

Biography AVAN YU, PIANO

Achieving international attention at an early age, Canadian pianist Avan Yu triumphed at the 2012 Sydney International Piano Competition in Australia, winning First Prize along with nine special awards. Avan decided to pursue a life in music shortly before winning his first international piano competition at the age of fourteen. Although initially aspiring to be an astronaut while growing up in Canada, his ideas changed after opportune meetings with several important musical mentors. He was first noticed by Pinchas Zukerman and Bramwell Tovey who invited him to perform with their respective orchestras, the National Arts Centre Orchestra and the Vancouver Symphony. Yo-Yo Ma, after hearing Avan play at the age of sixteen, invited him to perform with him in Ottawa a few years later. Since then, he has appeared with conductors and musicians such as Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, Christian Arming, Juanjo Mena, Johannes Moser, and the Armida Quartet. He has performed extensively throughout Europe, North America, Asia, and Australia and at venues such as the Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Philharmonie in Berlin, the Salle Cortot in Paris, and the Sydney Opera House.

Mr. Yu became front page news as the youngest competitor ever to win the Canadian Chopin Competition at the age of 17. On the world stage, he went on to win the Silver Medal and Audience Prize at the Santander International Piano Competition

His teachers have included Kut Kau Sum, Kenneth Broadway, and Ralph Markham in Vancouver, and Klaus Hellwig in Berlin, where he studied at the Berlin University of the Arts. His latest recording of Liszt's Transcriptions of Schubert's Winterreise and Schwanengesang, released by Naxos, won positive reviews from critics at Gramophone Magazine, American Record Guide, Fono Forum, among others.

Besides playing the piano, Avan has also written for the National Post. He loves studying languages and in his spare time enjoys experimenting in the kitchen in his home in Berlin. He has just moved to New York City in September to begin Doctoral Studies at the Manhattan School of Music.

Avan Yu is presented in partnership with Prairie Debut. www.prairiedebut.com



Letter to the WMC FROM GREGORY LEWIS

My name is Gregory Lewis, and I am a 21-year-old Canadian violinist. It is with great pleasure that I write to you in regards to the Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg (WMC), an organization which has played a crucial role in my development as a classical musician.

The WMC fills a distinct and necessary position in the city of Winnipeg, providing financial support towards the career development of amateur classical musicians. Without such support, we simply would not be able to afford imperative summer festival training, lessons with preeminent teachers, travel to auditions, and other such expenses which young artists are faced with in addition to our regular tuition costs. The WMC recognizes these financial burdens and offers extensive scholarship opportunities to Manitoba musicians.

I am so incredibly grateful to have been the recipient of financial support from the WMC on three different occasions. I received the \$1,000 Berythe Birse Scholarship (2015), the \$3,000 Women's Musical Club Scholarship (2016), and Second Prize in the Women's Musical Club McLellan Competition (2016). Not only did the McLellan Competition award me \$6,000, but I also had the opportunity to solo with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra – an experience which I will never forget, and one which has shaped me immeasurably as a performer.

It is with complete honesty and certainty that I share that the WMC has been the largest supporter of my career development. Without their financial support, I would not have had the necessary funds to visit prospective teachers for my graduate studies, nor would I have had the financial means to travel to four different cities to complete my graduate school auditions. Had I not received financial support from the WMC, I would not have met Professor Ani Kavafian at the Yale School of Music, with whom I currently am pursuing my Master's Degree in Violin Performance on full scholarship and fellowship.

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2018 WMC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS' BIOGRAPHIES

\$3000 WMC Scholarship ~ Paul Williamson, piano

Included in CBC Music's 2017 edition of "30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians under 30," Paul Williamson is a first prize winner of the piano category of the 2014 Canadian national music festival and the 2017 Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Association national piano competition. As a soloist, he has appeared with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the University of Manitoba Symphony Orchestra, the Abbotsford Youth Orchestra, and the Fraser Valley Symphony Orchestra. His festival appearances include the Morningside Music Bridge International Music Festival, the Orford Academy program, the Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival, and the Hornby Festival. Paul completed his bachelor's at the University of Manitoba under David Moroz. In August Paul moved to Los Angeles where he began graduate studies at the Colburn School in the studio of Fabio Bidini.

\$2500 WMC Scholarship ~ Juliana Moroz, cello

Born into a musical family, Juliana Moroz began playing the cello at the age of three. A student of Yuri Hooker, she has participated in masterclasses with Richard Aaron, Colin Carr, Desmond Hoebig, Hans Jensen, John Kadz, Brian Manker, and Johanne Perron. A consistent prizewinner in local and provincial music festivals, she has attended the Aspen Summer Festival, Morningside Music Bridge Program, Orford Arts Festival and Rosamunde Summer Festival. She has performed as soloist with both the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and Winnipeg Youth Orchestra. She also enjoys performing chamber music, especially with her family as the JAGD quartet.

\$2000 Madeleine Gauvin Scholarship ~ Christina Thanisch-Smith, soprano

Christina Thanisch-Smith is entering her fourth year of her Bachelors of Music (Voice Perf.) degree at the U of M's Desautels Faculty of Music under the tutelage of Monica Huisman. As a member of the U of M's Opera Theatre Ensemble, she has been featured as Arminda (*La Finta Giardiniera*) and Euridice (*L'Orfeo*) in their annual Opera Excerpts shows. This past winter, Christina won the MRMTA Senior Recital Competition and was a finalist in the Desautels Lawrence Genser Competition. At this year's Winnipeg Music Festival, she received the NATS Scholarship Award and was a finalist in the Rose Bowl. This summer, Christina sang the role of Mariane in Opera NUOVA's production of *Tartuffe* and attended Wendy Nielsen's Vocal Techniques Workshop in St. Andrews, New Brunswick.

\$1500 Holtby Scholarship ~ Alexander Moroz, viola

Born into a musical family, Alexander (Sasha) Moroz began playing the violin at the age of five, and switched to viola at the age of nine. A consistent prizewinner in local and provincial music festivals, he has attended the Morningside Music Bridge Program, Valhalla Summer School of Music, VCM Summer Academy and the Rosamunde Festival. This past summer, he was a member of the National Youth Orchestra and toured Canada from coast to coast. A student of Daniel Scholz, he has participated in masterclasses with Li Teng, Wang Xiaowu, Roberto Diaz, Atar Arad, Gerald Stanyk and André Roy.

\$1500 Phyllis Ilavsky Scholarship ~ Jammie Lee, piano

Jammie Lee was born in South Korea where he was enrolled in the prestigious Musical Academy for gifted children at the Seoul Arts Centre. Since immigrating to Brandon, Manitoba, he has studied with Dr. Lawrence Jones and Dr. Kyung Kim. Jammie recently received third place at the 2016 Canadian National Music Festival, was the second prize winner in the international ENKOR Competition in 2015, and was the youngest winner ever of the Western Financial Group Tudor Bowl in the 2015 Brandon Festival of the Arts. He previously placed second in the National Finals of the 2010 Canadian Music Competition.

\$1000 Berythe Birse Scholarship ~ David Liam Roberts, cello

Canadian cellist David Liam Roberts was recently awarded 2nd prize in the WMC McLellan Competition, after a performance of the Dvorak Cello Concerto with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. He has also won prizes in the Canadian Music Competition and the FCMF National Music Festival, among numerous other scholarships and honors from local competitions in Winnipeg. He was a student of Yuri Hooker for several years and commenced studies with Hans Jørgen Jensen and Andrés Díaz at the Glenn Gould School in Toronto in Fall 2018. In summer 2018, he was one of only two Canadian cellists attending the Morningside Music Bridge program in Warsaw, Poland.

2019 WMC SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS

The auditions will be held Saturday, May 11, 2019,
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 six winners will perform at the Scholarship concert on Sunday, December 29, 2019 at 2 pm at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

Deadline for online application is April 14, 2019.

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

MORE on David Liam Roberts...

David played his way to the \$1500 first prize in the strings division at this year's National Music Festival in New Brunswick. Further to this, he was also named the overall Grand Award Winner, which brings with it a sum of \$5000 and a performance opportunity with the NB Youth Orchestra.

You can read more about the Nationals at <http://www.fcmf.org/sackville-2018>.

WMC McLELLAN COMPETITION FOR SOLO PERFORMANCE WITH THE WSO

The McLellan Competition provides career funding and performance opportunities to advanced young Manitoba musicians who are pursuing performance careers. Since 2006, the WMC has administered seven competitions, with a total of \$140,000 being shared by the winners.

The seventh McLellan Competition took place in 2018. Thirty-seven entrants were ranked by six adjudicators, culminating in twelve semi-finalists chosen for live auditions which were held at the Winnipeg Art Gallery on Saturday, March 17th. These auditions were open to family and members of the public, and took place at half-hour intervals. The three-member jury consisted of Joslin Romphf Dennis, soprano, of the Vancouver Academy of Music, Gordon Gerrard, Music Director of the Regina Symphony Orchestra, James Manishen, Artistic Operations Associate of the WSO, and jury chair Holly Harris, local pianist, composer and writer. The three participants selected as finalists were Andrea Lett, soprano, Jessica Kos-Whicher, soprano, and David Liam Roberts, cellist.

On April 22nd, these three finalists performed with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Julian Pellicano. Claudia Garcia de la Huerta of Classic 107 Radio hosted the packed and appreciative crowd at the Jubilee Place Auditorium of MBCI. The adjudicators were former Winnipegger John Greer, piano accompanist, vocal coach, arranger, composer and conductor, Dr. Michael Kim, Canadian concert pianist, Professor and Director at the University of Minnesota, and Mark Rudoff, cellist and Associate Professor of cello and chamber music at Ohio State University. Jury Chair was Holly Harris. The enthusiastic audience was invited to a punch and cheese reception in the outer lobby prior to hearing the jury's decision as follows:

First Place \$10,000 – Andrea Lett

Second Place \$6,000 – David Liam Roberts

Third Place \$4,000 – Jessica Kos-Whicher

The presentation of awards and photographs followed the announcement.

The Board of the Women's Musical Club offers congratulations to the winners, who delivered an outstanding concert event and a thrilling finish to an exciting competition!

We also thank the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, whose involvement enhances the performance experience of the three finalists, and assists the WMC in providing these distinctive opportunities for young Manitoba musicians as they embark upon their musical careers. Competition Chair, Belle Meiklejohn, and WMC's volunteer board members are indebted to the many private and corporate donors whose generosity has enabled the club to present this competition which we hope to continue on a biennial basis well into the future.



Photo L>R: Andrea Lett, David Liam Roberts, Jessica Kos-Whicher



The WMC McLellan Competition is generously supported by:



SWING INTO SPRING

On June 5, 2018 the WMC held its eighteenth annual fund raiser "Swing into Spring" when members and friends were welcomed to the home of Elaine & Neil Margolis to enjoy wine, luncheon and the soothing music of guitarist Nolan Powell.

This event continues to be one of the most popular fundraisers in Winnipeg.

Our special thanks and appreciation are extended to Elaine & Neil for lending their home and being exceptional hosts.

The 2018 Scholarship winners will be heard at a holiday concert December 30, 2018 at 2 pm, at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. The six winners will perform and receive scholarships totalling \$11,500.

Margaret Morse, Chair

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Gregory Lewis' string quartet won the Yale Chamber Music Competition, and were invited to perform Beethoven Op. 132 in the Oneppo Chamber Music Series in May, 2018.

Jessica Strong is making her debut with Manitoba Opera. She has been confirmed to sing the role of Donna Anna in Don Giovanni in November, 2018. She will also sing in the WSO's Messiah this December.

FROM THE PRESIDENT, LAUREL MALKIN

Welcome to the 124th year of the Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg! Once again we are presenting an exciting recital series including a collaboration with Prairie Debut featuring the remarkable pianist, Avan Yu. By popular demand, Windsync will be returning in the spring. This year's Eckhardt-Gramatté winner, Amy Hillis will dazzle us on the violin and our Annual Scholarship Winners' Recital will include the first winner of the newly-created Phyllis Ilavsky Scholarship.

The WMC is thrilled that several of our Scholarship and McLellan winners are achieving great success with their careers. As well, many of our past performers from our recital series are also achieving greatness! Scholarship and McLellan winner David Liam Roberts recently won first prize in the strings division at this year's National Music Festival in New Brunswick, as well as being named the overall Grand Award Winner. Timmy Chooi, who performed in our October 2016 Concert, recently won the Verbier Festival Academy's Paternot Award. This is given to the most accomplished musician at the Academy. Scholarship and McLellan winners, Jessica Strong and Andrea Lett, and Elliot Madore, who performed in Winnipeg for the first time at our April 2016 Concert will feature with Manitoba Opera this year. Jessica will also sing in the WSO's Messiah this December.

The mission of the Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg is *to support young musicians through scholarships and performance opportunities and to present outstanding artists thereby encouraging and advancing classical music in the community.*

Thanks to our donors' and audience members' support, we truly are making a difference in the lives of so many young musicians. Thank you for your continued support of the Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg.

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We thank these corporate sponsors & donors for their generous support.
We thank the Winnipeg Art Gallery for use of the Muriel Richardson Auditorium at our Scholarship concert.

IN MEMORIAM

Barb Strong, a WMC Board member, who held the position of Recital Chair, passed away July 13, 2018.

Susanne Greer, a longtime supporter and attendee of the WMC concerts, passed away March 18, 2018.

Lois Smellie, a WMC supporter, passed away April 3, 2018.

Letter to the WMC FROM GREGORY LEWIS

...continued from page 2

Having experienced the difference the WMC can make in the life of a young performer, it is a great pleasure and honour to speak on behalf of all students who have received support from the organization. They are such a valuable contributor to the cultural scene in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Canada as nation, and I sincerely hope that you will consider them as a recipient of your support. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

All the best,

Gregory Lewis
BMus University of Manitoba
MM Yale University
ARCT Royal Conservatory of Music

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

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