



THE WOMEN'S MUSICAL CLUB OF WINNIPEG

"...where tradition embraces the future."

N E W S L E T T E R

SPRING 2016

2016-2017 SEASON

at The Winnipeg Art Gallery

Sunday, October 2, 2016

Nikki & Timothy Chooi, violins

Represented by Dispeker Artists Inc.

Tickets \$25, Students \$5

Sunday, November 20, 2016

39th Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition Winner

Piano - Winner TBA in May, 2016

Tickets \$20, Students \$5

**7:00 pm Thursday, December 29, 2016

WMC

Scholarship Winners' Recital

The five winners of the 2016 scholarship auditions will perform and receive their scholarships

- \$3000 WMC Scholarship ~ TBA
- \$2500 WMC Scholarship ~ TBA
- \$2000 Madeleine Gauvin Scholarship ~ TBA
- \$1500 Holtby Scholarship ~ TBA
- \$1000 Berythe Birse Scholarship ~ TBA

Tickets \$20, Students \$5

Sunday, April 2, 2017

Elliot Madore, baritone

Darryl Friesen, piano

Represented by CAMI

Tickets \$25, Students \$5

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Subscriptions:

Early bird \$80 before August 15, 2016.

Subscriptions \$90 Student \$20

Send cheque or money order to:

WMC, 529 Laidlaw Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3P 0L2

Individual tickets: available from McNally Robinson or at the door (cash or cheque only). Student tickets \$5 at the door.

For a season brochure or to order a subscription phone 204 944 9431.

www.womensmusicalclubofwpg.ca

Follow us on Twitter - @womensmusical



~ OUR NEXT CONCERT ~

Sunday, April 3, 2016

2:00 pm at The Winnipeg Art Gallery

Maxim Bernard piano



Horowitz in Moscow - A Celebration of Vladimir Horowitz



Piano virtuoso Maxim Bernard celebrates the anniversary of a legendary performance, given 30 years ago by Vladimir Horowitz in Moscow after having fled the communist state over 60 years earlier; with works by Mozart, Rachmaninoff, Liszt, Schubert and others.

Concert sponsored by

The Gail Asper Family Foundation Inc.,
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Winnipeg Free Press

"This concert is being recorded for CBC's
In Concert with host Paulo Pietropaulo."

Maxim Bernard is represented by Richard Paul Concert Artists

Tickets \$25, Students \$5

~~~~~ BIOGRAPHY - Maxim Bernard ~~~~~

Some start their piano studies at the age of three, but for Maxim Bernard it began at 13 when he discovered his passion. His development has been phenomenal; by age 18 he was invited to perform Beethoven's magnificent Fourth Piano Concerto with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra!

After completing his studies at the Québec Conservatory of Music with the pianist Suzanne Beaubien-Lowe, his driving passion led him to further them with one of his idols, the pianist André Laplante at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, where he received his Artist Diploma. Maxim fell in love with the romantic style of interpretation. The great pianists of the past such as Cortot, Horowitz, Rachmaninoff and Friedman are for him a strong source of inspiration.

In 2004, he met the legendary pianist Menahem Pressler at the Orford Arts Centre and the chemistry between them was immediate. After hearing Maxim play, Pressler declared "I believe in your future!" A few months later, Maxim was on his way to the University of Indiana to study with his new mentor, where he earned both his Master's and Doctoral degrees in Piano Performance. He developed his unique style, and music has become for him a spiritual experience. His sensitivity, his personal touch, and the contagious spontaneity he brings to his interpretations combine to make him an exceptional pianist.

FROM THE TREASURER. PHYLLIS ILAVSKY

We are enjoying another successful year contributing to the musical life of Winnipeg featuring such outstanding artists as WindSync, violinist Joshua Peters (Egré winner) and the WMC Scholarship winners. Our last concert of this season will be performed by pianist Maxim Bernard on April 3rd.

We continue to depend on our season membership subscribers and your generous donations to our General Fund to ensure the ongoing quality of our annual recital series. We thank you for your loyalty to our organization. We also appreciate the continued support of our concert sponsors and corporate donors.

Our annual May fundraising luncheon "Swing into Spring" continues to be very successful and assists in providing a strong financial base for our scholarship programs. The WMC Scholarships totalling \$10,000 are awarded annually to five talented young musicians.

In April, 2016 we will present the 6th WMC McLellan Competition which awards three major scholarships totalling \$20,000. The winners will perform in a concert with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra providing them with an invaluable opportunity to be featured as soloists. Donations to assist in covering the cost of hiring the orchestra would be most helpful.

Enclosed in this newsletter is the "Annual Campaign" donation card with an addressed envelope. We thank you for your continued interest and generosity.

2016 WMC SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS

The auditions will be held Saturday, May 14, 2016, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm at U. of M. Eva Clare Hall. Please join us for the day or part of the day and provide an audience for our performers. Our five winners will perform at the Scholarship concert on Thursday, December 29, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

Deadline for application is April 17, 2016.

For more information, visit us at: www.womensmusicalclubofwpg.ca
204 944 9431

SWING INTO SPRING

The sixteenth annual "Swing into Spring" event will be held in May or June, 2016 from 11:30 am - 2:00 pm at a remarkable home yet to be announced.

The funds raised at this luncheon are specifically earmarked for the WMC Scholarship fund. The awards go to young Manitobans pursuing their studies in music. The 2016 Scholarship winners will be heard at a holiday concert Thursday, December 29, 2016 at 7:00 pm, at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. The five winners will perform and receive scholarships totalling \$10,000.

Keep WMC in mind ~This event is not to be missed!

For more information call 204 944 9431

2015 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Violinist Gregory Lewis has always had a passion for classical music, and began playing violin at the age of five. Appearing as a soloist with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra, University of Manitoba Symphony Orchestra, and Consortium Aurora Borealis Baroque Chamber Orchestra, Gregory has established himself as a prominent young soloist in central Canada, and has upcoming engagements with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony. Gregory made his Carnegie Hall debut in May 2015, and will return to the hall this December as First Prize Winner of the 2015 American Protege International Piano and Strings Competition. As an active orchestral musician, Gregory Lewis toured Canada performing as concertmaster of the 2015 National Youth Orchestra of Canada and is the current concertmaster of the University of Manitoba Symphony Orchestra.

Bassoonist Kristy Tucker, an active orchestral musician, chamber player, and soloist, is currently pursuing her Master's of Music with Stéphane Levesque at the Schulich School of Music at McGill University. She completed her undergraduate studies at the Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba in 2015. She has had the privilege of being a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada for the 2014 and 2015 seasons where she completed two cross Canada tours and recorded two CDs with the ensemble. Kristy has won numerous awards, including the University of Manitoba Concerto Competition in 2013 where she performed Carl Maria Von Weber's Bassoon Concerto. Most recently, Kristy was one of only two Canadians to be selected as a semi finalist for the Meg Quigley Vivaldi Competition in Los Angeles where she will compete in January. Kristy aspires to be a professional orchestral musician and hopes to one day record a CD of French solo bassoon repertoire.

Soprano Ainsley Wray is a recent graduate from the University of Toronto and recently completed her Masters of Music in vocal performance. At this time she studied with Patrick Raftery, and continues her studies with Nathalie Paulin. She began her studies at the University of Manitoba where she completed a bachelor's degree in vocal performance and a Post Baccalaureate Diploma in vocal performance. During this time she had the privilege of studying with Lois Watson-Lyons and Tracy Dahl. Ainsley was recently the winner of the Women's Musical Club scholarship in Winnipeg. She was also the winner of the Orville J. Derragh Memorial Scholarship and the Madeleine Gauvin Scholarship. She looks forward to continuing her vocal studies, and to future performing opportunities.

Cellist Natalie Dawe, recently completed a M. Music degree in performance at Western University's Don Wright Faculty of Music where she studied with Thomas Wiebe, and was the recipient of a graduate scholarship and teaching assistantship. During her undergraduate program at the Desautels Faculty of Music, Natalie studied with Dr. Minna Rose Chung and was a prize winner in the Genser and Concerto Competitions. Prior to moving to Winnipeg, she travelled to Beijing with the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra to perform and record a CD that won an East Coast Music Award. In 2011, Natalie toured Sweden and Finland with the University of Manitoba Singers. In 2014, she performed with Rod Stewart at the MTS Centre, and for the Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall at Government House. Natalie is currently an instructor with El Sistema Winnipeg, teaches at the Douglas Kuhl School of Music in Morden, and the Division of Preparatory Studies at the Desautels Faculty of Music.

Soprano Ashley Boychuk is originally from the Manitoba Prairies where she developed an enthusiastic and compassionate profile for singing and performing under the tutelage of soprano Tracy Dahl. Young artist opportunities during 2015/14 include studying the role of Könige der Nacht in Die Zauberflöte with the Fargo-Moorhead Opera, working with artistic director Joan Dornemann at the International Canadian Vocal Arts Institute in Montreal, and receiving an Encouragement Award from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Past opportunities including singing the role of La Fée in Cendrillon with Opera NUOVA, and the 2015 & 2013 scholarship recipient from the Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg. Ashley holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Minnesota where she received the Hynninen Scholarship and performed the roles of Fjordlīgi in Così fan tutte, Singing Keeley in Elmer Gantry, and studied the role of Adele in Der Fledermaus.

Canadian Flutist, Jaena Kim is currently studying at the Schulich School of Music with Denis Bluteau. She began her studies at age six and debuted with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra at age thirteen. She has since performed as soloist with the Winnipeg Symphony & the Winnipeg Youth Symphony Orchestra, and the Winnipeg Wind Ensemble. Under the guidance of Layla Roberts, Kim has won numerous awards at national competitions, among them: the Federation of Canadian Music Festival's National Competition, the Canadian Music Competition and the Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg's Scholarship Competition. She has attended Domain Forget and the Banff Centre's Master Class for Strings and Winds, and played in master classes for Emmanuel Pahud, Philippe Bernold. Patrick Gallois, Ransom Wilson and Jeanne Baxtresser. She is an active chamber musician with the McGill Symphony Orchestra, and served as principal flute of the National Youth Band of Canada and the WYSO. She holds her Performance ARCT from the Royal Conservatory of Music in both flute and piano. Kim wishes to acknowledge the support of the Manitoba Arts Council.



WINNER PHOTO: L>R: Ashley Boychuk, Jaena Kim, Gregory Lewis, Kristy Tucker, Natalie Dawe, Ainsley Wray



WMC McLELLAN COMPETITION FOR SOLO PERFORMANCE WITH THE WSO

Women's Musical Club is proud to present the sixth biennial competition, a dynamic element in the WMC mandate. This competition provides a rare opportunity for three young Manitoba musicians to perform with a major professional orchestra, and through the generous gift from the estate of Doris McLellan, financial awards totalling \$20,000.

Joshua Peters, First Place 2014 - What a thrill for Joshua to play the Beethoven violin Concerto with the WSO and receive \$10,000, and then go on to win the Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition in 2015.

In January, six adjudicators listened to coded MP3s on line and ranked the performances. The rankings were tallied and the lowest scores were chosen for live auditions.

The 12 semi-finalists are:

Natalie Dawe, cello
Zander Howard-Scott, cello
Jason Klippenstein, baritone

Anne-Marie MacIntosh, soprano
Daniel Tselyakov, piano
Caitlin Wood, soprano

Everett Hopfner, piano
Jaena Kim, flute
Gregory Lewis, violin

Jesse Plessis, piano
Paul Williamson, piano
Tony Zhou, piano

On **Saturday, March 26, 2016**, each semi-finalist will have only a 25 minute audition during which to impress the adjudicators. Please join us for an all-day concert, or just part of the day to show your encouragement for these fine young artists. Audience members will be free to come and go between auditions. Check the audition times of your favourite competitors on the Women's Musical Club website. Three national and international adjudicators will choose the three finalists who will perform with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in April.

The three talented finalists will have only one rehearsal with the WSO on **Friday, April 22, 2016**, and the Final Concert Audition will be held the same evening. At this live performance the winning order of the Finalists will be determined by a third set of national and international judges. A total of \$20,000 will be awarded. (First Place \$10,000, Second Place \$6,000, and Third Place \$4,000) Come and be part of the excitement!

YOU ARE INVITED!

Semi-final auditions Saturday, March 26, 2016
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Muriel Richardson Auditorium, Winnipeg Art Gallery
Admission: \$10 at the door (No admittance during an audition)

Final Competition Concert with the WSO
Followed by a punch reception and awards ceremony
7:30 pm Friday, April 22, 2016

Jubilee Place Auditorium, MBCI, 180 Riverton Avenue
Admission \$30, Students \$5 (at the door only)
(tickets available at McNally Robinson Booksellers,
WSO Box Office, WMC 204 944-9431)
WMC website: womensmusicalclubofwpg.ca

This is a Manitoba event! Be there to support aspiring young musicians pursue their dreams and careers in classical music.

Private and corporate donations are crucial to the success of the WMC McLellan Competition. Donations will be gratefully accepted and acknowledged. Tax receipts will be provided for any donations over \$10.

If you are able to contribute, please make cheques payable to:
 Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg, and mail to the Competition Chair:
 Women's Musical Club - Carol Gamby
 421 Laidlaw Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0K8

The WMC McLellan Competition is generously supported by:



Sunday, October 2, 2016

Nikki & Timothy Chooi, violins



Canadian violinist **Nikki Chooi** has been described as "a model of taste and tonal refinement" (*Boston Globe*) and "vigorous and colorful" (*New York Times*).

As First Prize Winner of the 2013 Michael Hill International Violin Competition, Nikki recently completed an extensive recital tour with Chamber Music New Zealand, performed with Giordano Bellincampi and the Auckland Philharmonia, recorded his debut album with the Atoll Label, and gave a recital at Australia's Musica Viva Series. He is also a winner of the 2013 Astral Artists' Auditions and Laureate of the 2012 Queen Elisabeth Violin Competition.

Nikki was born in Victoria, British Columbia. He began his studies at the Victoria Conservatory of Music where at age 9, he became a protege of Sydney Humphreys. He is a graduate of the Mount Royal Conservatory, and received his undergraduate degree at the Curtis Institute of Music, and recently completed his studies at the Juilliard School with Ida Kavafian and Donald Weilerstein. In 2004, he came to national attention as the Grand Award winner of the Canadian National Music Festival and the Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal Standard Life Competition.



Born in Victoria, British Columbia, Canadian violinist **Timothy Chooi** is enrolled at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia studying with Ida Kavafian, and previously studied with Pinchas Zukerman and Patinka Kopec. At the age of 16, Chooi captured the 2010 Grand Prix of the 71st l'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal Standard Life Competition, bringing him numerous concert engagements.

Chooi debuted with the l'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal under the command of Maestro Jean-François Rivest. The La Presse newspaper of Montréal described Chooi's debut as "le miracle [the miracle]." He has since played with l'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal again under the baton of Maestro Kent Nagano. Chooi was recently awarded the Bronze Medal (3rd Prize) at the 2015 Michael Hill International Violin Competition in New Zealand.

Represented by Dispeker Artists Inc.

FROM THE PRESIDENT. DIANE KUBAS

Although we are in the midst of winter as we prepare this newsletter, our thoughts turn to spring as once again our spring season is a special time for us. This is the year of the WMC McLellan competition which we proudly present every two years. The WMC of Winnipeg is very fortunate to have had benefactors that make this event possible. Please join us for the auditions and the final concert where the three finalists perform with the symphony and a winner is chosen. This wonderful competition could not take place without the hard work of our McLellan chair, Carol Gamby and her committee. Carol has been involved with this illustrious competition since its inception and was instrumental in getting it up and running. Thank you Carol, for your commitment and vision for providing such a unique opportunity for Manitoba young artists.

Our recital committee has also arranged for a very exciting finale to our concert series by inviting Maxim Bernard, pianist, to our stage. Mr Bernard will recreate Vladimir Horowitz's concert in Moscow upon his return to Russia 30 years ago. This is a concert not to be missed. CBC will be recording this concert.

Spring will also bring us our annual scholarship competition and our Swing into Spring Fundraiser. Please see the rest of this newsletter for more information regarding these activities. As members of the WMC, we invite you to be a part of these events and look forward to meeting you.

In closing, I want to thank all the board members for making my first year as president a most delightful experience. I am very fortunate to be able to work with a dedicated volunteer board who works very diligently and professionally to present an exciting concert series and to provide wonderful scholarship opportunities for our young musicians, activities that greatly enhance the musical fabric of our city.

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We are thankful for our corporate donors and their generous support.
We thank the Winnipeg Art Gallery for use of the Muriel Richardson Auditorium at our Scholarship concert.

IN MEMORIAM

Jim Jeffries passed away October 14, 2015. He was a long time supporter of the WMC and worked as an ad hoc board member, helping with various duties at concerts as well as a wine server at Swing into Spring fundraisers.

Betty Ross passed away on January 14, 2016. Betty was a long-time member of the WMC board who retired a number of years ago. She was on the committee which initiated the McLellan Competition, and her experience and guidance were deeply appreciated.

REMINDER! Use your Musicnet card:

Every subscriber receives a Musicnet Reward Card that enables you to purchase 2 tickets for the price of 1 to selected Musicnet concerts.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg is looking for Board members willing to become actively involved to help us enhance our concert series, the scholarship programs, and to promote young Manitoba musicians.

Both men and women are welcome to join our board or volunteer on a casual basis over the coming season as "Friends of WMC".

For inquiries please call Women's Musical Club voice mail 204-944-9431.

Thank you to Rinella Printers and to Chanh, for his outstanding work on the WMC publications.
Thank you to McNally Robinson Booksellers for selling our tickets.

