

10th

SEASON

1989 - 1990

**SCOTT
ST. JOHN**

• VIOLIN •

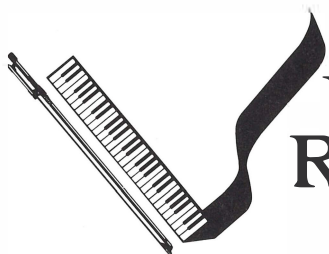
**ANGELA
CHENG**

• PIANO •

Sunday, October 1, 1989

Vancouver Playhouse

In co-operation with CBC Radio



Vancouver
Recital Society

Meet the Artists...

Angela Cheng

A native of Edmonton, Angela Cheng is presently enrolled in the Doctor of Music Program in Piano Performance at Indiana University. She is a pupil of Menahem Pressler. In 1988 Angela became the first Canadian ever to win First Prize at the prestigious Montreal International Piano Competition.

This highly gifted and enthusiastically acclaimed musician has won many prizes and awards which include Grand Prize in the 1987 CBC Talent Competition, First Prizes in the Mae M. Whitaker and University of Maryland International Piano Competitions and top prizes in the Fifth Artur Rubinstein Piano Master Competition and the D'Angelo Young Artists Piano Competition.

Angela has performed with the Israel Philharmonic, the Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, St. Louis, Indianapolis, and Winnipeg Symphonies, as well as the NAC Orchestra and Calgary Philharmonic. She has been heard in recital in such cities as New York, London, Washington, Toronto, Los Angeles, Montreal, Detroit and St. Louis. For the past three summers Angela has performed in Vancouver as a guest of the Vancouver Chamber Music Festival, and she was first heard on this Series in 1987 when she appeared with violinist Joshua Bell.

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Scott St. John

Nineteen-year old Scott St. John was born in London, Ontario and is in his fifth year at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia where he is studying with Jascha Brodsky and Arnold Steinhardt. At the age of three he started violin lessons with Richard Lawrence, and later studied with Gerard Jarry in France, and David Cerone of the Cleveland Institute of Music. An accomplished violist as well, his teachers have been Ralph Aldrich of the University of Western Ontario and Robert Vernon, Principal Viola of the Cleveland Orchestra.

Recently, Scott won First Prize at the Alexander Schneider Competition in New York — a competition for violinists who also play viola. As a result he was presented in an enthusiastically received debut recital in New York's Carnegie Hall. A CBC Talent Competition prizewinner, Scott took the highest prize gained by a western competitor in the Beijing International Youth Violin Competition.

Scott has been awarded the use of the Canada Council's Instrument Bank's first violin, a Stradivarius which was a gift from Mr. Leon Weinstein, donated by the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

He has appeared as soloist with the Cleveland and Philadelphia Orchestras, the Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra in Hungary, the Gulbenkian Orchestra in Lisbon and the China Youth Orchestra in Beijing. He has also appeared with the major Canadian orchestras.

For the past three summers Scott has attended the Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont, where he has performed with Rudolph Serkin, David Soyer (of the Guarneri Quartet) and Felix Galimir.

This is Scott St. John's Vancouver Recital debut performance.

Tonight's performance is being recorded for broadcast by CBC Stereo's "Arts National" (105.7 FM) on October 18th at 8:00 p.m.

Whilst ticket sales are a vital source of income, they do not cover the entire cost of operation. We must raise money each year through contributions in order to meet our obligations. We operate on a very careful budget and your contribution of any size will make a difference.

Please help us to continue bringing the very best—the cream of young musical talent from around the world, with your **tax deductible** contribution. Donations payable to the Vancouver Recital Society may be mailed to P.O. Box 35605.

Postal Station E, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 4G9.

PROGRAM

Sonata in G major, K 301 (1778)
for piano and violin

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756—1791)

Allegro con spirito
Allegro

Mozart's G major Sonata was one of a series written in Mannheim during the winter of 1778. Published as "sonatas pour clavecin ou forte piano avec accompagnement d'un violon," they reflect the values of the classical duo sonata: a keyboard display piece with a subsidiary string accompaniment. The two movement format of K. 301 also reflects the fluid transitional nature of the as yet unstereotyped sonata process of this age.

Sonata Breve (1988)
for violin and piano

Arsenio Girón
(1932 —)

Spanish born and U.S. trained Arsenio Girón teaches composition and theory at the University of Western Ontario. The Sonata Breve is, in the composer's words, "a short lyrical piece for violin and piano, in three movements; its harmonic textures, rhythms, tempi and short melodic ideas are reminiscent of the early 19th century French style and represents a departure from the academic overstructured approach of much contemporary music."

Gaspard de la nuit (1908)
for piano solo

Maurice Ravel
(1875—1937)

Ondine
Le Gibet
Scarbo

Ravel's Gaspard is based on the E.T.A. Hoffmann-like writings of Aloysius Bertrand (1807—1841), three supernatural, rather macabre tales, Ondine, in the words of Berlin critic H.H. Stuckenschmidt, describes "a cool, glittering mermaid's body"; Le Gibet is "an unusual study of the utmost weirdness"; and Scarbo describes "a devilish imp who appears... in the rays of the silver moon. The entire cycle is the acme of shrewdly perfection pianism." Ravel's own assessment was more epigrammatic, calling them simply "three romantic poems of transcendent virtuosity".

Intermission

Sonata in A major, BWV 1003 (1720)
for violin solo

J.S. Bach
(1685—1750)

Grave
Fuga
Andante
Allegro

Bach's solo string works represent the zenith of a longstanding German baroque tradition. It's obvious from their technical mastery that Bach was well acquainted with the violin and brilliantly aware of its potential. But they are not works for simple virtuoso display: the technical prowess required to present these formidable compositions is only a minimum preliminary requirement for unlocking their abiding musical values.

Sonata in A major, Opus 13 (1876)
for violin and piano

Gabriel-Urbain Fauré
(1845—1924)

Allegro molto
Andante
Allegro vivo
Allegro quasi presto

Though an early work, the A major Violin Sonata comes across as fully developed Fauré: that ultra personal blend of sophistication, reticence, taste and charm that we associate with this great (but softspoken) master. Many scholars have reminded us of the impact his work had on other composers—it was, in fact, the model for the now more popular Violin Sonata of César Franck. Charles Koechlin put the matter into perspective with his witty yet accurate quip that we "should render unto Gabriel those things which are Gabriel's and not unto César."

Program notes by David Duke

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The Vancouver Recital Society's Hamburg Steinway is maintained and serviced by Johann B. Krebs.

The Vancouver Recital Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Government of British Columbia through the Ministry of Tourism, Recreation and Culture; the City of Vancouver; the Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation and the Hamber Foundation.

Next Concert

Sunday, October 29, 1989

Jeffrey Kahane, Piano
Joseph Swensen, Violin

Sonata (Duo) in A major, D. 574 Schubert
Sonata in G minor for violin and piano Debussy
Sonata in A major, Op. 47 "Kreutzer" Beethoven

The final concert (Aug 11th) of the 1989 Vancouver Chamber Music Festival will be broadcast on CBC Stereo's "Arts National" (105.7) on Friday, November 3rd at 8 p.m.