



THE WOMEN'S MUSICAL CLUB OF WINNIPEG

"...where tradition embraces the future."

N E W S L E T T E R

FALL 2016

2016-2017 SEASON

2:00 pm at The Winnipeg Art Gallery**



Sunday, October 2, 2016
Nikki Chooi & Timothy Chooi, violin

Sejoon Park, piano

Represented by Dispeker Artists Inc.

Tickets \$25, Students \$5



Sunday, November 20, 2016

Matt Poon, piano

39th Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition Winner

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 ~ **Gregory Lewis, violin**

\$2500 WMC Scholarship ~ **Tony Zhou, piano**

\$1500 Holtby Scholarship ~ **Peter Jo, violin**

\$2000 Madeleine Gauvin Scholarship ~ **David Roberts, cello**

\$1000 Berythe Birse Scholarship ~ **Emily Rukrut Pressey, viola**

Tickets \$20, Students \$5



Sunday, April 2, 2017

Elliot Madore, baritone

Darryl Friesen, piano

Represented by CAMI

Tickets \$25, Students \$5

Early bird (before Aug. 15, 2016): \$80 Subscriptions: Regular \$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.

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BIOGRAPHIES

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's 2014/2015 season will include performing at the Ottawa Chamber Fest, the Moritzburg Festival in Germany, Philadelphia's Astral Artists Series, Chicago's Harris Theatre, a Musicians from Marlboro Tour, and engagements with the Winnipeg Symphony, Calgary Philharmonic, Louiseville Orchestra, and Orchestre Symphonique de Laval.

Earlier in 2014, Nikki made his debut as Soloist with the Malaysian Philharmonic and the St. Petersburg State Symphony at the Musical Olympus Festival in Russia. His concerto engagements in recent years have included performing with the Victoria Symphony, the Edmonton Symphony, National Orchestra of Belgium, Orchestre Royal de Chambre de Wallonie, the Peninsula Symphony, the Santa Cruz Symphony, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, and the Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal.

His recital engagements have included: the Vancouver Recital Series, Debut Atlantic Canada Recital Tour, Canadian National Arts Debut Series, Caramoor Rising Stars Series in New York, Chamber Music Tulsa, Dame Myra Hess Series in Chicago, and La Monnaie "Concertini" in Belgium.

Passionate in Chamber Music as well, Nikki has performed in many international festivals including the Marlboro Music Festival, the Ravinia Festival, the Dresden Music Festival in Germany, Montreal Chamber Fest, Napa Valley's Music from the Vineyards, and Music from Angel Fire. He has collaborated in performances with Pamela Frank, Gary Graffman, Kim Kashkashian and with members of the Guarneri String Quartet, Juilliard String Quartet, Vermeer String Quartet, Orion String Quartet. In 2009, Nikki was a core member of the Curtis on Tour to Europe ensemble performing with Roberto Diaz and Robert MacDonald.

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.

Mr. Chooi has recently been appointed concert master of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

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.

Highlight performances in 2015-2016 season include performances with the Montreal Chamber Orchestra, the Santa Barbara Symphony, Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, and recital tours in Quebec and Latin America. Chooi has performed with major orchestras across the world including Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Toronto Philharmonia, Auckland Philharmonia, and the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra. Conductors that he has worked with include Pinchas Zukerman, Benjamin Zander, Carlos Miguel Prieto, Kent Nagano, and Yoav Talmi. Chooi maintains a close relationship with CBC Radio-Canada, and his performances are regularly recorded and broadcasted across the world.

Born to a musician family in South Korea, **Sejoon Park** received top prizes from the New Orleans International, PianoArts, and Southeastern Piano competitions, and is the recipient of the King Award for Young Artists. His recent performances include Rachmaninoff's *Concerto Nos. 2 & 3* with both the Incheon Philharmonic Orchestra and the Seongnam Philharmonic Orchestra in South Korea, and has made solo appearances at the Kennedy Center and Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall. He has been soloist with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Salina Symphony, Eurasian Philharmonic, South Carolina Philharmonic, and the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University and a Master's degree from The Juilliard School. He is currently an Artist Diploma candidate at the Peabody Institute.

2016 WMC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS' RECITAL

Thursday, December 29, 2016

7:00 pm at the Winnipeg Art Gallery

The five winners of the 2016 scholarship auditions, which took place at Eva Clare Hall, U of M, on Saturday, May 14, 2016, will perform and receive their scholarships totaling \$10,000.

\$3000 WMC Scholarship - Gregory Lewis, violin

Violinist Gregory Lewis has known since the age of five that he wanted to pursue a career in music, and is currently studying Violin Performance at the University of Manitoba with Dr. Oleg Pokhanovski. Having engagements as a soloist with the Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, and Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestras in 2016, Gregory is quickly establishing himself as a prominent young soloist in Canada. He has twice performed in recital in Carnegie Hall, and enjoyed performing as concert master of the 2015 National Youth Orchestra of Canada. This summer, Gregory will further his music education at the Scotia Festival of Music and the Aspen Music Festival and School.

\$2500 WMC Scholarship - Tony Zhou, piano

Since his orchestral debut at 10, Winnipeg pianist, Tony Zhou has performed as soloist with orchestras such as the Polish Baltic F. Chopin Philharmonic, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, and Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. He has obtained a Bachelor of Music from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music as a recipient of the Jacobs School's Premier Young Artist Award, Music Faculty Award, Dorothy L. Herriman Award, and Ernest Hoffzimmer Award. He is now pursuing his Master of Music at the Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music as an Associate Instructor of Piano.

\$2000 Madeleine Gauvin Scholarship - David Roberts, cello

A student of Yuri Hooker, cellist David Liam Roberts has been awarded top prizes at the National level, including 3rd prize at the Canadian Music Competition in 2014 and 2015, as well as the Special Prize in Strings at the 2014 National Music Festival. For the past three summers, he has studied with many of world's best teachers at the Morningside Music Bridge program in Calgary, and looks forward to studying at the Meadowmount School of Music in New York this summer. David Liam often performs as a recitalist, and made his debut as a soloist in 2015, performing the Finale of Elgar's Cello Concerto.

\$1500 Holtby Scholarship - Peter Jo, violin

Peter Jo, violinist, is currently enrolled in a Masters of Music in Violin Performance at the University of Manitoba studying under Oleg Pokhanovski. He was formerly a student of Baranova Alessandrovna and Lev Krichkov at the Rimsky-Korsakov music school for the gifted children in St. Petersburg, Russia. He has won numerous awards and scholarships. Recently, Peter made his soloist debut with Ukraine National Symphony Orchestra.

\$1000 Berythe Birse Scholarship - Emily Rukrut-Presey, viola

Emily Rekrut-Presey is a 18 years old violist from Winnipeg studying with Daniel Scholz. This spring she won the Aikins Memorial trophy at the Winnipeg Music Festival and will be appearing with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra at their open house in June. This fall she will be attending the University of Toronto to begin her undergraduate degree in viola performance, studying with Teng Li.

Tickets \$20, Students \$5

2017 WMC SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS

The auditions will be held Saturday, May 13, 2017, from
9:00am 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 28, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Deadline for application is April 16, 2017.

For more information, visit us at:

www.womensmusicalclubofwpg.ca 204 944 9431

WMC McLELLAN COMPETITION FOR SOLO PERFORMANCE WITH THE WSO

WMC has now administered six competitions to date and a total of \$120,000 has been shared by the winners to further their musical careers.

For the sixth Competition, in January 2016, adjudicators ranked the mp3 entries, and 12 semi-finalists were chosen for live auditions at the Winnipeg Art Gallery on Saturday March 26th, 2016. These auditions took place at half-hour intervals during the day and were enjoyed by family and friends of the contestants and members of the public.

The talented twelve had the opportunity to audition before a jury comprised of Valdine Anderson, vocal, Douglas Finch, piano, Mark Rudolf, cello, and Holly Harris, jury chair. Three were selected as finalists in the 2016 WMC McLellan Competition: Jaena Kim, flute, Gregory Lewis, violin, and Caitlin Wood, soprano.

The three finalists performed with the support of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, ably hosted by Claudia Garcia de la Huerta of Classic 107 Radio on April 22nd, at the Jubilee Place Auditorium of MBCI. For those of you who did not attend, you missed an amazing concert with three stellar performances.

The adjudicators were former Winnipegger John Greer, piano accompanist, vocal coach, arranger, composer and conductor; Dr. Michael Kim, a Canadian concert pianist and currently Professor and Director of the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; and Thomas Wiebe, cellist and Associate Professor of Violincello at the Don Wright Faculty of Music at the University of Western Ontario; with Jury Chair, Holly Harris, local pianist, composer and writer.



L>R Jaena Kim, Gregory Lewis, Caitlin Wood

The jury decision was: First Place \$10,000 - Caitlin Wood, Soprano; Second Place \$6,000 - Gregory Lewis, violin; Third Place \$4,000 - Jaena Kim, flute.

An enthusiastic audience was invited to a punch and cheese reception in the outer lobby prior to the presentation of awards and photographs.

The Board of Women's Musical Club offers congratulations to the winners, who provided the audience with an outstanding concert experience, a thrilling finish to an exciting Competition!

We also thank the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra for their support of this competition. Their involvement enhances and enriches the performance experience of the three finalists, and assists the WMC in providing very special performance opportunities for young Manitoba musicians as they embark upon their musical careers.

Competition Chair, Carol Gamby, and the volunteer board members of the Women's Musical Club are indebted to the many private and corporate donors whose generosity has enabled the club to present this Competition six times and hopefully will continue on a biennial basis well into the future.

The WMC McLellan Competition is generously supported by:



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SWING INTO SPRING

On May 26th the WMC held its sixteenth annual fund raiser "Swing into Spring" when members and friends were welcomed to the home of Susannah and Russ Knight, a gracious house on Wellington Crescent on the banks of the Red river to enjoy wine, luncheon and music. 158 guests attended.

This cultural community continues to be one of the most popular music events in Winnipeg and many supporters ask months ahead when it is going to be held. The answer is "When the House Hunter is able to find a large spacious home where the owners are gracious and willing to lend their house for the event".

Our special thanks and appreciation are extended to Susannah and Russ for lending their home and being such genial and thoughtful hosts.

Funds raised support the Scholarship Fund.

Margaret Morse, Chair

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

WindSync. In October 2015 we were entranced by the stunning performance of this amazing quintet, which can now add to its achievements the Gold Medal (\$3,500.00) in the Senior Wind Division of the 2016 Fischeff National Chamber Music Competition held this summer in South Bend, Indiana. This competition is described as "the largest chamber music competition in the nation and the world". This year there were 49 competing ensembles. WindSync will participate in a Winner's Tour of the Midwestern United States this fall.

Joslin Romphf, soprano. Margaret Jeffries caught up with Joslin at her parents' home in Victoria in June. Since performing on our stage in the 2002-2003 season, and dazzling us with her amazing voice, she has lived in Montreal, but now makes her home in Ladner, BC. She established her own studio in Montreal in 2010 and discovered her love of teaching. Upon her move to BC she became part of the voice faculty at the Vancouver Academy of Music, where she is a passionate advocate of the broad spectrum of vocal music, encompassing opera, classical, chamber, musical theatre and contemporary.

Elliot Madore, baritone, who will give a recital on our stage on April 2, 2017, appeared in the Metropolitan Opera's "family" version of The Barber of Seville early in 2016. He stepped into the role for an ailing colleague. The OperaCanada magazine review noted that he was "a dashing handsome Figaro" and ... "a nimble pleasure to watch and, ... to hear". It was noted that this was Elliot's biggest Met assignment yet. We have a treat in store for us in April!

Former scholarship winner and WMC McLellan Competition finalist, **Jeff Dyrda** plays with the Rolston String Quartet, home base Toronto. Yesterday evening the quartet was declared the First Place winner of the 12th Banff International String Quartet Competition. Search the BISQC to get links to the full story, and photos!

Gregory Lewis. "This summer, I had the honour of attending two prestigious summer festivals: the 2016 Scotia Festival of Music and the 2016 Aspen Music Festival and School. Between the two festivals, I had the opportunity to study privately with many of the world's top performers, including James Ehnes, Giora Schmidt, Midori, and the Pacifica Quartet. I also had the opportunity to share the stage with Renee Fleming, Midori, Augustin Hadelich, Yefin Bronfman, and Giora Schmidt. It was incredible to work with so many inspiring musicians, both on stage in performances and off stage in lessons, and this was truly a summer of growth and learning."

Caitlin Wood's list of upcoming performances for this season:

2017 Susanna (Le Nozze di Figaro) Mozart Vancouver Opera

Clorinda (La Cenerentola) Rossini Edmonton Opera

2016 Giuletta (I Capuleti e i Montecchi) Bellini Voicebox:Opera in Concer

Jaena Kim participated in the Banff Master Class for Strings and Winds program this summer. She will be playing principal flautist of the McGill Symphony Orchestra in Tchaikovsky 5th Symphony which will be live streamed through CBC Fri., Sept 23rd or Sat., Sept 24th, 2016.

FROM THE PRESIDENT. DIANE KUBAS

The Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg ended the 2015-2016 season on a high note. 2016 was the year of the WMC McLellan Competition and I know we will be hearing from the three talented finalists, Caitlin Wood, Gregory Lewis and Jaena Kim as they continue to establish their careers. Our annual May scholarship competition also attracted some very fine musicians and you will have the privilege of hearing the five winners at our December concert. Please note the change of day and time for this one concert.

Thanks to our many donors, patrons and members such as yourself, our club is now entering its 122 year and we have planned another wonderful season of musical treats. The German author and poet, Berthold Auerbach said that "Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life". We invite you to refresh yourself at our four wonderful concerts. We start the season off with the Chooi Brothers, Nikki and Timothy, who will present a duo virtuosi violin concert. Each of these young Canadian men are multiple prize winners and are also establishing impressive individual careers. Nikki was just appointed concertmaster for the Metropolitan Opera Company. Please spread the word and invite your friends and family. You will not be disappointed. Also, if you know any aspiring young musicians, have them consider entering our annual scholarship program. You may check out our website, www.womensclubofwinnipeg.ca for more information and follow us on Facebook. I look forward to meeting you in the upcoming months.

BENEFITS FOR SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

WMC McLellan Competition for Solo Performance with the WSO- 2016

Thank you so much for this incredible opportunity! I entered the competition not expecting to make it anywhere, knowing the competition's reputation as one of the most prestigious in Canada. I was just hoping for a good recording experience, and maybe the chance to give a semi-final round recital performance, but placing as a finalist was never in my expectations. Thankfully, I received the experiences I was hoping for, along with the unexpected opportunity to collaborate with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra as a finalist. Throughout each of the rounds of McLellan, I was repeatedly impressed by the level of professionalism, support, and care displayed by the WMC. You made the experience as friendly and stress-free as possible, and as I result I was able to learn as much as possible from the experience. The financial support I received has covered all the costs associated with the 2016 Aspen Music Festival and School that I was not able to cover, and has gone from making my summer one that would bankrupt me to one that allowed me to enroll in a second summer program on Canada's east coast: the Scotia Festival of Music (where I got to work with acclaimed violinists Giora Schmidt and James Ehnes). Thank you so much! The competition really has changed my future for the better, and the rewards continue to reveal themselves.

2016 WMC Scholarship Competition

Thank you so much for your continued support of young musicians in Manitoba by presenting this opportunity. This competition is simple to register in, friendly, and supportive, all the while providing a financial reward size associated with far more stressful and strenuous competitions. Next winter, I will be flying to four music schools across North America to do live auditions for my Master's degree, and I had been mentally preparing myself to begin working a second job while in school to save money to cover the costs associated with these auditions. However, because of the payment date for this competition, I will be receiving enough money to cover all of my audition expenses right before these expenses will present themselves, and I no longer need to apply for another job in the fall. This competition really has made my future brighter and stress-free. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

- Gregory Lewis

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Thank you to Rinella Printers and to Chanh, for his outstanding work on the WMC publications.
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