



2022
23

A SEASON
OF **WOW!**





2023 WINTER-SPRING SEASON

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ZLATOMIR FUNG cello & BENJAMIN HOCHMAN piano	2
Sun Jan 15 at 3pm VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE	
MAO FUJITA piano	3
Sun Mar 5 at 3pm VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE	
JUPITER ENSEMBLE & LEA DESANDRE mezzo-soprano	4
Sun Mar 19 at 3pm CHAN CENTRE	
CHIAROSCURO QUARTET	5
Sun Apr 2 at 3pm VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE	
MIDORI solo violin	6
Fri Apr 14 at 7:30pm VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE	
DANISH STRING QUARTET	7
Sun Apr 16 at 3pm ORPHEUM THEATRE	
UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN	8
Wed Apr 19 at 7:30pm QUEEN ELIZABETH THEATRE	
TOM BORROW piano	9
Sun Apr 23 at 3pm VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE	
ANDREA LUCCHESINI piano	10
Sun Apr 30 at 3pm VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE	
KANNEH-MASON FAMILY CELEBRATION	11
Fri May 5 at 8pm ORPHEUM THEATRE	
BENJAMIN APPL baritone & JAMES BAILLIEU piano	12
Sun May 7 at 3pm VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE	



“At his young age, Fung seems to be one of those rare musicians with a Midas touch: he quickly envelopes every score he plays in an almost palpable golden aura.”

— Bachtrack

“Hochman led the audience through this rugged, majestic landscape with such rhetorical authority that there was no hint of movement among his listeners when he paused between sections. The minute he was done, the audience launched immediately into ovations.”

— The Washington Post

ZLATOMIR FUNG cello BENJAMIN HOCHMAN piano

Sunday January 15 2023 at 3pm

VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

23-year-old cellist Zlatomir Fung has racked up an impressive slew of coveted awards: in 2019 he was the first American in four decades and youngest musician ever to win First Prize at the International Tchaikovsky Competition, Cello Division, and was the recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2020 and a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship in 2022.

The Juilliard alum was originally booked to perform for the VRS in 2020 but the pandemic thwarted our plans. We are delighted to have been able to reschedule him, this time around with Israeli pianist Benjamin Hochman, who first performed on our series in 2003 with violinist Elisabeth Batiashvili. Benjamin is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied with Claude Frank, and the Mannes College of Music, where he studied with Richard Goode. This is a musical pairing you won't want to miss!

YURI SHAPORIN: “6 Pieces” arr. for cello and piano by Viktor Kubatsky

NIKOLAY SOKOLOV: Romance for Cello and Piano, Op. 19

LEO ORNSTEIN: 6 Preludes for Cello and Piano

GLAZUNOV: “Entr’acte” from *Raymonda*, Op. 57, arr. for cello and piano

SHOSTAKOVICH: Cello Sonata in D minor, Op. 40

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

**TAKE
NOTE**

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

Concert sponsors: Elizabeth Arnold-Bailey and Robert Bailey

Next Generation Artist sponsor: The Estate of Edwina and Paul Heller

Additional support:





“Fujita is a musician of tremendous versatility and taste, with a poetic sense of pulse and eloquent, insightful, fearless articulation.”

— The Times

MAO FUJITA piano

Sunday March 5 2023 at 3pm

VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

24-year-old Mao Fujita was only 17 and still studying at the Tokyo College of Music when he won First Prize and the Audience Prize at the Clara Haskil International Piano Competition in Switzerland. His captivating performances landed him the Silver Medal at the International Tchaikovsky Competition in 2019. Upon hearing him perform, Leila was smitten and booked him to visit Vancouver at the first possible opportunity. Mao's meteoric rise is fascinating and extraordinary. He has a rare talent for Mozart which is why we have chosen an all-Mozart sonata program for his Canadian debut!

MOZART: Sonata No. 7 in C major, K. 309

MOZART: Sonata No. 8 in A minor, K. 310/300d

MOZART: Sonata No. 13 in B-flat major, K. 333

MOZART: Sonata No. 9 in D major, K. 311

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

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Concert sponsors: Joyce and Tony

Next Generation Artist sponsor: The Estate of Edwina and Paul Heller

Additional support:





“Lea Desandre flies weightlessly around elaborate ornamentation, expressive and precise. The Jupiter players and Dunford excel.”

— The Guardian

JUPITER ENSEMBLE

LEA DESANDRE

mezzo-soprano

Sunday March 19 2023 at 3pm

CHAN CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

THOMAS DUNFORD lute and Artistic Director | LEA DESANDRE mezzo-soprano | LOUISE AYRTON violin | AUGUSTA MCKAY LODGE violin | MANAMI MIZUMOTO viola | BRUNO PHILIPPE cello | DOUGLAS BALLIETT double bass | TOM FOSTER harpsichord & organ

For their first concert in Vancouver, this astounding French ensemble, under the direction of lutenist Thomas Dunford (on his third visit to Vancouver), presents a vocal and instrumental program devoted entirely to the music of Vivaldi, based upon their multi-award-winning 2019 album 'Vivaldi Jupiter'.

“Vedrò con mio diletto” from *Il Giustino*, RV717

“Armatae face et anguibus” from *Juditha triumphans*, RV 644

Lute Concerto in C major, RV 82

“Cum dederit” from *Nisi Dominus*, RV 608

“Veni, veni, me sequere fida” from *Juditha triumphans*, RV 644

Lute Concerto in D major, RV 93

“Gelido in ogni vena” from *Il Farnace*, RV 711

“Gelosia, tu già rendi l'alma mia” from *Ottone in Villa*, RV 729

Cello Concerto in G minor, RV 416

“Onde chiare che sussurate” from *Ercole sul Termondonte*, RV 710

“Scenderò, volerò griderò” from *Ercole sul Termondonte*, RV 710

Ticket prices: A: \$88 B: \$74 C: \$63 D: \$45 E: \$28

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BUY 8 concerts or more and receive a 25% discount

Concert sponsor: Lynn Kagan



“What was on display was, in short, a peculiar type of recreative genius.”

— The Irish Times

CHIAROSCURO QUARTET

Sunday April 2 2023 at 3pm

VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

This dynamic quartet brings “a shock to the ears of the best kind” (*The Observer*). Their 2021 VRS engagement was cancelled due to Covid-19 and we were determined to re-book them at the first available opportunity. Dubbed “a trailblazer for the authentic performance of High Classical chamber music” (*Gramophone Magazine*), this international ensemble performs music of the Classical and early Romantic periods on gut strings and with historical bows, producing a unique sound that has brought audiences around the world to their feet.

SCHUBERT: Quartettsatz in C minor, D. 703

BEETHOVEN: String Quartet in in F minor, Op. 95

MENDELSSOHN: String Quartet in A minor, Op. 13

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

**2
TAKE
NOTE**

BUY 3 concerts or more and receive a **15% discount**
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Concert sponsors: Joyce and Tony



“Midori is a violin superstar. The audiences love her not only for her technical brilliance and flawless playing, but also her personality.”

— Die Rheinpfalz

MIDORI solo violin

Friday April 14 2023 at 7:30pm

VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

Midori is a visionary artist, activist and educator who explores and builds connections between music and the human experience and breaks with traditional boundaries, making her one of the outstanding violinists of our time. This season marks the 40th Anniversary of her career, which took off in 1982, when, at the age of 11, she made her debut with the New York Philharmonic. Midori performed for the VRS at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts in 1998. We are delighted to welcome her back in this program for solo violin.

J.S. BACH: Sonata No. 1 for Solo Violin in G minor, BWV 1001

JESSIE MONTGOMERY: Rhapsody No. 1

J.S. BACH: Violin Partita No. 1 in B minor, BWV 1002

JOHN ZORN: Passagen

J.S. BACH: Violin Partita No. 3 in E major, BWV 1006

Ticket prices: A: \$90 B: \$60 C: \$28

TAKE NOTE BUY 3 concerts or more and receive a 15% discount
BUY 5 concerts or more and receive a 20% discount
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Concert sponsor: George Pick and Santi Pick-Pelaez



“They are today’s best hope for the future of the string quartet.”

— Wall Street Journal

DANISH STRING QUARTET

Sunday April 16 2023 at 3pm

ORPHEUM THEATRE

The 2022-23 Season marks the 20th Anniversary of the formation of the Grammy-nominated Danish String Quartet. We are thrilled to bring them back for the third concert in their international commissioning project, *Doppelgänger*. This innovative and daring project pairs four world premieres from four renowned contemporary composers — each piece co-commissioned by the VRS — with the four major Schubert works that inspired them. This time around “the Danes” will pair Schubert’s “Rosamunde” Quartet with a work by Icelandic composer Anna Thorvaldsdóttir, one of the most original voices of her generation who possesses “seemingly boundless textural imagination” (*The New York Times*).

SCHUBERT: String Quartet in A minor, D. 804 “Rosamunde”

ANNA THORVALDSDOTTIR: New work for String Quartet

SCHUBERT: “Gretchen am Spinnrade”, Op. 2, D. 118

(lied arr. by Danish String Quartet)

Ticket prices: A: \$88 B: \$74 C: \$63 D: \$45 E: \$28

TAKE NOTE BUY 3 concerts or more and receive a 15% discount
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BUY 8 concerts or more and receive a 25% discount

Concert sponsors: Sherry Killam and Mamie Angus



“Absolutely the best of British.”

— Michael Palin of Monty Python

GEORGE HINCHLIFFE'S UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN

Wednesday April 19 2023 at 7:30pm

QUEEN ELIZABETH THEATRE

Ready for something a little different? George Hinchliffe's Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain is a group of all-singing, all-strumming ukulele players whose concerts are a funny, virtuosic, foot-stomping obituary of rock-n-roll featuring the “bonsai guitar” and a menagerie of voices. Formed in 1985 as “a bit of fun”, the orchestra's first gig was an instant sell-out. The ensemble has gone on to play concerts around the world at venues such as the Sydney Opera House, The Royal Albert Hall, and Carnegie Hall. By royal request, the orchestra proudly performed at a private 90th birthday party for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Windsor Castle. With a love of irreverent wit and a penchant for reinterpretation, their catalogue is a collection of rock, pop, jazz, blues and classical music. You won't want to miss these pluckers!

Ticket prices: A: \$88 B: \$74 C: \$63 D: \$45 E: \$28

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BUY 8 concerts or more and receive a 25% discount

Concert sponsor: The Martha Lou Henley Charitable Foundation



“Tom Borrow will become a major star.”

— La Scena Musicale

TOM BORROW piano

Sunday April 23 2023 at 3pm

VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

22-year-old Tom Borrow is precisely the kind of young artist we get excited about. Described as “the very definition of ‘one to watch’” (*International Piano Magazine*), he was named a BBC New Generation Artist for 2021-23, a coveted and prestigious designation that has earned him engagements at Wigmore Hall and appearances with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. In July 2022, Tom made his debut at the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall to critical acclaim. He currently studies at the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music at Tel Aviv University, and is mentored by Murray Perahia through the Jerusalem Music Centre’s program for outstanding young musicians. Catch him in his Canadian debut and say “I heard him when...”


J.S. BACH: Italian Concerto in F major, BWV 971

FRANCK: Prélude, Choral et Fugue, FWV 21

SCRIABIN: Sonata No. 5, Op. 53

RACHMANINOV: Variations on a Theme of Corelli, Op. 42

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

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Concert sponsor: John C. Kerr Family Foundation

Next Generation Artist sponsor: The Estate of Edwina and Paul Heller

Additional support:





“A refined touch and a beguiling sense of Schubertian style.”

— The Telegraph

ANDREA LUCCHESINI

piano

Sunday April 30 2023 at 3pm

VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

After a gap of way too many years, Italian pianist Andrea Lucchesini returned to the VRS in 2018 and played such a wonderful concert that we immediately re-engaged him. Unfortunately, his 2021 concert was another casualty of the pandemic, but we are so pleased to welcome him back for this performance of Fantasies.

SCHUBERT: Sonata in G major, D. 894

SCHUMANN: *Fantasie* in C major, Op. 17

Ticket prices: **A: \$88 B: \$63 C: \$28**

2
TAKE
NOTE BUY 3 concerts or more and receive a 15% discount
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BUY 8 concerts or more and receive a 25% discount

Concert sponsor: Ann Harding

“Probably the most talented family in the world.”

— Simon Cowell



KANNEH-MASON FAMILY CELEBRATION

Friday May 5 2023 at 8pm

ORPHEUM THEATRE

ISATA KANNEH-MASON piano | BRAIMAH KANNEH-MASON violin
SHEKU KANNEH-MASON cello | KONYA KANNEH-MASON piano
& violin | JENEBA KANNEH-MASON piano & cello | AMINATA
KANNEH-MASON violin & piano | MARIATU KANNEH-MASON cello
& piano

VRS patrons are very familiar with two members of the prodigiously talented Kanneh-Mason family: cellist Sheku and pianist Isata, who made their Canadian debuts in a sold-out recital on our stage in 2017 (the duo returned in 2019, and Isata performed a solo recital in 2022). Incredibly, there are five *additional* Kanneh-Mason siblings, ranging in age from 11 to 24 years old, all of whom play either violin, piano or cello. They have won many prizes and awards and appeared in numerous television shows. In October 2020, they released their first album 'Carnival' on Decca Classics to great critical acclaim, and in May 2021 received the Global Award for Best Classical Artist. All the children attend or have attended London's Royal Academy of Music and its Primary and Junior Academies, except pianist Jeneba who has progressed to London's Royal College of Music for her undergraduate studies.

BEETHOVEN, MENDELSSOHN, RACHMANINOV, SHOSTAKOVICH,
BRAHMS & MORE

Ticket prices: A: \$88 B: \$74 C: \$63 D: \$45 E: \$28

2: BUY 3 concerts or more and receive a 15% discount
TAKE BUY 5 concerts or more and receive a 20% discount
NOTE BUY 8 concerts or more and receive a 25% discount

Concert sponsor:

**LONDON
DRUGS**



“The way he navigated the song’s transformation, from disappointment to obsession, was so gripping and troublingly real, I heard people all around me exhale afterward, as if Mr. Appl had rendered them breathless.”

— The New York Times

BENJAMIN APPL baritone JAMES BAILLIEU piano

Sunday May 7 2023 at 3pm

VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

Selected as Gramophone’s Young Artist of the Year in 2016, baritone Benjamin Appl was a member of the BBC New Generation Artist Scheme from 2014-16, as well as a Wigmore Hall Emerging Artist and an ECHO Rising Star. A captivating and riveting singer, Benjamin is celebrated by audiences and critics alike for a voice that “belongs to the last of the old great masters of song” with “an almost infinite range of colours” (*Süddeutsche Zeitung*). He will perform with pianist James Baillieu, a regular and beloved presence on the VRS stage. Leila has spent several years attempting to book Benjamin’s Vancouver debut... be there and prepare to be wowed!!

SCHUBERT | TCHAIKOVSKY | RICHARD STRAUSS | HAHN
SOMERVELL | VAUGHN WILLIAMS | SCHUMANN | BOLCOM
QUILTER | IVOR GURNEY | SCHÖNBERG | GRIEG | ILSE WEBER
JAMES MACMILLAN

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



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BUY 8 concerts or more and receive a 25% discount

Concert sponsor: Allison Hart

Next Generation Artist sponsor: The Estate of Edwina and Paul Heller

Additional support:



SUPPORT THE VRS

Over more than forty seasons, the VRS has grown from its humble beginnings as a kitchen table endeavour into an award-winning, world-renowned organization. Along the way, we've raised the bar, increased our budget, and thankfully, our wonderful family of artists, community partners, subscribers and supporters has grown alongside us.

Now, officially in our forties, we're just hitting our stride. As long as there are artists to discover (and believe us when we say that there's a staggeringly wonderful crop of exciting young musicians waiting in the wings to thrill you, this season and in the seasons to come), you can be sure that the VRS will continue to present them.

We don't program one year at a time; we're often planning multiple seasons at once, which can be positively dizzying. Programming that far into the future is bold and aggressive because, as the last 24 months have shown us, nobody can really tell what the future holds. But here's what we do know: our audiences and donors are among the most loyal and devoted to be found anywhere. Absolutely everything we do — from the concert hall to the public library — is possible because of you.

And so, we hope you'll consider supporting our efforts — both for today and for tomorrow, for this season, and for seasons to come.

Supporting the VRS 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. 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!

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