



Dear Friends,

We are beyond excited to share the details of our **46th Season!** Now more than ever, we need music that will uplift us and feed our souls. Live music is such a precious gift. For a few hours at a time, we have the opportunity to escape the frenetic world around us through the incredible



artistry of exceptional musicians. And we get to share these experiences with a community of fellow music lovers right here in our own backyard. Lucky us!

Some performers, such as pianists **Andrea Lucchesini**, **Mao Fujita** and **Tony Siqi Yun**, are familiar faces at the VRS. Other exciting artists returning to our stage include **The Jerusalem Quartet**, and baritone **Benjamin Appl** with pianist **James Baillieu**. While some of you will have previously experienced the artistry of cellist **Nicolas Altstaedt**, this season he comes to our stage in an intriguing partnership with another VRS alum, lutenist **Thomas Dunford**.

Newcomers to the VRS include guitarist **Sean Shibe**, pianists **Tiffany Poon**, **Jeneba Kanneh-Mason** (in her first solo appearance), **Julius Asal**, **Víkingur Ólafsson**, and **Hayato Sumino** (known on YouTube as "Cateen"). We also look forward to the debut of the **Leonkoro Quartet**, and we are proud to include two UBC School of Music profs on this season's roster... the remarkable duo of clarinetist **Jose Franch-Ballester** and pianist **David Fung**. There are some great programs coming up, and you'll find all the details in this e-brochure.

As you scroll through these pages, look for amazing discounts (up to 25% off!). We have made the process very simple: the more you buy, the more you save! Click on links to the YouTube videos we have selected, as well as links to the ticket-buying and support pages on our website.

Last season a number of our concerts sold out; this season don't get left behind. Book your tickets as early as you can to get the best seats at the lowest prices.

We look forward to another season of truly great performances. We hope that you'll have as much enjoyment from them as we have had in putting them all together.

Tila foto

Leila Getz C.M., O.B.C., DFA Founder & Artistic Director



BUY MORE AND SAVE:

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*Discount only applies when tickets are purchased in one transaction

Tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Purchase online at **vanrecital.com** or call **604.602.0363**.



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Vancouver Recital Society acknowledges that the performances we present take place on the traditional and unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the x^wməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwəta?/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.





With a refined touch and a beguiling sense of Schubertian style, the Italian pianist Andrea Lucchesini conveys to captivating effect the sublime invention and intimacy of the impromptus." - The Telegraph

ANDREA LUCCHESINI piano

SUN SEPTEMBER 21 2025 AT 3PM I VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

Pre-concert Talk at 2:15pm

We are delighted to welcome the return of this marvellous Italian pianist. Since his first visit in 1986, Andrea has returned to Vancouver many times to delight our audiences. His recordings from Beethoven to Berio have been critically acclaimed, and he is greatly admired as both a performer and pedagogue, continuing the legacy of his own teacher, the late, great Maria Tipo.

SCHUBERT: 3 Klavierstücke D. 946 BRAHMS: 6 Klavierstücke Op. 118 CHOPIN: 24 Preludes, Op. 28

TICKET PRICES

A:\$88 B:\$63 C:\$28

BUY 3 concerts or more and receive a 15% discount BUY 5 concerts or more and receive a 20% discount BUY 8 concerts or more and receive a 25% discount *Discount only applies when tickets are purchased in one transaction

Concert sponsor: Ann Harding



ALEXANDER PAVLOVSKY violin SERGEI BRESLER violin ORI KAM viola KYRIL ZLOTNIKOV cello

JERUSALEM QUARTET

SUN OCTOBER 19 2025 AT 3PM I VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

Pre-concert Talk at 2:15pm

It's hard to believe that 2025 marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Jerusalem Quartet. Since their first appearance for the VRS in 2001, this ensemble has become a regular and beloved presence on the world's great concert stages. They have appeared many times in Vancouver, and a highlight in the annals of the VRS was their 5-concert performance of all the Shostakovich String Quartets in the Telus Theatre at the Chan Centre in 2006. They are returning to us to perform the same program they played in their Wigmore Hall debut 25 years ago, an appearance which launched them to international fame.

HAYDN: Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 76, No. 4 "Sunrise"

JANÁČEK: Quartet No. 1 "Kreutzer Sonata"

BEETHOVEN: Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 130 with Grosse Fugue finale Op. 133

TICKET PRICES

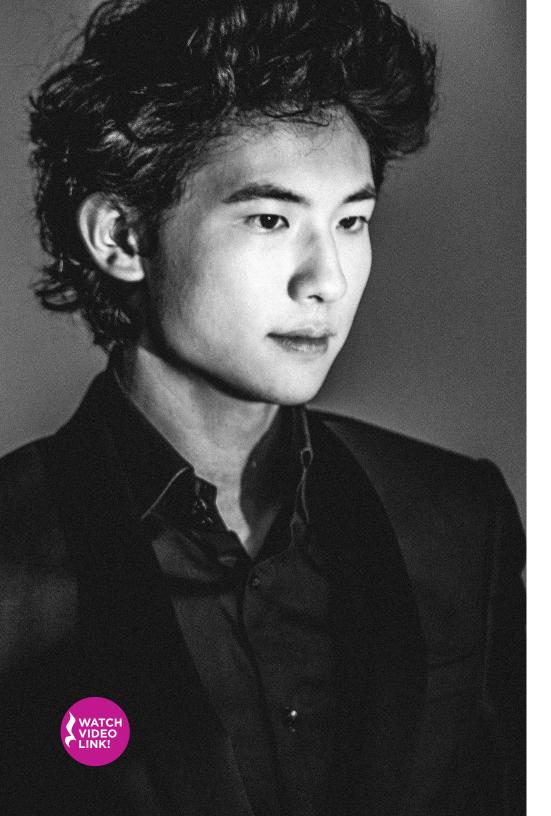
A:\$88 B:\$63 C:\$28

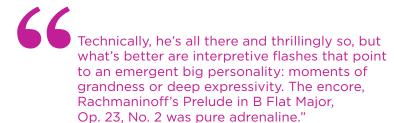
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Concert sponsors: Lvnn Kagan, Ric & Lvnda Spratley, Ellen & Bob Silverman





- Philadelphia Inquirer

TONY SIQI YUN piano

SUN OCTOBER 26 2025 AT 3PM I VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

Post-performance Talk Back

Ever since Canadian pianist Tony Siqi Yun made his Vancouver debut on our stage in 2021, we've watched his international career reach ever-new heights. For his third VRS appearance, he has chosen a delightful program that will highlight his incredible talent. Tony has a very full concert schedule these days and we're lucky to have snagged this date. **Don't miss it!!**

BRAHMS: Theme with Variations in D minor, Op. 18b

SCHUMANN: Theme with Variations in E-flat major, WoO 24, "Ghost Variations"

BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 23 in F minor, Op. 57 "Appassionata"

BUSONI: Elegies BV 249: VII Berceuse **SCHUMANN:** Symphonic Etudes, Op. 13

TICKET PRICES

A:\$63 B:\$48 C:\$28

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Next Generation Artist sponsor:



Foundation

Concert sponsor: Dr. Barbara Romanowski





CANADIAN DEBUT

SEAN SHIBE guitar

SUN NOVEMBER 2 2025 AT 3PM I VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

Post-performance Talk Back

This brilliant young guitarist has already proven himself to be a truly original mind at the frontier of contemporary classical music. Sean is a former BBC New Generation Artist, a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship winner, a Royal Philharmonic Society 2018 Young Artist Award winner, and a recipient of the 2022 Leonard Bernstein Award. His last season included a coveted residency at Wigmore Hall in London. Be there when this charismatic young star makes his Canadian debut.

FRANK MARTIN: Quatre Pièces Brèves

J. S. BACH: Suite No. 1 for Cello Solo in G major, BWV 1007, arr. for guitar

THOMAS ADÈS: Forgotten Dances

SASHA SCOTT: Rush

TYSHAWN SOREY: New Work

STEVE REICH: Electric Counterpoint

TICKET PRICES

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Concert sponsor: Forster/Stephenson Legacy Fund



NICOLAS ALTSTAEDT celle THOMAS DUNFORD lute

SUN NOVEMBER 16 2025 AT 3PM I VANCOUVER PLA Pre-concert Talk at 2:15pm.

Those of you who have experienced performances by Nico Thomas Dunford on our stages in the past will know that these gifted and mesmerizing musicians. Put them together and y pairing of the most innovative and compelling musical mind includes works that span from the French Baroque to the late I These are interspersed with two of J.S. Bach's iconic cello su has been transcribed for lute. We are officially intrigued. This remember!

MARIN MARAIS: La Rêveuse (from *Pièces de viole*, Book IV, No. 8 (Thomas Dunford & Nicolas Altstaedt)

ANTOINE FORQUERAY: La Leclair (from Suite No. 2 in G major) (Thomas Dunford & Nicolas Altstaedt)

J.S. BACH/T. DUNFORD: Prelude - Allemande - Courante (from (No. 1 in G major, BWV 1007) (Thomas Dunford)

MARIN MARAIS: Fêtes champêtres (from *Pièces de viole*, Book I\ (Thomas Dunford & Nicolas Altstaedt)

J.S. BACH/T. DUNFORD: Sarabande - Menuet I - Menuet II - Gigu (from Cello Suite No. 1 in G major, BWV 1007) (Thomas Dunford) MARIN MARAIS: Le Badinage (from *Pièces de viole*, Book IV, No. (Thomas Dunford & Nicolas Altstaedt)

MARIN MARAIS: Couplets de Folies (from *Pièces de viole*, Book I (Thomas Dunford & Nicolas Altstaedt)

J.S. BACH: Cello Suite No. 5 in C minor, BWV 1011 (Nicolas Altstae HENRI DUPARC: Lento (Thomas Dunford & Nicolas Altstaedt)

ANTOINE FORQUERAY: La Buisson (from Suite No. 2 in G Major) (Thomas Dunford & Nicolas Altstaedt)

MARIN MARAIS: LES VOIX HUMAINES (from *Pièces de viole*, Boc (Thomas Dunford & Nicolas Altstaedt)

MARIN MARAIS: Grand Ballet (from *Pièces de viole*, Book III, No. (Thomas Dunford & Nicolas Altstaedt)

MARIN MARAIS: Le Tourbillon (from *Pièces de viole*, Book IV, No. (Thomas Dunford & Nicolas Altstaedt)

TICKET PRICES

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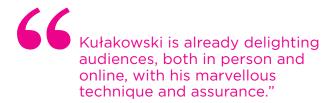
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Concert sponsors: Elizabeth Arnold-Bailey & Robert Bailey





- Gramophone Magazine

MACIEJ KUŁAKOWSKI cello JEAN-SÉLIM ABDELMOULA piano

SUN NOVEMBER 30 2025 AT 3PM I VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSEPost-performance Talk Back

These two wonderful young performers are alumni of Young Classical Artists Trust (YCAT) in London, and have given stellar performances together at Wigmore Hall. They both appeared on our series in recent years — Maciej as part of a chamber trio and Jean-Sélim in a solo recital. Both of them impressed us greatly and we're delighted to welcome them back as a duo.

JANÁČEK: Pohadka

BEETHOVEN: Variations on "Bei Männern, Welche Liebe Fühlen" from

Magic Flute, WoO 46

CLARA SCHUMANN: Three Romances for Violin and Piano, Op. 22, arr. for cello

ROBERT SCHUMANN: Adagio and Allegro, Op. 70, arr. for cello

NADIA BOULANGER: Three Pieces for Cello and Piano

LILI BOULANGER: Nocturne

CÉSAR FRANCK: Sonata in A major for Violin and Piano, arr. for cello

TICKET PRICES

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Next Generation Artist sponsor:



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Concert sponsor: Cathy & Ian





CANADIAN DEBUT

TIFFANY POON piano

SUN JANUARY 18 2026 AT 3PM I VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

Post-performance Talk Back

Hong-Kong born pianist Tiffany Poon is a rising star who has garnered quite a following. She recently made her Zankel Hall debut in New York, which came hot on the heels of the release of her debut album "Diaries: Schumann", which has already amassed over 9 million streams and charted at No. 1 on the Apple Music Classical and Billboard charts. With a growing YouTube community of 328K subscribers and over 50 million views, Tiffany is dedicated to building new audiences in classical music through insights into her life as a musician with the aim of making music more accessible to all.

ROBERT SCHUMANN: Kinderszenen, Op. 15, No. 1 CLARA SCHUMANN: Mazurka, Op. 6, No. 5 ROBERT SCHUMANN: Davidsbündlertänze, Op. 6

ALKAN: Le festin d'Ésope, Op. 39, No. 12

DAQUIN: Le Coucou

COUPERIN: Les Papillons from *Pièces de clavecin*

RAMEAU: La Poule

DEBUSSY: Prélude No. 5, Book 2, Bruyères

DEBUSSY: Images Book 1, No. 1, Reflets dans l'eau

RAVEL: Miroirs No. 2, Oiseaux tristes

RAVEL: Miroirs No. 3, *Une barque sur l'océan*

LILI BOULANGER: D'un jardin clair

TICKET PRICES

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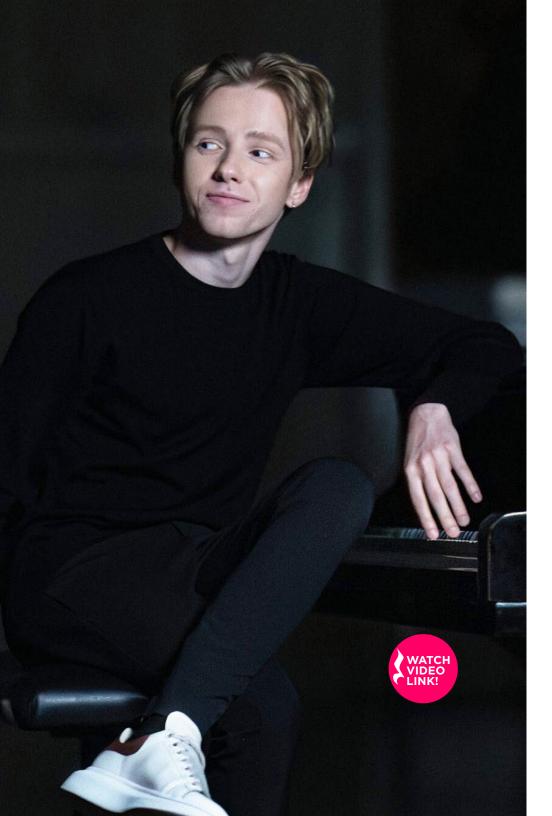
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Next Generation Artist sponsor:



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Concert sponsor: Quesnel Foundation





CANADIAN DEBUT

JULIUS ASAL piano

SUN FEBRUARY 8 2026 AT 3PM I VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

Post-performance Talk Back

We are delighted to welcome this talented young German pianist in his Canadian debut. Praised by the late Menahem Pressler for his "uniquely beautiful sound and special sonority", Julius studied with Sir András Schiff at Kronberg Academy from 2021 to 2024. In addition to being named a BBC New Generation Artist and a "Rising Star" by Classic FM, he has signed an exclusive recording contract with Deutsche Grammophon. Remember, you heard him here first!

BARTÓK: Suite, Op. 14 BRAHMS: Ballades, Op. 10 BARTÓK: Burlesques, Op. 8c RACHMANINOFF: Preludes, Op. 32

TICKET PRICES

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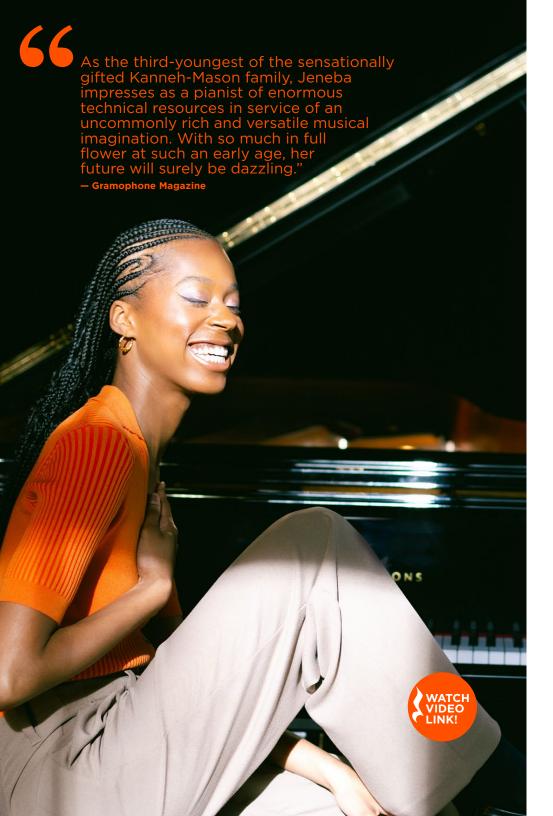
*Discount only applies when tickets are purchased in one transaction

Next Generation Artist sponsor:



Foundation

Concert sponsor: Victor



JENEBA KANNEH-MASON piano

SUN FEBRUARY 22 2026 AT 3PM I VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSEPost-performance Talkback

We're happy to welcome yet another talent from the preternaturally gifted Kanneh-Mason family! Jebena made her debut on the international scene at the BBC Proms performing the Florence Price Concerto, and was described by London's Evening Standard as "an eloquent advocate for the piece with her sensitive yet alert playing." Now an exclusive Sony Classical Artist, she was named one of Classic FM's 'Rising Stars'. This will be Jeneba's second VRS appearance; she previously performed with all six of her siblings at the Orpheum in 2023. It is our pleasure to welcome her back in her Canadian solo debut.

BACH: Partita No. 5 in G major, BWV 829

BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 17 in D minor 'Tempest', Op. 31, No. 2

STILL: Summerland

DEBUSSY: Prélude No. 8, Book 1, La fille aux cheveux de lin

DEBUSSY: Prélude No. 5, Book 2, *Bruyères* **PRICE:** Fantasie nègre No. 1 in E minor

CHOPIN: Ballade No. 3 in A-flat major, Op. 47

TICKET PRICES

A:\$63 B:\$48 C:\$28

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Foundation

Concert sponsor: John C. Kerr Family Foundation





- Jed Distler, Classics Today

MAO FUJITA piano

SUN MARCH 1 2026 AT 3PM I VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

Post-performance Talk Back

After his impressive Canadian debut on our stage in 2023, we were determined to bring this remarkable young Japanese pianist back as soon as possible. For his first VRS appearance he played an all-Mozart program at our request. We were amply rewarded... it's quite rare to hear a performer of Mao's age play Mozart so wonderfully. This time his program will illustrate the incredible breadth of his talent.

BEETHOVEN: Piano Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 2, No. 1

WAGNER: Ein Albumblatt, WWV 94

BERG: Twelve Variations on an Original Theme **MENDELSSOHN:** Variations sérieuses, Op. 54 **BRAHMS:** Piano Sonata No. 1 in C major, Op. 1

WAGNER/LISZT: Liebestod, S. 447

TICKET PRICES

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Next Generation Artist sponsor:



Foundation

Concert sponsor: Joyce & Tony and Robert & Denise



JONATHAN SCHWARZ violin **AMELIE WALLNER** violin MAYU KONOE viola LUKAS SCHWARZ cello

LEONKORO QUARTET

SUN MARCH 8 2026 AT 3PM I VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

Post-performance Talk Back

The Leonkoro Quartet was founded in Berlin in 2019, and by 2022 they had garnered a number of prestigious awards, solidifying their place among the most celebrated ensembles of their generation. Their swift rise in classical music is highlighted by their First Prize win at the Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition and their selection for the BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists program. The group takes its name from "Leon" and "koro" — Esperanto words that together form "Lionheart". We are excited to present them in their Vancouver debut.

"ROLE MODELS"

HENRIËTTE BOSMANS: String Quartet

MENDELSSOHN: String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13

SCHUBERT: String Quartet in D minor, D. 810 "Death and the Maiden"

TICKET PRICES

A:\$63 B:\$48 C:\$28

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Next Generation Artist sponsor:



Foundation

Concert sponsor: I Vivaci

This quartet is already finest: perfectly unanimous, colourful and original."

- Alfred Brendel



A SCHUBERT AFFAIR: **3 SONG CYCLES IN 3 CONCERTS**

BENJAMIN APPL baritone JAMES BAILLIEU piano

MARCH 19-22 2026 I TELUS STUDIO THEATRE, CHAN CENTRE

Pre-concert talks: 45 mins before each performance in the Royal Bank Cir

THU MARCH 19 AT 7:30PM Die schöne Müllerin FRI MARCH 20 AT 7:30PM Schwanengesang **SUN MARCH 22 AT 3PM**

Winterreise

Benjamin Appl and James Baillieu closed out our 2022-23 Season with a re that moved many in the audience to tears. It was one of the most de touching and brilliant performances we have presented. Immediately afterwards a plan was hatched to bring these two remarkable artists back to Vanco to perform Schubert's three great song cycles. After a lot of back-and-forth calendars aligned and this Schubertian dream will be realized in the wonder intimate Telus Studio Theatre. Be sure to bring a handkerchief along with ticket!

TICKET PRICES

General Admission: \$75

BUY 3 concerts or more and receive a 15% discount BUY 5 concerts or more and receive a 20% discount BUY 8 concerts or more and receive a 25% discount *Discount only applies when tickets are purchased in one transaction

Concert sponsor: Ann Harding & Allison Hart

Additional support:





JOSE FRANCH-BALLESTER clarinet DAVID FUNG piano

SUN APRIL 12 2026 AT 3PM I VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE Pre-concert Talk at 2:15pm.

This concert will showcase a wonderful pair of local talents. Both are acclaimed performers and both are professors at UBC School of Music. Jose Franch-Ballester is an Avery Fisher Career Grant-winner who has been praised for his "poetic eloquence" (The New York Sun) and "technical wizardry" (The New York Times). David Fung is widely recognized for his elegant and refined playing which was described by The Washington Post as "ravishing and simply gorgeous". Leila had the pleasure of hearing them perform together at UBC's Barnett Hall and decided that they would be a perfect addition to our season. It's not often that the clarinet features on our series... we think you'll want to join us for this rare event!

DOROTHY CHANG: Afterlight for Clarinet and Piano **JÖRG WIDMANN:** Five Fragments for Clarinet and Piano

JOHANNES BRAHMS: Sonata No. 1 in F minor for Clarinet and Piano,

Op. 120, No. 1

FRANCIS POULENC: Sonata for Clarinet and Piano, FP184

ROBERT SCHUMANN: Fantasiestücke, Op. 73

TICKET PRICES

A:\$88 B:\$63 C:\$28

BUY 3 concerts or more and receive a 15% discount

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*Discount only applies when tickets are purchased in one transaction

Concert sponsor: The Board of Directors of the Vancouver Recital Society





VÍKINGUR ÓLAFSSON piano

FRI MAY 1 2026 AT 7:30PM I CHAN CENTRE

Pre-concert Talk at 6:45pm

Icelandic pianist Víkingur Ólafsson has become one of the world's most sought-after artists in recent years, capturing the public and critical imagination with profound musicianship and visionary programs. His recordings have led to over one billion streams and he has won numerous awards, including the 2025 GRAMMY for Best Classical Instrumental Solo for his recording of Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, BBC Music Magazine's Album of the Year, and the Opus Klassik Solo Recording of the Year (twice). He makes his VRS debut with a deeply personal program, "Opus 109", centred around Beethoven's sublime Piano Sonata No. 30.

"OPUS 109"

BACH: Prelude in E major BWV 854

BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 9 in E major Op. 14, No. 1

BACH: Partita No. 6 in E minor, BWV 830 **BEETHOVEN:** Sonata No. 27 in E minor, Op. 90

SCHUBERT: Sonata in E minor, D 566

BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 30 in E major, Op. 109

TICKET PRICES

A:\$120 B:\$98 C:\$82 D:\$68 E:\$28

BUY 3 concerts or more and receive a 15% discount BUY 5 concerts or more and receive a 20% discount BUY 8 concerts or more and receive a 25% discount

*Discount only applies when tickets are purchased in one transaction

Concert sponsor: Casey Ching & Meghan Wells

Additional support:









UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN

SUN MAY 3 2026 AT 3PM I ORPHEUM THEATRE

"The Ukes" are back by popular demand! This world-renowned troupe of all-singing, all-strumming ukulele players makes its much-anticipated return to the VRS to perform hilarious and astonishing interpretations of film scores, rock 'n' roll, pop, jazz, blues and classical music. This is feel-good music at its best. Get your seats early to ensure you don't miss the fun!

TICKET PRICES

A:\$92 B:\$78 C:\$64 D:\$46 E:\$28

BUY 3 concerts or more and receive a 15% discount

BUY 5 concerts or more and receive a 20% discount

BUY 8 concerts or more and receive a 25% discount

*Discount only applies when tickets are purchased in one transaction

Concert sponsor: The Martha Lou Henley Charitable Foundation





HAYATO SUMINO piano

THU MAY 7 2026 AT 8PM I ORHEUM THEATRE

Hayato Sumino is a phenomenon. Known on YouTube as "Cateen", this young Japanese artist has earned tens of millions of views for his captivating interpretations of classical masterworks as well as his own original compositions. Taking the concert world by storm, this remarkable pianist and composer breathes new life into the term "virtuoso". Get your tickets early... this event is sure to sell out!

BACH: Chromatic Fantasie & Fugue D Minor

SUMINO: New Birth (after Chopin) **SUMINO:** Recollection (after Chopin)

SUMINO: 3 Nocturnes

CHOPIN: Nocturne C minor, Op. 48, No. 1 **CHOPIN:** Scherzo No. 1 in B minor, Op. 20

SUMINO: Big Cat Waltz

GERSHWIN: American in Paris

RAVEL: Bolero

TICKET PRICES

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Next Generation Artist sponsor:



Foundation

Concert sponsor: Joyce & Tony

SUPPORT THE VRS

Over the last four and a half decades, the VRS has grown from its humble beginnings as a kitchen table endeavour into one of the most unique and bold music series — known not just in Canada, but around the world.

Through the years, our commitment to our core value of presenting the best musical talent and rising young artists has never wavered. And with a staggeringly talented crop of exciting young musicians to present, both in this new season and in seasons to come, we continue to make our mark.

Our activities extend well beyond the concert hall. Each season, we present artists in youth-focused events like Music for Munchkins, Classics for Kids, and workshops at local schools. Over the decades, we've hosted concert/lectures and special series, participated in commissioning new works, brought unique artists together for once-in-a-lifetime performances, and, on occasion, established partnerships between artists that endure to this day.

Initially created to help foster and continue connection during the pandemic years at home, Virtually VRS performances, which we share on YouTube, train the spotlight on emerging artists from around the world. The series was a wonderful way of staying connected to our friends throughout the Lower Mainland and beyond, and to those members of the VRS family who, for a

variety of reasons, can no longer attend in-person performances. Virtually VRS was such a huge success that we decided to continue those efforts post-pandemic and provide these performances free of charge to a growing worldwide audience. We have been able to do this in no small part thanks to the generous support of donors like you.

It's hard to believe that we are about to embark upon our 46th season. Truth be told, we've already planned much of our 47th and are already into seasons 48 and 49! Some days, it's difficult to keep it all straight! Suffice it to say there's no slowing on the horizon! We are a small but mighty team in the VRS office, fortified by the generosity of our audiences and our donors.

As we plan seasons 47, 48, 49 and beyond, we do so with the hope that we can count on your continued support. Whether you're interested in sponsoring a concert, giving a gift of securities, or including the VRS in your estate plans, please give us a call. We'd love to speak with you about the many ways in which you can support the VRS!

Giving is easy. You can make a gift with your ticket order, you can give online, over the phone at 604-602-0363, or you can mail your donation to our office.



We are deeply grateful for the generous support we receive from our Season Sponsor, the Peak Group of Companies, and from our friends, supporters and partners at the City of Vancouver, the Martha Lou Henley Charitable Foundation, the Diamond Foundation, the Allan & Gwendoline Pyatt Foundation, and the Deux Mille Foundation.



Supporting the VRS since 2008