

VRS
VANCOUVER
RECITAL
SOCIETY

20^{26/27}
SEASON



GREAT ESCAPES

Dear Friends,

We are on a roll as we enter our 2026-27 Season, coming off a 46th Season of truly remarkable performances. We have great expectations for our 47th Season because we have a roster of fabulous artists lined up.

In these uncertain times, music is both a necessary respite *and* a balm for the soul. Think of our new season as a series of great escapes where, upon entering the concert hall, you tune in to the music and unplug from the stresses and strains of everyday life. Each of our concerts is a journey into a different sound world, with brilliant artists as your guide. And while each experience might only last for a couple of hours, the positive effects can linger for days, weeks or even months.

Just imagine sitting in the intimate 250-seat Roy Barnett Hall (a gem of a space inside the Music Building at UBC) listening to a recital by pianist **Sir Andrés Schiff**. You will hear our favourite harpsichordist **Jean Rondeau** in that same space three weeks earlier. Or experiencing the youthful exuberance of the **Jupiter Ensemble**, whose joyful performance at the Chan Centre in the early post-Covid period was the tonic we so badly needed.

There is no shortage of incredible piano talent on offer... from the masterful virtuosity of **Minsoo Sohn** to the power and panache of **Behzod Abduraimov**; the refined elegance of **Leif Ove Andsnes** and **Paul Lewis** to the probing intellectual curiosity of **Filippo Gorini**. We can delight in the skill and dynamism of **Lucas and Arthur Jussen** and experience the joy of discovering ascending newcomers such as **Mishka Rushdie Momen** and **Lukas Sternath** in their Canadian debuts.

And we have a few of 'out of the box' performances that we think are going to generate great excitement, including the genre-defying Scandinavian ensemble **Dreamers' Circus** (whose founding member is Rune from the Danish String Quartet), and the fascinating partnerships of mezzo-soprano

Ena Nikolovska and guitarist **Sean Shibe**, who bring 'Orlando' to our stage, and baritone **Benjamin Appl** and accordionist **Ksenija Sidorova**, whose 'Breath and Bone' program will surely captivate.

There are some stellar string players, as well. We have welcome returns from violist **Timothy Ridout**, who will perform with pianist **Federico Colli**, and violinist **Stephen Waarts**, who will join forces with pianist **Juho Pohjonen**. And we have the Canadian debut of violinist **Chloe Chua**, who will partner with pianist **Julien Quentin**. On the cello front, we have **Luka Coetzee**, who will make her VRS debut with a VRS veteran, pianist **Jon Kimura Parker**, and **Jonathan Swensen**, who returns to our stage with pianist **Juho Pohjonen**.

You will find all the details you need to help you select your performances in this brochure. As you scroll through the pages, look for great 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. And, as always, I encourage you to book your tickets as early as you can to get the best seats at the lowest prices.

Leave your worries at the door and join us for this series of great escapes. No passport required.

Let's go!

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



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TICKETS ON SALE MAY 14!

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Purchase online at vanrecital.com or call 604.602.0363.

*Discount only applies when tickets are purchased in one transaction.
Sir Andrés Schiff's performance is not included in the multibuy discount.

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Tickets

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^mməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Minsoo Sohn piano

Sun September 27 2026 at 3pm / Vancouver Playhouse

Pre-concert Talk at 2:15pm

We can find any number of glowing quotes about Minsoo Sohn's performances, but we booked his VRS appearance after Leila attended his performances of Rachmaninov, Bach and Beethoven, which were masterful and deeply moving. Minsoo won the Honens International Piano Competition in 2006, and shortly thereafter played Bach's *Goldberg Variations* at one of our annual 'Surprise' concerts. He has held teaching positions at Michigan State University, the Korean National University of Arts (where he taught superstar and compatriot Yunchan Lim) and he is now back at his alma mater, the New England Conservatory of Music where, as a student, he was guided by the late Russell Sherman and Wha Kyung Byun.

J.S. BACH: Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 1

WATCH
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TICKET PRICES

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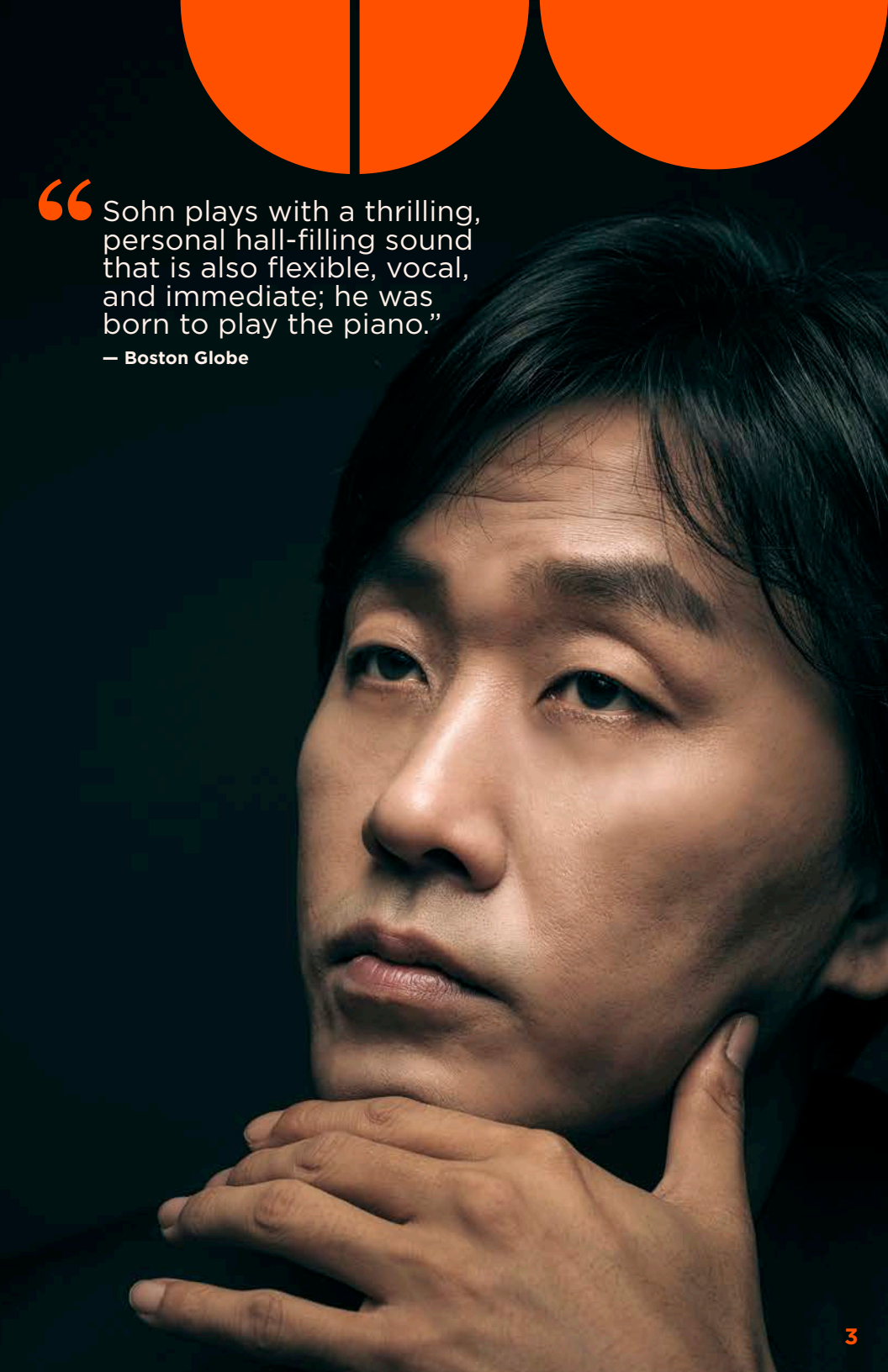
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CONCERT SPONSOR: **Dr. Barbara Romanowski**



“ Sohn plays with a thrilling, personal hall-filling sound that is also flexible, vocal, and immediate; he was born to play the piano.”

— Boston Globe



“There is no doubt: a star has risen, perhaps of the brightest kind.”
— Diapason D’Or

Filippo Gorini piano

Sun October 18 2026 at 3pm / Vancouver Playhouse
Pre-concert Talk at 2:15pm

Since his impressive Canadian debut on our stage in 2019, Filippo Gorini’s career has taken off in the most fascinating way. Upon completion of his Borletti-Buitoni Trust-funded project ‘Ricerca on the Art of Fugue’ (which he performed in Vancouver with a wonderful introductory lecture and post-concert Q&A), he embarked upon his next project ‘Sonata for Seven Cities’. To date, he has visited Vienna, Cape Town, Hong Kong and Portland (with more to come). In these cities, in addition to recital and concerto performances, he has played in hospitals, soup kitchens, retirement homes and schools. Filippo is not only an extraordinarily talented pianist, but he is also a visionary.

BEETHOVEN: *Diabelli Variations*, Op. 120
SCHUBERT: *Impromptus*, Op. 90, D. 899

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CONCERT SPONSOR: **A Friend of the Getz Family**
in memory of Leon Getz

Paul Lewis piano

Sun October 25 2026 at 3pm / Vancouver Playhouse

Pre-concert Talk at 2:15pm

Sun April 18 2027 at 3pm / Vancouver Playhouse

Pre-concert Talk at 2:15pm

Our relationship with Paul Lewis is quite special. He has performed on the VRS stage more frequently than any other performer, going back to the early days of the Vancouver Chamber Music Festival. Paul has given memorable performances of the complete cycles of Beethoven and Schubert Piano Sonatas and he returns with his latest project, a multi-season series titled **Mozart+**, which he'll be playing in venues around the world over the next couple of years. In this series, Paul juxtaposes Mozart's lesser-known piano repertoire with works by composers such as Mendelssohn, Poulenc, Chopin, Weber, Copland and more, illuminating Mozart's enduring influence throughout the generations. This season, he'll perform **two concerts** from the series.

Sun October 25 2026 at 3pm / Vancouver Playhouse

Pre-concert Talk at 2:15pm

MOZART: Sonata No. 17 in B-flat major, K. 570

SCHUBERT: Drei Klavierstücke. D. 946

CHOPIN: Polonaise in C-sharp minor, Op. 26, No. 1

CHOPIN: Two Nocturnes, Op. 32

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

Sun April 18 2027 at 3pm / Vancouver Playhouse

Pre-concert Talk at 2:15pm

MOZART: Sonata No. 6 in D major, K. 284

MENDELSSOHN: Variations sérieuses, Op. 54

COPLAND: Piano Variations

MOZART: Sonata No. 11 in A major, K. 331

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CONCERT SPONSOR: Elaine Adair

“Total fidelity to the music's structure and inner spirit, and an emotional response that never suffocates or distorts.”

— The Times



“Luka Coetzee’s warm tone is a joy to hear.”

— Gramophone Magazine



“Mr. Parker was an insightful, energetic soloist... the audience roared in approval.”

— The New York Times



Luka Coetzee cello Jon Kimura Parker piano

Sun November 1 2026 at 3pm / Vancouver Playhouse

Post-performance Talk Back

Since her professional debut at the age of 11, this Canadian-South African cellist has performed as a soloist with orchestras in Europe and in South Africa. Luka won the Paulo Cello Competition and received First Prize at the Pablo Casals International Award competition. In addition, she graduated from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto with First Class Honours in Piano.

Jon Kimura Parker is no stranger to Vancouver audiences. He was born and raised here, studying with Keiko Parker and Edward Parker, and then Li Kum Sing at the Vancouver Academy of Music. He was accepted into Juilliard to study with the legendary Adele Marcus and, in 1984, was the first Canadian to win the First Prize at the Leeds International Piano Competition. A bit of VRS history: as a result of that win in Leeds, the VRS rented the Orpheum Theatre for the very first time and presented him in a gala homecoming concert.

OMAR DANIEL: Duo for Violincello and Piano

BRAHMS: Cello Sonata No. 2 in F major, Op. 99

GERSHWIN: Three Preludes

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

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Memorial Fund



CONCERT SPONSORS:

Peter & Hilde Colenbrander, Alexandra Volkoff,
and the McGrane-Pearson Endowment Fund

Ema Nikolovska

mezzo-soprano

Sean Shibe

guitar

Sun November 8 2026 at 3pm / Telus Studio Theatre, Chan Centre

Orlando: Songs About Love and Identity from Dowland to Dylan

Two of the most imaginative and daring artists of their generation craft a genre-defying program titled 'Orlando', which traces the legendary troubadour's journey across centuries and continents, from the medieval *Chanson de Roland* to Ariosto's epic poem, and Virginia Woolf's groundbreaking 1928 novel. This bold and imaginative program explores themes of love, conflict, and identity, weaving together works by Schubert, Glanert, Adès, and others, alongside newly-commissioned pieces by Sasha Scott and Cassandra Miller.

Ema describes the Orlando project as: "Courtly love, conflict, identity, adventures traversing time and space, and the role of song, the life of the troubadour in the middle of it all - the fascinating, gallivanting, and almost science-fiction characters of Orlando from Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso* and Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* are at the heart of this program."

WATCH
VIDEO

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CONCERT SPONSOR: **George Pick & Santi Pelaez**

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT:



“A remarkable concert by the mezzo Ema Nikolovska and the guitarist Sean Shibe at the Bath Festival – and if I say that the experience felt like being awake in a vivid dream, I do so as a compliment.”

– The Times



“One of the most natural performers one is likely to hear... he and the harpsichord become one.”

— The Washington Post

Jean Rondeau harpsichord

Sun November 15 2026 at 3pm / Roy Barnett Hall,
Music Building, UBC

Since his first appearance for the VRS at the Telus Studio Theatre in 2018 where he wowed the audience, Jean Rondeau's star has been on the ascent. Combining profound respect with boundary-pushing programming, Jean is at the forefront of the movement to bring the harpsichord into the 21st Century. His outstanding talent and innovative approach to keyboard repertoire have been critically acclaimed, marking him out as one of today's leading harpsichordists and a global ambassador for his instrument.

COUPERIN: Suite in D minor

RAMEAU: Prélude and Suite in A minor from
Nouvelles Suites de Pièces de Clavecin

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TICKET PRICE

\$68 (General Admission)

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CONCERT SPONSOR: **Quesnel Foundation**

Thomas Dunford Artistic Director & lute
Lea Desandre mezzo-soprano
Louise Ayrton violin
Augusta McKay Lodge violin
Manami Mizumoto viola
Cyril Poulet cello
Doug Balliett double bass
Tom Foster harpsichord & organ
Keyvan Chemirani drums

Jupiter Ensemble

Sun November 29 2026 at 3pm / Chan Centre
Pre-concert Talk at 2:15pm

This wonderful young early music ensemble captivated the VRS audience when they made their Vancouver debut at the Chan Centre in 2023 with a stunning all-Vivaldi program. Immediately after that concert, plans were hatched to bring them back! Founded in 2018 by lutenist Thomas Dunford, the Jupiter Ensemble was born from the meeting and friendship between him and other young, brilliant musicians of his generation. Since then, the Jupiter Ensemble has performed at the world's most prestigious concert halls to unbridled critical acclaim. We are delighted to present their return to Vancouver with a program inspired by French, German and Italian Baroque depictions of Amazons — fierce mythical female warriors. This is music that is passionate, timeless and virtuosic.

**VIVALDI, MARAIS, PALLAVICINO, PROVENZALE, CAVALLI,
SCHÜRMAN, VIVIANI, PHILIDOR, DESTOUCHES & DE BOTTIS**

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TICKET PRICES

A:\$88 B:\$74 C:\$63 D:\$45 E:\$30

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CONCERT SPONSORS: Elaine Adair and Lynn Kagan

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT:



“Thomas Dunford gathered together a team of some of the finest musicians of his generation... Brace yourselves for some exquisitely dizzy spells, at the hand of Jupiter.”
— Erik Orsenna, author



Sir Andrés Schiff piano

**Sun December 6 2026 at 3pm / Roy Barnett Hall,
Music Building, UBC**

Imagine having the opportunity to experience the artistry of Sir Andrés Schiff, acknowledged as one of the world's greatest pianists, in this most intimate of venues, the acoustically-superb, 250-seat Roy Barnett Hall in the heart of the Music Building at UBC. We're pleased to make that dream a reality!

Ever since Sir Andrés' first mesmerizing performance for the VRS at the Arts Club Theatre on Granville Island in 1982, he has become a member of the VRS family, and has returned to our stage many times over the decades. Every single performance has been memorable. As he did in his last visit to Vancouver, Sir Andrés will announce his program from the stage and talk about the music he will play.



TICKET PRICE

\$225 (General Admission)

This concert is excluded from multibuy discounts

CONCERT SPONSOR: **The Martha Lou Henley
Charitable Foundation**

“Schiff's interpretations were beautifully conceived with an intimacy and insight that spoke of his own profound feeling for the music.”

— Daily Telegraph, London

CANADIAN DEBUT

Lukas Sternath piano

Sun January 24 2027 at 3pm / Vancouver Playhouse

Post-performance Talk Back

As a child, Lukas Sternath travelled the world as a member of the famed Vienna Boys' Choir. He studied piano at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, and then completed his master's degree at the University of Hanover, where he was Igor Levit's only student. He also studied with Paul Lewis, and further mentors include Till Fellner and Sir András Schiff. At the 2022 ARD Music Competition, Lukas caused a sensation when he swept the board, taking home the First Prize as well as seven special prizes including the Audience Prize. He has been both an ECHO Rising Star and a BBC New Generation Artist. Audiences have marveled at the freshness of Sternath's artistry and his "uncanny gift of communicating through the piano as if it were a tuneful cello" (The New York Times). Find out what the fuss is all about when he makes his Canadian debut!

SCHUBERT: Der Wanderer, D. 489 (arr. Liszt, S. 558/11)

SCHUBERT: Frühlingsglaube, D. 686 (arr. Liszt, S. 558/7)

SCHUBERT: Auf dem Wasser zu singen, D. 774 (arr. Liszt, S. 558/2)

SCHUBERT: Litanei auf das Fest Allerseelen from *Geistliche Lieder*, D. 343 (arr. Liszt, S562/1)

SCHUBERT: Der Müller und der Bach from *Die schöne Müllerin*, Op. 95, D. 795, No. 19

SCHUBERT: Fantasie in C major, Op. 15, D. 760 "Wanderer Fantasy"

LISZT: Années de Pèlerinage, Deuxième Année – Italie, S. 161

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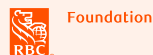
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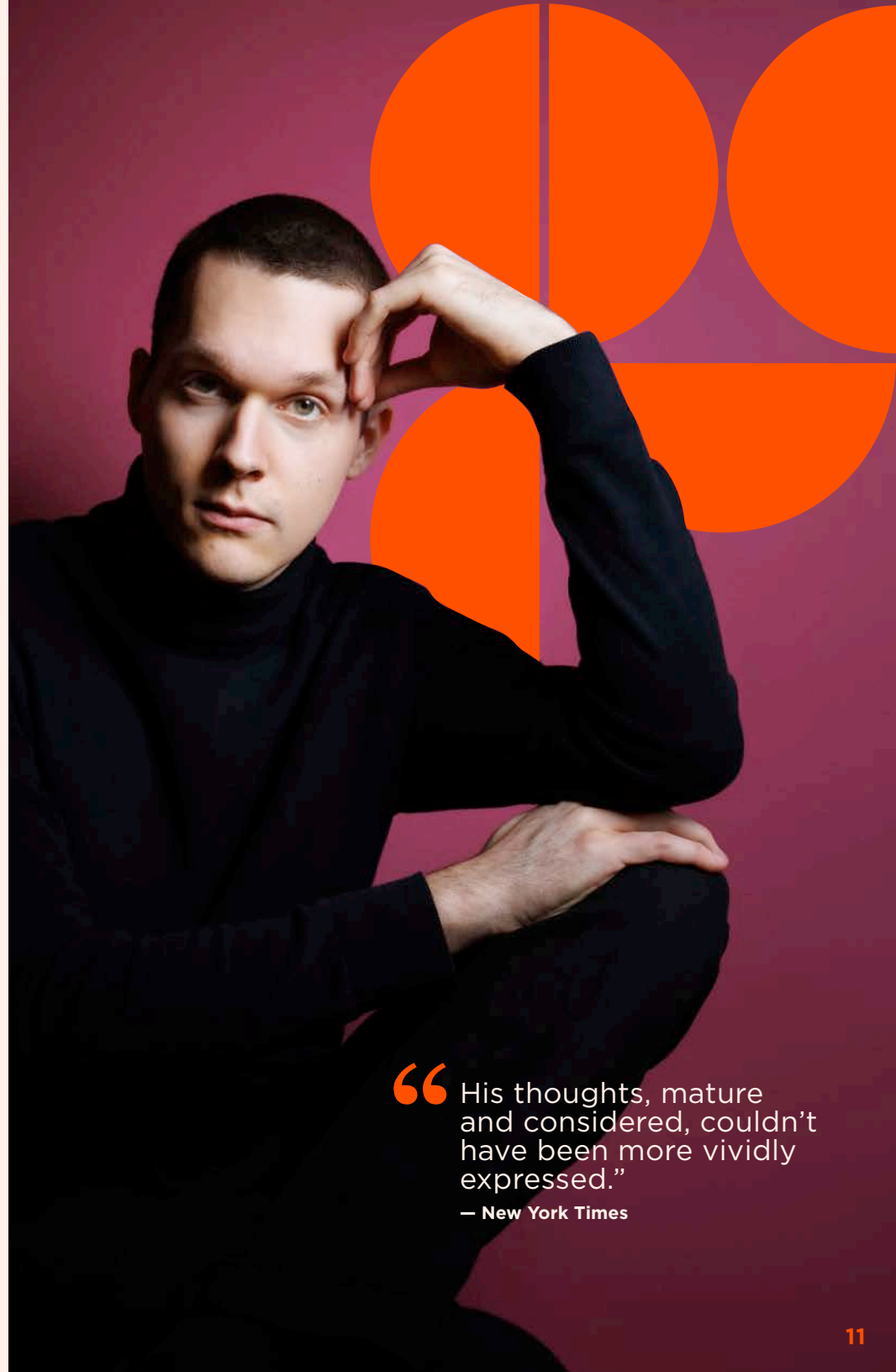
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Edwina and Paul Heller
Memorial Fund



CONCERT SPONSOR: Forster/Stephenson Legacy Fund



“His thoughts, mature and considered, couldn't have been more vividly expressed.”

— New York Times

“One of the most thoughtful and sensitive of British pianists.”
— The Times



CANADIAN DEBUT

Mishka Rushdie Momen piano

Sun February 7 2027 at 3pm / Vancouver Playhouse
Post-performance Talk Back

Over the past several years, we have tried to bring Mishka Rushdie Momen to Vancouver for her Canadian debut, and each time we were thwarted by the pandemic. Finally, this season she joins our wonderful roster of musicians. Mishka captivates audiences with her refined and expressive playing. She studied with Joan Havill and Imogen Cooper at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and has taken lessons with Richard Goode and Sir András Schiff at the Kronberg Academy. Her latest recording, 'Reformation', presents the works of William Byrd, John Bull, Orlando Gibbons, and Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck performed on the modern piano. The album was described in The Times' selection of the best releases of 2024 as a "triumph" and topped the classical charts.

BEETHOVEN: Sonata in C-sharp minor, Op. 27, No. 2 "Moonlight"

RAVEL: Miroirs

BYRD: Prelude and Fantasia in A minor, MB 12 and 13

SCHUBERT: Fantasie in C major, Op. 15, D. 760 "Wanderer Fantasy"

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ARTISTS RECEIVE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM:

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Memorial Fund



CONCERT SPONSOR:
Keith in Memory of Koji Ito

CANADIAN DEBUT

Chloe Chua violin Julien Quentin piano

Sun February 21 2027 at 3pm / Vancouver Playhouse

Post-performance Talk Back

Daring virtuosity and a gloriously free spirit are among the attributes with which 19-year-old Chloe Chua has won critical plaudits and audience ovations. The Singaporean violinist began playing at just 4 years of age, and captured international attention when she became joint winner of the 2018 Yehudi Menuhin International Competition for Young Violinists. Her stunning musicality despite her young age has captured the hearts of audiences around the world. For her Canadian debut, Chloe joins forces with French pianist Julien Quentin, whose remarkable musical depth, clear and distinct sound, combined with flawless technique, make him highly sought after worldwide as both a soloist and a chamber musician.

TARTINI: Sonata in G minor, 'The Devil's Trill'

SAINT-SAËNS: Sonata No. 1 in D minor, Op. 75

YSAÏE: Sonata in D minor, Op. 27, No. 3, "Ballade"

BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 4 in A minor, Op. 23

WAXMAN: Carmen Fantasie

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CHLOE CHUA AND JULIEN QUENTIN ARE JOHN C. KERR FAMILY
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CONCERT SPONSOR: Joyce & Tony

“ Her glistening
beauty of tone
is a constant
pleasure.”

— Gramophone

“ He is a
remarkably
gifted young
pianist, fully
in control of
even the most
difficult
material.”

— The Herald Times



“The most perfectly accomplished pianist of his generation.”
— The Independent

Behzod Abduraimov piano

Sun February 28 2027 at 3pm / Vancouver Playhouse

Pre-concert Talk at 2:15pm

We just can't seem to get enough of this Uzbek piano wonder, who has been a VRS favourite ever since he made his electrifying debut on our stage in 2012. Celebrated for his "magic touch" (The Times), Behzod's phenomenal technique, flair, and energetic performances have earned him legions of fans. From thunderous power to breathtaking delicacy, his extraordinary range reveals why critics also consider him to be one of the greatest pianists of his generation. He returns with a program that shows off the piano's magnificent potential for colour, range and virtuosity.

BRAHMS: 4 Pieces, Op. 119

CZERNY: Variations on a theme by Rode, Op. 33

LISZT: Après une lecture de Dante - Fantasia quasi sonata from *Années de pèlerinage*

DEBUSSY: Suite bergamasque

STRAVINSKY: 3 Movements from Petrushka (arr. for piano)



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CONCERT SPONSOR: **Anonymous**

Benjamin Appl baritone Ksenija Sidorova accordion

Sun March 7 2027 at 3pm / Vancouver Playhouse

Pre-concert Talk at 2:15pm

After his stunning appearances in our 3-concert Schubert Affair in the 2025-26 Season, baritone Benjamin Appl returns to the VRS. This time he will partner with another VRS alum, accordionist Ksenija Sidorova, a genre-defying and boundary-crossing artist who has redefined what her instrument can do on the world stage. Together, they have put together a stunning program which they have titled:

Breath and Bone: A Folk Life in Song

This concert is a journey through a human life, told in song. It moves from cradle melodies and youthful longing to love, loss, and farewell, guided by music shaped by folk traditions and their many echoes. The program brings together works by Brahms, Schubert, Britten, Mahler, Rachmaninov, Weill, Brel, and others.

In the intimate pairing of baritone voice and accordion, the music stays close to the body — shaped by breath, memory, and the human need to sing. Across languages and generations, these songs reflect what connects us all: tenderness, longing, and the shared pulse of human life.

WATCH
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CONCERT SPONSOR: Ann Harding

“Unbearably moving”
— The Times

“Revelatory”
— The Telegraph



“A pianist of magisterial elegance, power, and insight.”
— New York Times

Leif Ove Andsnes piano

Sun March 14 2027 at 3pm / Vancouver Playhouse
Pre-concert Talk at 2:15pm

We have watched with pride the soaring career of Leif Ove Andsnes in the years since he made his Canadian debut on our series at the tender age of 22. These days he has ascended into the pantheon of artists whose importance already merits a 36-CD retrospective of his recordings. Celebrated for his commanding technique, searching interpretations and a keen musical mind, Leif Ove is also known for his artfully assembled programs. Those who followed his 'Beethoven Journey' over a decade ago will be delighted to note his choice of an all-Beethoven program for this recital.

- BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 30 in E major, Op. 109**
- BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 31 in A-flat major, Op. 110**
- BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 32 in C minor, Op.111**



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CONCERT SPONSORS: **Rob & Holly and Ric & Lynda**

Stephen Waarts violin Juho Pohjonen piano

Sun April 4 2027 at 3pm / Vancouver Playhouse

Post-performance Talk Back

These two award-winning soloists have demanding international careers, playing to packed houses and captivating audiences around the world. In recent years they have found the time to partner for chamber music appearances at renowned festivals and in select cities around the world. Luckily for us, Vancouver is one of those cities! When Stephen and Juho perform together, their ease is apparent and their enjoyment is infectious. Both artists are familiar faces at the VRS, and last appeared together on our series in 2024 with cellist Jonathan Swensen. We are thrilled to welcome them back for a duo recital!

ADÈS: Märchentänze

SCHUBERT: Fantasie in C major, D. 934

SCHUMANN: Fantasie in C major, Op. 131

BRAHMS: Sonata No. 3 in D minor, Op. 108

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ARTISTS RECEIVE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM:

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“A rich and poetic sound that leaves audiences mesmerized.”

— The Violin Channel

“His playing is simply extraordinary.”

— The Atlanta Journal Constitution

“They’re world class.
Now the world needs
to hear them.”
— Sing Out



Dreamers’ Circus

Thu April 8 2027 at 7:30pm / Vancouver Playhouse

Dreamers’ Circus has become one of the most acclaimed and adventurous acoustic bands to emerge from Scandinavia. The talented trio includes a face that will be familiar to VRS audiences – violinist Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen of the Danish String Quartet. Blending Nordic folk with classical lyricism, jazz improvisation, and pop energy, the trio creates a sound that is both rooted and forward-looking, and one that is underpinned by their virtuosic musical abilities across a diverse range of instruments that include violin, fiddle, accordion, piano and cittern. What they offer is new, genre-defying and exciting. The artists themselves say:

We are often asked what kind of music we play. Even if it is music that does not readily lend itself to instant classification, we try and encourage people to view it as something that can transcend genres. Perhaps it is no bad thing to defy classification now and again. So while we share a love of folk and traditional music, and play quite a bit of it still, there are strains and influences from so many other music forms in what we do.

It has taken us a few years to find a mutually-suitable date for their Vancouver debut. Mark your calendars!

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CONCERT SPONSORS:

**Elizabeth Arnold-Bailey & Robert Bailey
and Kate Kerr & Paul Cobban**

Jonathan Swensen cello Juho Pohjonen piano

Sun April 11 2027 at 3pm / Vancouver Playhouse

Post-performance Talk Back

Jonathan Swensen has more than justified his nomination by Gramophone as 'One to Watch'. The Danish cellist, recipient of the 2022 Avery Fisher Career Grant, was awarded joint First Prize at the 2024 Naumburg International Cello Competition. He made his Vancouver debut in 2024 in a chamber trio alongside pianist Juho Pohjonen and violinist Stephen Waarts. This season we're mixing things up! Jonathan returns for a duo recital with Juho Pohjonen, who will appear on our stage a week earlier with Stephen Waarts. Why not come to both?

LUTOSŁAWSKI: Grave: Metamorphoses for Cello and Piano

FAURÉ: Sicilienne, Op. 78

PÄRT: *Fratres* for Cello and Piano

POULENC: Sonata for Cello and Piano, FP 143

FAURÉ: Élégie in C minor, Op. 24

BRAHMS: Sonata No. 2 in F major, Op. 99

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CONCERT SPONSOR: Ian & Cathy

“His playing is illuminating in its detail, aided by what’s clearly a formidable technique.”

— Gramophone

“Pearly touch, singing tone and sensitivity.”

— The New York Times

“Formidable storytellers, who captivate listeners with their spellbinding craft.”

— Der Tagesspiegel



Lucas & Arthur Jussen

piano four hands

Sat May 1 2027 at 7:30pm / Chan Centre

Pre-concert Talk at 6:45pm

The dynamic Dutch brothers return after their spellbinding, sold-out VRS debut in 2020. With their energetic, almost symbiotic playing, Lucas and Arthur Jussen are among the most sought-after piano duos of our time. Taught by the great Maria João Pires, their refinement of sound and gripping interpretations are praised vigorously by press and audiences alike. “It is like driving a pair of BMWs”, exclaimed conductor Michael Schönwandt about the two pianists after directing them in concert. Their program, featuring works for piano four hands as well as arrangements for two pianos, will showcase both classical elegance and raw emotional power. Two brilliant pianists for the price of one — what’s not to love?

MENDELSSOHN: Andante and Allegro assai vivace, Op. 92
for piano four hands

SCHUBERT: Fantasia in F minor, Op. 103, D. 940 for piano four hands

RAVEL: La Valse, poème chorégraphique

MILHAUD: Scaramouche

STRAVINSKY: Rite of Spring (arr. for two pianos)

WATCH
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CONCERT SPONSOR: **Stephen M. Fitterman**

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT:



Timothy Ridout viola Federico Colli piano

Sun May 9 2027 at 3pm / Vancouver Playhouse
Pre-concert Talk at 2:15pm

We're thrilled to close out our season with these two bright lights! Timothy Ridout made a huge impression on the VRS audience at his Canadian debut in 2023. The former BBC New Generation Artist and Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship recipient is one of the most exciting young violists to emerge in recent years, known for his warmth, charisma, and fearless artistry. A highly-respected chamber musician, he regularly partners with pianist Federico Colli, who leapt to worldwide attention as the winner of the 2012 Leeds International Piano Competition, firmly establishing himself as a major musical presence on the international stage. Federico made his Vancouver debut with the Chopin Society in 2021 and his VRS debut in 2024. A week before his appearance with Timothy, he returns to the Chopin Society for a solo recital on Sunday, May 2.

- SCHUBERT:** Arpeggione Sonata in A minor, D. 821 (arr. for viola)
- HUMMEL:** Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 5, No. 3
- W.F. BACH:** Sonata in C minor
- BRAHMS:** Sonata No. 1 in E minor, Op. 38 (arr. for viola)



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CONCERT SPONSORS: Nick & Colleen Filler and Joyce & Tony

Federico Colli is presented
in co-operation with the  The Vancouver
CHOPIN SOCIETY



“He’s that rare kind of musician who could play a cardboard box and make it sing.”
— The Guardian

“One of the most original thinkers of his generation.”
— Gramophone





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.

Over 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 46 seasons have come and gone and that we are about to embark upon our 47th! Truth be told, the 48th season is just about complete, we are well into the 49th, and have begun dreaming about celebrating our 50th! 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 look ahead, 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!

give now!

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.



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