schumann-Saal in Düsseldorf, winning many awards, acclaimed CDs – it all adds up to an exciting young European quartet. The Schumanns won the Newcomer Award for 2016 of the BBC Music Magazine – and began their 3-year residency at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Centre.

<b>Haydn</b>	<b>Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 1, No. 1, "Hunt"</b>
<b>Shostakovich</b>	<b>Quartet No. 9 in E-flat Major, Op. 117</b>
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<b>Smetana</b>	<b>Quartet No. 1 in E Minor, "From My Life"</b>

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**piano**  
**ANDRÉ LAPLANTE**

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 8 pm



*Laplante has worn the mantle of “romantic virtuoso” since he won a silver medal at the Tchaikovsky Competition in 1978. ...his leonine style, titanic power and profound musicality all seem to belong to some past golden age. Laplante [is an] artist whose sensitivity and deep emotions transcend technique. The Ottawa Citizen*

Quebec pianist André Laplante has performed extensively throughout Canada, the United States, Europe and Asia, and has released a series of ever more impressive CDs. Critics have compared him with Ashkenazy, Horowitz and Rudolph Serkin, placing him in the elite circle of virtuoso pianists who do not hesitate to take risks.

<b>Mozart</b>	<b>Fantasy in D Minor K.397</b>
<b>Mozart</b>	<b>Piano Sonata in E-flat Major K.282</b>
<b>Beethoven</b>	<b>Piano Sonata No. 6, Op. 10, No. 2 in F Major</b>
<b>Jacques Hétu</b>	<b>Variations for Piano</b>
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<b>Schubert</b>	<b>Piano Sonata No. 21 in B-flat Major, D 960</b>

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**strings**  
**PAVEL HAAS QUARTET**

Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 8 pm



*The reactive tension on which this quartet's reputation for seductive performances lies... delivers musical experiences nothing short of compelling.* The Strad

The Pavel Haas Quartet was founded in 2002. Following their victory in the Prague Spring Festival Competition and Premio Paolo Borciani in Reggio Emilia, Italy in 2005, they embarked on their international career. They now perform around the world, and have to date recorded six critically acclaimed CDs.

<b>Martinu</b>	<b>Quartet No. 6, H. 312</b>
<b>Bartok</b>	<b>Quartet No. 4, Sz. 91</b>
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<b>Beethoven</b>	<b>Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 130 and the "Grosse Fuge", Op. 133</b>

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piano

## **BENJAMIN GROSVENOR**

Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 8 pm



*There's no disputing the remarkable finish, control and sheer beauty characterising Benjamin Grosvenor's pianism.*  
Gramophone

Born in 1992, Benjamin first came to prominence as the outstanding winner of the Keyboard Final of the 2004 BBC Young Musician Competition at eleven; he was invited to perform at the First Night of the Proms in 2011 at nineteen. Also in 2011 Benjamin signed to Decca Classics. He was the inaugural recipient of The Ackman Classical Piano Prize with the New York Philharmonic in 2016. No longer a prodigy, he is an established virtuoso. Previous *Music* TORONTO recitals in 2014, 2015 and 2017.

**Rameau**                      **Gavotte and Variations in A Minor**  
**Schumann**                **Kreisleriana, Op. 16**

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**Liszt**                        **Ballade No. 2 in B Minor, S.171**  
**Liszt**                        **Valses oubliées Nos. 1 and 2,**  
   **S. 215**

**Liszt**                        **Berceuse in D-flat Major, S. 174**  
**Gounod/Liszt**            **Valse de l'Opéra Faust, S. 407**

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**strings**  
**QUATUOR ÉBÈNE**

Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 8 pm



*full-on playing and lively engagement with the music that we've come to expect from Quatuor Ébène.* The Strad

Founded in 1999 at the Boulogne Billancourt Conservatory in France, Quatuor Ébène studied with the Quatuor Ysaÿe in Paris and with Gábor Takács, Eberhard Feltz and György Kurtág. They launched their international career with an impressive win at the ARD Music Competition in 2004. Since 2009 the quartet plays on 17th and 18th century instruments on loan from a private donor. Quatuor Ébène played on this series in March 2016. From April 2019 through January 2020 the Quatuor Ébène will go on a world tour with the theme "Beethoven Live Around the World."

**Beethoven**

**Quartet in B-flat Major,  
Op. 18, No. 6**

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**Quartet in A Minor, Op. 132**

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## 2019-2020 CALENDAR

- Th. Oct. 17 Quartetto di Cremona  
Tu. Oct. 22 Piano 6 Gala  
Th. Nov. 7 Vision Quartet  
Th. Dec 5 Gryphon Trio  
Tu. Dec. 17 Jonathan Plowright  
  
Th. Jan. 9 Miró Quartet  
Th. Jan. 30 St. Lawrence Quartet  
with pianist Stephen Prutsman  
Tu. Feb. 18 Francesco Piemontesi  
Th. Feb. 27 Schumann Quartett  
Tu. Mar. 10 André Laplante  
Th. Mar. 19 Pavel Haas Quartet  
Tu. Mar. 31 Benjamin Grosvenor  
Th. Apr. 16 Quatuor Ébène

All *Music* TORONTO concerts are at 8 p.m.  
in the Jane Mallett Theatre  
of the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts  
27 Front Street East  
Toronto ON M5E 1B4  
Box Office 416-366-7723

**Dates, artists and programmes are subject to change.**

*Music* TORONTO wishes to acknowledge that these concerts take place on the traditional lands of the Huron-Wendat, Petun, Anishinabek, Haudenosaunee, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nations

Chamber music is simply classical music composed for small groups of instruments. A conversation among equals, chamber music requires players to listen to each other - attention, respect, give and take, balance. It is thus intimate and accessible for audiences, who are active listeners.

Take your place in that conversation. *Music* TORONTO – what we do, what **we** do best.

Our 48<sup>th</sup> season - we look forward to sharing our best with you.