

Newsletter

MAY 2017

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Message From the President

Welcome to our Spring newsletter, our last before the Annual General Meeting.

I hope you enjoy the survey of summer programs for cellists in this issue.

Congratulations to all recipients of the Cello Club medallions at this year's Kiwanis Music Festival. Members of the Cello Club, as usual, were well represented at the Festival.

And thanks to all the students who came out for the workshops on April 30, graciously hosted by Audrey Nodwell. Christine Bootland, this year's Kiwanis Music Festival adjudicator, was our featured guest instructor and provided some great follow-up advice for the festival participants.

Looking ahead at the busy Cello Calendar, acclaimed former North Vancouver native, Desmond Hoebig, will be conducting a masterclass at the Vancouver Academy of Music on June 2nd at 7:00 pm. While this is not a Cello Club sponsored event, the class is open to the public and I encourage all interested members to attend. Desmond, former principal cellist of the Houston and Cleveland orchestras, is one of the pre-eminent teachers and performers in North America. Desmond will be performing the Beethoven Triple Concerto in an all-Beethoven concert with the VSO on June 3rd and 5th.

Please note in your calendars the date of our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday evening, June 6th at 7:00 pm. The Club, in anticipation of the requirements of the new BC Societies Act, must vote on some new language changes to our By-Laws. I am hopeful we will have a quorum to quickly dispense with the business portion of our meeting. We are pleased to announce that Michael Vann will be our guest speaker following the business portion of the meeting. Mr. Vann is one of the Canada's finest bow makers from Vancouver Island and will talk and answer questions related to bow making and repair.

And, finally, a gentle reminder, Cello Club dues are due. If you haven't had the opportunity to make a contribution to the Club, the Annual General Meeting is your chance to do so. We remain one of the few active Clubs in North America and we are able to provide classes, scholarships, maintain a library, present concerts and events through the generous contributions of people like you. I urge you to support your Club.

See you at the Annual General Meeting!

Lee Duckles, President

VANCOUVER CELLO CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JUNE 6 / 7:00 PM

Attendance is vital to keep our non-profit status!

Come and enjoy Michael Vann, Bowmaker, Gabriola Island - "My International Bow"
Summer bursaries will be presented and there'll be snacks and a play-in!

Cello Masterclass with Desmond Hoebig

June 2, 2017 / 7:30 pm / Koerner Recital Hall, VAM / Free Admission

*Co-Presented with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra
Generously supported by Edith Lando Charitable Foundation*

Desmond Hoebig, Professor of Cello at The Shepherd School of Music - Rice University, has had a distinguished career as a soloist, orchestral and chamber musician.

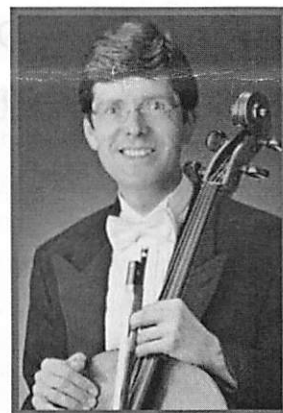
Desmond was born in 1961 and raised in Vancouver, Canada. He studied with James Hunter, Jack Mendelsohn and Ian Hampton. In 1978 he moved to Philadelphia to study with David Soyer at the Curtis Institute of Music. He received his BM and MM at the Juilliard School with Leonard Rose and Channing Robbins, and participated in master classes with Janos Starker and Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi at the Banff Centre.

Mr. Hoebig won the First Prize at the Munich International Competition (1984), the Grand Prize of the CBC Talent Competition (1981) and the Canadian Music Competition (1980). He was also an award winner at the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow (1982).

Mr. Hoebig has been a soloist with many prominent orchestras in North America, including; Cincinnati, Cleveland, Houston, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. His international orchestral engagements have been in Germany, Spain, Portugal, Japan, Mexico and Columbia.

As a chamber musician, Desmond was the cellist with the Orford String Quartet when they won a Juno award for the best classical music album in 1990. He has also performed for 30 years with the Hoebig-Moroz Trio and a duo with Andrew Tunis. Mr. Hoebig has taught and performed at festivals throughout North America, including; Aspen, Banff, La Hoya, Marlboro, Music Bridge, Orcas Island, Sarasota and Steamboat Springs.

Before joining the faculty of The Shepherd School, Mr. Hoebig had been Principal Cellist of the Cleveland, Houston, and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestras.





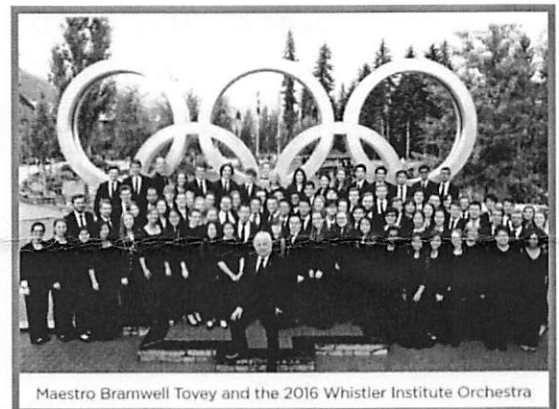
- **CALGARY STRINGFEST** / July 17- 21, 2017
Amici String Program / 1412 – 47th St., SW,
Calgary, AB / www.amicistringprogram.com
- **MORNINGSIDE MUSIC BRIDGE**
21st Anniversary in Boston, Massachusetts
Mt. Royal University / 4825 Mt. Royal Gate, SW
Calgary, AB T3E 6K6 / Tel: 403-440-6768
Fax: 403-440-6594

- **WESTCOAST AMATEUR MUSICIANS SOCIETY** / July 16-23, 2017
Quest University in Squamish / Info: www.wcams.com / 604-984-2987
Cellists: Heather Hay, Anne Scott
- **CAMPCELLO 2017** / August 21-25 **Vancouver**
Tel: 604-838-5657 / www.campcello.com / Cellists: Mary Thomson & Morna Howie
St. James Centre Com. Centre, 3214 W. 10th Avenue
- **VALHALLA SUMMER SCHOOL OF MUSIC** / August 6-11 **Valhalla Suzuki Institute**
August 13-18 **VSSM**; Adult String Orchestra Retreat Aug 18 (all day) (faculty)
Anne Scott / PO Box 163, Silverton, BC V0G 2B0 / Tel: 1-872-458-7794
www.vssm@valhallafinearts.org / Cellists: John Kadz, Johanne Perron, Michael van der Sloot, Nigel Boehm
- **VICTORIA CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC** / July 4-21
Summer String Academy (Cello: Paula Kiffner & Judith Fraser) / Tel: 250-386-5311, Ext. 2090
Toll Free: 1-866-386-5311 / www.vcm.bc.ca
- **COMOX VALLEY YOUTH MUSIC CENTRE** / July 2-15
Junior Strings (July 3-8); String Orch. Academy (Cello: Helena Jung) / Tel: 250-338-7463 / www.cymc.ca
- **ROSAMUNDE SUMMER MUSIC ACADEMY** / August 16-25
Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg, MB / www.rosamunde.ca / Email: info@rosamunde.ca
Masterclasses: Cello teacher and Co-Artistic Director: **Yuri Hooker**; Cellists: Andrea Bell & Desiree Abbey, Leanne Zacharias
Guest cellist: **Arne-Christian Pelz – Pr. Cello of Deutsche Oper Berlin**
- **VANCOUVER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SCHOOL OF MUSIC** / Summer Program 2017: July 6-August 25
Community Song Institute / Piano Intensive / elementary Piano Pedagogy Course / Classical Guitar Festival / RCM Theory & History
Courses / Kid's String Ensemble Camp / Adult String Ensemble Camp / Canadian International Summer Harp Institute
www.vsooschoolofmusic.ca / Email: info@vsooschoolofmusic.ca / Tel: 604-915-9300. Meet the Cello (Robin Copas) Aug 8-12.
- **MARROWSTONE MUSIC FESTIVAL** / July 23-August 6, 2017
Faculty: **Andrew Smith, Walter Grey** / Tel: 206-362-2300 / www.marrowstone.org
- **NORTH SHORE MUSIC ACADEMY** / July 23-29, 2017 (1:00 – 5:00 pm) / **Chamber Music Program** / Faculty: **Bo Peng**
Tel: 604-785-6503 / www.nisma.ca
- **PRISMA** / June 12-24 / **Pacific Region Intl. Summer Music Academy**; incl. audition training, masterclass lessons, workshops /
Powell River, BC / Toll Free: 1-855-577-4762 / www.orchestra-academy.ca / Cellist: **Yeger Dyachkov**
- **SALTSPRING ISLAND CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL** / July 16-22 / www.saltspringchambermusicfestival.com
David Visentin, Artistic Director, SSCMF / **Welcome to the Saltspring Chamber Music Festival... where Music & Paradise Mix!**
Now into its 10th acclaimed year of west coast performances, the Saltspring Chamber Music Festival showcases an outstanding
variety of the greatest works from the chamber music repertoire for loyal standing-room audiences, all performed on the intimate
stage of ArtSpring Arts Centre on Saltspring Island, BC. Embracing the rich literature of romantics such as Chopin and Dvorak
and stretching from Bach to Black (Arthur!), the festival's artists passionately delve into the wonder of this most personal music-making.
With occasional Icelandic music mixed with cutting-edge contemporary artists, Saltspring Island provides an idyllic and inspirational
setting for thrilling new musical discoveries. Whether as participant or audience member and friend of SSCMF, I look forward to
greeting you this summer at the 2017 Festival.
- **VSO ORCHESTRAL INSTITUTE AT WHISTLER** / June 25- July 4
www.vsoinstitute.ca
Offers young musicians an experience and education like no other, joining
together the GRAMMY® and JUNO® award-winning VSO with Whistler, one
of the world's finest mountain resorts. Students will be immersed in a
collaborative musical environment alongside and mentored by a world-class
symphony orchestra, under the direction of the VSO's internationally-
acclaimed music director, Maestro Bramwell Tovey. Participation in the
whistler Institute Orchestra, a comprehensive chamber music program,
instrumental coachings, as well as a variety of unique performance
opportunities will fill students' warm summer days and cool, refreshing
evenings in the mountains of beautiful British Columbia, Canada. 2017
Whistler Institute Orch: Mahler Symphony No. 6.
- **STRINGS IN THE EVENINGS** / July 6 – August 10 / Thursdays, 6:30-8:45 pm (6 week course)
Recommended for: Adult beginner-level violinists, viola players and cellists. RCM Grade 3-6 / Suzuki bk 2-5 level.
Instructors: Ruth Huang, violin; Robin Copas, cello / Fee: \$275
If you are an adult amateur string player looking for a sociable way to get a first taste of chamber playing and improve your skills,
this relaxed evening "camp" offers the chance to play in duos, trios or larger chamber groups, rehearsing music tailored to your
level, in a relaxed and encouraging environment. Each week will have a Group Instrumental Technique class and coached
rehearsals. There will be an informal performance on the last day.
Weekly Schedule:
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm: Group Technique Class / 7:30 pm – 7:45 pm: Break / 7:45 pm – 8:45 pm: Chamber Group Rehearsals

**QUIRING
CHAMBER
MUSIC CAMP**
for strings & piano

July 10 – 15,
St. Helen's Anglican Church
4405 West 8th Ave., Vancouver
Deadline to register: **June 19**

FOR REGISTRATION &
FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT
quiringchambermusiccamp.org
OR PHONE 604 939 9313



Maestro Bramwell Tovey and the 2016 Whistler Institute Orchestra

STUDENTS! Remember there is tuition/bursary money available for all summer music camps!

West Coast Amateur Musicians Society

Summer music camp ... for adults and families

34th season: July 16 - 23, 2017



The WCAMS annual summer music camp welcomes amateur musicians of all ages and abilities. Our popular faculty-in-residence provide friendly, professional instruction which focuses on building confidence and musical skills.

Adults and children alike participate in a broad range of musical activities, with a special music, movement, drama and visual arts program specifically designed for children (entering Grades 1-3) and special classes for junior youth (entering Grades 4-6) and senior youth (entering Grades 7-9).

Aims of WCAMS Music Camp

- Encourage people to make their own style of music, without pressure.
- Provide every participant with a supportive atmosphere.
- Develop every participant's individual musicality.
- Enable individuals to gain small-ensemble experience with players of like ability.
- Offer as many players as possible the opportunity to experience orchestral playing.
- Provide participants with varied musical styles and experiences.



Idyllic setting

Quest University is located in Squamish (between Vancouver and Whistler, an hour's drive from Vancouver). Renowned as the Outdoor Recreation Capital of Canada, Squamish is a popular destination for hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, white water rafting and scuba diving. Local attractions include the Britannia Mine Museum, the West Coast Railway Heritage Park, Shannon Falls, and the Sea to Sky Gondola.

Situated at the top of a hill, the university campus offers stunning views of the Tantalus Mountains from all buildings and outdoor sitting areas/performance spaces.

For further information, please contact us at: Email: info@wcams.ca / 604-984-2987



SOAR: String Orchestra for Adults Retreat

August 13-18 / with Anne Scott, Cello and Ronelle Schaufele, Violin and Viola

Five days of music making! Come join like-minded music lovers and immerse yourself in a rare opportunity to play in a string ensemble tailored for the adult learner. The Adult Orchestra Retreat was instituted in 2013 as a new stream of the Valhalla Summer School of Music and has taken on a flavour and life of its own. Each morning, Adult String Orchestra participants will enjoy a technique/sectional class followed by an orchestra rehearsal. Repertoire will be drawn from a variety of musical eras and styles. Pre-formed chamber groups are welcome to register, or you can register as an individual and we will match you with other players of similar level. We also expect to be offering a variety of informal social opportunities throughout the week and encourage you to order our catered lunches (or bring a lunch) to share noon mealtimes with other participants. Classes take place in New Denver at Lucerne School. Performances are held at the acoustically superb Memorial Hall in Silverton, 5km south of New Denver.

Tentative Weekly Class Schedule here: www.valhallafinearts.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/SCHEDULE-ASOR-2016.pdf



Victoria Conservatory of Music 2017

July 4 - 21, 2017

Registration Deadline: **June 1, 2017** (Registrants after this date may be accepted on a space-available basis) Bursary and Billing Deadline: **May 15, 2017** (Bursary: vcm.bc.ca/summer-academy-assistance/) (Billing: vcm.bc.ca/summer-academy-accommodation/)

All programs will take place onsite at the VCM (900 Johnson St.) / Register online: ca.apm.activecommunities.com

Senior Strings

- 1 week (July 4-July 8 or July 10-July 14) \$445
- 2 weeks \$815

Senior Strings participants will take part in daily technique classes, masterclasses, three private lessons per week, accompanying sessions with a professional pianist, and string orchestra or chamber music. Participants are encouraged to attend all concerts that are part of the VCM Summer Academy string programs. Registrants must submit a repertoire list of recently studied and/or performed solo, chamber and orchestral works.

Senior String "Boot Camp"

- 1 week (July 17-21) \$365

The Senior String "Bootcamp" is an comprehensive week of practise, lessons, and technique classes designed for advanced students. Taking place immediately following the traditional two-week Summer Academy String Program, this intensive course will hone in on refining skills, mastering instrument-specific techniques, and conquering persistent 'trouble spots'. Admission is by permission of the Artistic Director. Please contact Michael van der Sloot for details.

Junior Strings

- 1 week (July 4-July 8 or July 10-July 14) \$235
- 2 weeks \$425

An entertaining and enriching program for players 10 and younger. The emphasis is on having fun while developing technique and musicianship. The junior strings program runs from 9:00am-12:00pm daily, and includes technique class, group lessons/sectional rehearsals, string orchestra and a performance at the end of each week. Junior participants are encouraged to attend all concerts that are part of the VCM Summer Academy string programs.

Enjoy Music & Nature in Harmony at Mountainside Chamber Music Summer Programs in beautiful Nelson, BC

- **CELLO FOCUS (June 23-25, 2017)** Hone your cello skills in this 3 day intensive workshop with the theme of Rhythm and Sight Reading while focusing on cello technique with daily workshops, master classes, technique clinics and ensemble playing. Sessions will be arranged according to levels of experience so that each cellist will have their own needs addressed. Cellists, Jeff Faragher and Liz Tremblay will guide the students through an enjoyable and enriching cello journey. \$265

Registration deadline is June 1, 2017

- **CHAMBER STRINGS (July 10-14, 2017)** String players (13+) at (beginner-intermediate) to (intermediate-advanced) skill levels are encouraged to enjoy and broaden your music studies while making musical connections. Includes small string ensembles (arranged according to skill levels) and orchestra with daily rehearsals, sectionals, one private lesson, master class, fiddling clinic and faculty concerts are all included for \$385. Faculty include Jeff Faragher & Olivia Walsh (cellists), Jeff Plotnick & Martine denBok (violinists) with Amy Zanrosso and Brie Hulbert as clinicians. Extended deadline is now May 15, 2017.

Visit: www.mountainsidechambermusic.com for details on faculty, schedule, registration and payment methods. Contact Sue Mistretta at [mountainsidechambermusic\(c\)omail.com](mailto:mountainsidechambermusic(c)omail.com) or **250-777-1704** for more information. Dancing Bear Inn is a lovely, quiet and clean hostel in Nelson where registrants can share semi-private rooms.

Alumni News: Ashton Lim

Having performed throughout North America and Asia, cellist Ashton Lim enjoys an exciting and varied career as a soloist, chamber musician, orchestral player, and teacher. First prizewinner in the 2014 Glenn Gould Chamber Music Competition, his piano trio has also won first place in the Canadian Music Competition and the Canadian National Music Festival. Ashton was previously a member of the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, Florida, under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas.

As a chamber musician, Ashton has performed with loon Bamaton, James Boyd, Christopher Ganatra, Jacqueline Shave and Huw Watkins. In Ensemble, and the Afiara, Emerson, Guarneri, Quartets.

As an orchestral player, Ashton has performed with the Canadian Opera Company and the Eastern participated in the Banff Summer Arts Festival, International Cello Festival of Canada, Bridge, National Arts Centre Young Artists Festival, St. Lawrence String Quartet Chamber Festival and the Toronto Summer Music

Born and raised in Vancouver, Ashton completed Vancouver Academy of Music, where he was earned an ARCT diploma in Cello Performance completed a Bachelor of Music with John Kadz at University of Calgary, and a Master of Music at Northwestern University, studying with Hans Jorgen Jensen. Most recently, he completed an Artist Diploma under Andres Diaz and Desmond Hoebig at The Glenn Gould School of The Royal Conservatory of Music, as a recipient of the Chancellor Scholarship.



alongside internationally acclaimed artists such as Constanza, Jonathan Crow, Mark Fewer, Simin addition, he has worked with members of the Nash Shanghai, St. Lawrence, Tokyo, and Vermeer String

with the Banff Festival Symphony Orchestra, Festival Orchestra. He has also performed and Domaine Forget Chamber Music Session, Meadowmount School of Music, Morningside Music Program, Orford Arts Centre, SALT New Music Music Seminar, Thailand International Composition Festival's Chamber Music Institute.

his early cello studies with Audrey Nodwell at the awarded the Certificate in Music Performance, and from The Royal Conservatory of Music. He the Mount Royal College Conservatory and the

completed an Artist Diploma under Andres Diaz and Desmond Hoebig at The Glenn Gould School of The Royal Conservatory of Music, as a recipient of the Chancellor Scholarship.



- *The Cello Club extended their sympathy to **Desmond Hoebig** on the January 17, 2017 passing of his mother, well-known Vancouver singer and musical activist, **Patricia Hoebig**. Pat was President of the Vancouver Women's Musical Club for many years and also of the North Shore Registered Music Teachers. She loved to promote and assist young vocalists and musicians. One group that Pat was especially fond of was the 4 "Cello Jello" boys - Brian Yoon, Michael Unterman, Ashton Lim and Jonathan Taylor. We will miss Pat at concerts and at BISQC.*

▪ Many of us discovered the Gordon Smith Gallery of Canadian Art on Lonsdale, North Vancouver, when their series: "Classics at the Smith" included 3 concerts: "Bach on Lonsdale". On February 7th **Cristian Markos** performed Suites #2 and #4; **Lee Duckles** on February 21st with Suites #1 and #6 and **Olivia Blander** on March 7th with Suites #3 and #5. These concerts were very well attended with the opportunity to have a glass of wine with your music and explore the art and sculpture exhibits.

▪ The 25th Bjorn & Lori Hareid Senior Secondary String Competition was held at the VAM February 2nd - 4th in the KR Hall (about to have the renovations starting in July). Winner of the Bjorn & Lori Hareid Scholarship of \$1500 was **Grace Sohn** and winner of the Loyal Protestant Association Scholarship of \$1500 was **Olivia Cho**. Winner of the Michael & Mary Shields Scholarship of \$500 was **Jennifer Lim**.

▪ May 1st at 7:30 pm in Winnipeg's historic Moss House, an evening of cello music with hors d'oeuvres and wine was held in support of the Agassiz Chamber Music Festival (**Paul Marleyn**). Called a Cellobration, it was an opportunity to hear **Desiree Abbey**, **Yuri Hooker**, **David Liam Roberts** and **Leanne Zacharias** in a variety of music from Baroque to contemporary, including Bach, Villa-Lobos and Gershwin. The Agassiz Chamber Music Festival presents chamber music concerts every summer in June in Winnipeg. To see the line-up of artists, visit: www.agassizfestival.com

▪ Check out our wonderful, new Vancouver Cello Club Brochures. Come to the **AGM on June 6 at 7:00 pm at the VAM** and take a few to give out at your various activities. At our AGM we will have bowmaker, **Michael Vann** showing and talking about what he calls his (new) "International Bow" - suitable for passing in and out of the USA with their rules on endangered materials like ivory, tortoise shell, different woods, etc.

**Vancouver
Cello
Club**

vancouvercelloclub.com

Chit Chat continued on page 5...

...Chit Chat continued

- The Kiwanis Festival is over for another year and many young cellists enjoyed positive comments and lots of encouragement from adjudicator **Christine Bootland**. The Cello Club sponsored 9 students to play for Christine at the home of Audrey Nodwell – thank you Audrey – after the festival was over on Sunday, April 30th.
- I had a great 4 days adjudicating the Strings in Edmonton in April and **Lee Duckles** was busy down the road in Calgary doing the same.
- ★ James Malmberg is looking for **cellists** for the **Richmond Orchestra**. They rehearse Tuesday evenings in Richmond and will have 5 concerts in 2017/18. Info: www.roca.ca / Email: jamesmalmberg@telus.net
- The VSO will have Gwen Hoebig, **Desmond Hoebig** and David Moroz performing Beethoven's Triple Concerto June 3&5.
- Very exciting is the news that the Vancouver Recital Society will be bringing in 3 cellists in their 2017/18 season: Sheku Kanneb-Mason (17 years old), December 3rd at 3:00 pm; Edgar Moreau, April 15th at 3:00 pm; Alban Gerhardt, November 5 at 3:00 pm; and Leonard Elschenbroich with the Benedettie–Elschenbroich–Grynyuk Trio, April 8th at 3:00 pm.

- Did you know?... **Jean-Guihen Queyras** holds a professorship at the University of Music Freiburg and is Artistic Director of the "Rencontres Musicales de Haute-Provence" festival in Forcalquier. He plays a 1696 instrument by Giofredo Cappa made available to him by the Mécénat Musical Société Générale.
- Morningside Music Bridge is celebrating their 21st year at the New England Conservatory in Boston, Massachusetts. This summer (July 6 to August 4). Cello teachers include: Andres Diaz, John Kadz, Paul Katz, Laurence Lesser, Na Mula, Tomasz Strahl, Peter Stumpf, Tian Bonian.
- The Vancouver Chamber Players (**Lee Duckles**) will give a concert at 10:30 am May 23rd at Hycroft Mansion. The program will include Capriccio by Strauss and Verklarte Nacht Sexter by Schoenberg.
- Kiwanis Music Festival – Congratulations to the cellists who are Vancouver Provincial Representatives to Kamloops May 28 – June 1 for the Performing Arts Festival: Senior Strings – **Grace Sohn**; National – **Jennifer Lim** (our student rep); Observers – **Alice Fang, Constantine Yannakoulis, Adam Dressel, Sophie Ibbetson-Lyon**, who also won the Judith Fraser \$50 prize for the highest mark in the Concert Group: Class B & C. ■

KOERNER PIANO TRIO PRESENTS
REVERIES OF FRANCE

KOERNER PIANO TRIO

GABRIEL FAURE
Piano Trio, Op. 120

GERMAINE TAILLEFERRE
Piano Trio

MAURICE RAVEL
Piano Trio In A Minor

June 4, 7pm | Koerner Recital Hall
Tickets: koernerpianotrio.com

Koerner Piano Trio – Reveries of France / June 4 / 7:00 pm /
Koerner Recital Hall / Tickets: \$18 General; \$15 Students/ Seniors – available at www.koernerpianotrio.com. Luxuriant daydreams tinged with pensive elegance herald the onset of summer in the closing of Koerner Piano Trio's 2016/17 season. Vast hues of the characteristic French-style blend to form an array of colours and textures in the masterworks of Faure and Ravel, enclosing the hidden treasure of Germaine Tailleferre's exquisite contribution to the piano trio genre.

CELLO BIENNALE AMSTERDAM 2016

'THE BIGGEST CELLO FESTIVAL IN THE WORLD' - OCTOBER 20-29.

A few years ago Judy mentioned that she had been to a cello festival in Amsterdam. I was intrigued and hoped to some day attend. The Cello Biennale is held every two even years, and last year it was time. I booked quite a few tickets for the various events, and was also looking forward to reconnecting with my hometown.

Ahead of the Biennale we decided to go to Germany. We had not been there since before 1989, and there were a number of cities that we wanted to visit. I had always hoped to experience a concert with the Berlin Philharmonic, and we were not disappointed. The sound of the hall is amazing and the orchestra superb. The orchestra was conducted by Bernard Haitink and they played Schubert's Symphony 7 as well as the Mahler Lied von der Erde. A very moving experience. I also knew that there was a painting that I wanted to see in the Gemaldegalerie, the State Museum. It was lovely to see the 15th Century miniature of a young woman. Another Gallery we visited exhibited the drawings and sculptures of Kathe Kollwitz, an amazing artist who survived both world wars but lost both her husband and son. She had strong beliefs regarding human and social rights, documenting the cruelty of the human condition through her art. Visiting the Holocaust Memorial was an overwhelming experience.

In Dresden we visited the completely reconstructed church, the Frauenkirche, which was severely damaged at the end of WWII. The interior was magnificent. It was interesting to see buildings that were decidedly of East German/Soviet style,

large residential apartment blocks and wide streets.

Leipzig is a musical city. Of course Bach lived and worked there, but also many other composers. It was wonderful to attend a church service and concert at the St. Thomas Church and to let the sound of Bach's music wash over you. We also went to a Sunday morning cello concert at Mendelssohn's family home, which has had some renovations but is much as it was in his time. There is a musical walk in Leipzig that takes you throughout the city. Robert and Clara Schumann lived there for a time and Grieg used to come there in summers. Near the place where he would stay, there is now a commemorative music box called 'Grieg to Go' hanging on a fence. It contains a tape deck and you can select a piece that you want to hear. Throughout the city there were other small musical experiences on street corners and in small shopping malls. I was also pleased to find that there is still a store in Leipzig that sells Bluthner pianos, the grand piano my mother played.

We really enjoyed Germany, great food and good wine. But then, on to Amsterdam, and a week of cello events.

The Cello Biennale performances and events took place, in a new concert hall, from Thursday to the following Sunday. World class cellists including Antonio Meneses, Peter Wispelwey, Jean Guihen Queyras, Anner Bijlsma, and many others performed and or gave master-classes. Every day was packed, starting at 10 in the morning to late night lounges, and include soloists, octets,

cellos 'unplugged', musical theatre, Bach and Breakfast, masterclasses, concertos, new compositions for cello, events for younger cellists and school children, etc, etc. The Biennale focus is the one week festival in Amsterdam, but events happen throughout the year and throughout the Netherlands, with students auditioning for opportunities to perform as well as to compete.

Unfortunately, I had picked up a bug at the end of our stay in Germany, and didn't feel well enough until the end of the week to attend any events. I attended the master classes with Anner Bijlsma and Jean-Guihen Queyras. Bijlsma focused on the gigues from the first 3 Suites. He had many interesting comments on playing Bach, such as: the bowings deliver the dynamics, 4 notes in a slur rarely happens, only in some editions, play short, but not off the string-there is no music in the air. Bijlsma emphasizes that the bow must speak the notes in a natural way, and that forcing the bow does not contribute to the meaning and character of Bach's work. (Bijlsma has posted the bowings and fingerings of the C Major Suite Gigue on line.) Both classes were wonderful. On the last day of the festival, we attended the final cello competition concert with the Orchestra of the Amsterdam Conservatorium and enjoyed listening to the three finalists interpret the Shostakovich Cello Concerto.

Our trip was great. We really enjoyed so many musical experiences. I'm so grateful we had the opportunity to be there.

Annelies Reeves



Judith Fraser with Jonathan Braunstein (left), a long-time VAM alumnus. Judith now teaches Jonathan's daughter Mila (right): "when you have a parent who plays the instrument and they are in the room, it is very funny to watch. Last spring Mila turned around one day and said, 'Dad, put a zip in it!' She has quite a strong personality!"

REFLECTIONS ON A STUDY WITH JUDITH

by Jonathan Braunstein

I STARTED PLAYING AT 4 YEARS OLD. My uncle in Ontario played cello and as I admired him I think I had a desire to play cello, so my parents took me to look for an instrument at a sale at VAM. We met Judith Fraser there who, in addition to helping us pick out a cello, looked at my hands and decided that I had potential. She took me on as a student and the rest is 'history'. Judy was a great fit for me and a big inspiration with my cello and music career. She also taught my younger brother as a cellist for a few

Mila also started cello at the age of 4. Judy was the obvious choice to be her teacher and this is Mila's third year of study with Judy in private lessons (she's now almost 7 years old). Judy has really been a part of our family over the years and once I had children I knew that having Judy teach at least one of them would be very fitting. Judy has this knack for really engaging young kids with the cello and with music that I admire; she seems to be able to get Mila to really focus and engage in ways that I only wish I could when I am practicing with Mila at home. She's a very active kid so it's often a bit of a challenge to get her to sit still and play cello, but she really enjoys playing with Judy and attending her regular concerts at VAM. This obviously comes from Judy's passion for music and teaching and her years of experience teaching young kids. Mila and Judy have really connected and it's quite a pleasure attending Mila's lessons and seeing how she feeds off Judy's enthusiasm for music and how much she really enjoys her time with Judy. I can't imagine there are too many

years, taught my mother for a year or so, and coached my sister (who played the flute) in chamber ensemble.

I played with Judy from age 4 until 17 when I left for university to study science. During that time, I played in chamber groups, with the VAM Symphony Orchestra, and did solo performances. I considered going into music as a career when I finished high school and was accepted to University of Michigan, but instead went down a different path, eventually ending up

in medicine. I know Judy was quite disappointed with this decision and she reminds me of her opinion that I should have gone into music on a regular basis! I have continued to play cello since then but in recent years it has taken a bit of a backseat to the other busy events in life, and I'm just waiting for a bit more time in my life to have a resurgence in my ability to play. After my formal training I've ended up using cello in other parts of my life, playing with friends periodically in a band, at many of my friends' weddings, etc. Right now I mostly play with my daughter Mila when she's practicing at home, although I'm hoping to pick up more time for music soon. Music, whether classical or other, has always been an important part of my life and my training with Judy and at VAM really enabled me to enjoy and engage in music in ways I otherwise wouldn't have been able to.



cello teachers out there over 80 years old who have as much energy as Judy does, or who get down on their knees on the floor with their young students to teach them at their level. Having had a few other music and cello teachers over the years during and after my time at VAM, I can say for certain that she has a passion for music and teaching that is very unique.

A long-time member of VAM's faculty, Judith's studio is full of photos and photo collages of the many students she has had over the years: "I sometimes get Mila to go around and find all the pictures of Jonathan when she comes to her lesson."