



Cartes Blanches

Trio Leong, Tétreault and Salov

Kerson Leong, violin

Stéphane Tétreault, cello

Serhiy Salov, piano

Program

Antonín Dvořák : *Piano Trio N°.4 in E Minor, op. 90, B.166 «Dumky»*

Serguei Rachmaninov, *Trio élégiaque N°.1 in G Minor*

Digital broadcast

From April 11 to April 25, 2021

Pro
Musica

Leong - Tétreault - Salov



Irina Krasnyanskaya

Cartes Blanches

A Note from the Artistic Director

For this new season, we invite you to rediscover a very special era in the history of music, where the emphasis has been placed on the figure of the artist, his life and emotions. A music that speaks to our soul, that frees our senses and our mind; I'm talking, of course, about music from the Romantic period! And this, through a brand-new series: Cartes Blanches.

The trials we have recently had to overcome, and are still facing today, remind us of how undeniably we are linked to each other, but also invite us to rethink the bridges between generations, cultures and eras.

In their own way, initiating the Cartes Blanches Series, three renowned Canadian musicians, our contemporaries, our fellow citizens, our friends, will dialogue with the greatest composers of the Romantic period, offering us a unique opportunity to witness this deeply personal and intimate exchange.

Irina Krasnyanskaya



Louis Godbout

Filming a concert presents the challenge of producing something for people to look at so that they hear better. An image almost always gains in depth from being in contact with music, whereas music risks becoming devalued when images are superimposed on it. The musical experience possesses an untranslatable closeness and intensity. What is music? Where does its singular power come from?

If it could be explained, we could probably do without it. To listen to music is to enter another dimension, a mysterious world that's at once indescribable and familiar. We are not surprised to see music accompanying our joys and tribulations. And yet. By what miracle can a composer from a few centuries ago know my soul, know what burdens or elates me today? Where does his music get this aspect of necessity—of truth, even? Mozart is not a god, Beethoven is not a philosopher, Chopin is not a scientist. Where, then, does this seemingly privileged connection to the real come from? Is it enough to say that they are artists? But what is an artist? Heck if I know. All I can say for sure is that such and such passage of Chopin or Beethoven goes straight to my heart, reaches something real in me—something lasting, something like a part of my nature, which it almost makes me discover.

Perhaps this is what an artist is. Some kind of explorer of spiritual space who sails, gets lost, retraces his steps, and then eventually discovers an island, a continent, a planet. The artist as explorer or seeker. Just as Newton discovered, rather than invented, the law of universal gravitation, we might also consider that Chopin discovered the Ballade in F minor rather than creating it. Since he was constantly reworking his compositions, there are surely dozens of versions of this Ballade that ended up in the trash. Why did he stop at this one? Because, eureka! It was the correct one, the proper one, the "true one," the one that, for this reason, we still perceive to be so close, so familiar to us. The one that reveals what has always been there, and in so doing reveals us to ourselves. Don't we listen to music—at least romantic music—to find ourselves?

But as I mentioned, if music could be explained... Well! Without further ado, let the concert begin.

Louis Godbout
Film director, Carte Blanches



A world premiere Trio to close the Cartes blanches Series

As a closing concert of this first edition of the Cartes Blanches series and, as a world premiere, three stars of Quebec and international musical scene - Kerson Leong (violin), Stéphane Tétreault (cello) and Serhiy Salov (piano) - were brought together by Pro Musica to form a trio that is as lively as it is dazzling. On this occasion, they offer us a program exploring Slavic territories of romanticism, where Antonín Dvořák and Sergei Rachmaninoff are in the spotlight.

«In their own way, initiating the Cartes Blanches series, three illustrious local musicians, our contemporaries, our fellow citizens, our friends, dialogue with the greatest composers of the Romantic era and offer us a unique opportunity to attend this exchange, deeply personal and intimate.» Declared Irina Krasnyanskaya, artistic director of Pro Musica.

Program

Antonín Dvořák : *Piano Trio N°.4 in E Minor, op. 90, B.166 «Dumky»*

Serguei Rachmaninov, *Trio élégiaque N°.1 in G Minor*

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Biography

Kerson Leong

Violin



Kerson Leong first took the music world by storm in 2010 by winning the coveted Junior First Prize at the prestigious Menuhin Competition. Ever since, the young Canadian violinist has astonished and won over both fellow musicians and audiences alike the world over with his rare and innovative mastery of his instrument, his natural ability to convey the subtlest of emotions, and the colossal scope of his live performances. Having been called "Canada's next great violinist" (Ludwig van Toronto), he has distinguished himself with his unique approach as one of the most brilliant musicians of his generation.

Kerson has played in some of the most prestigious concert venues around the world from Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium and the Auditorium du Louvre to Wigmore Hall and the National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing. He is in regular demand as a soloist, having performed with such ensembles as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Oslo Philharmonic, the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre National de Lorraine, the Sinfonieorchester Wuppertal, the Liège Royal Philharmonic, the Kansai Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestra Gulbenkian, the Stockton Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony

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Orchestra, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre Metropolitain de Montreal, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the Quebec Symphony Orchestra, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra of Canada, as well as numerous other orchestras in his home country. In the 2018/2019 season, Kerson was named Artist-in-Residence with the Orchestre Métropolitain de Montreal under Yannick Nezet-Seguin.

Kerson is also an avid and passionate chamber musician. Since his debut at the Gstaad Menuhin Festival in Switzerland in 2011, he has been featured at many renowned international festivals and concert series, including the Verbier Festival, Rheingau Musik Festival, Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Fraenkische Musiktag, Flâneries musicales de Reims, Bergen International Festival, Trasimeno Music Festival, Schiermonnikoog Chamber Music Festival, Toronto Summer Music Festival, Ottawa International Chamberfest, Music and Beyond, Montreal Symphony Orchestra's Virée classique, and Domaine Forget International Music Festival among others.

Kerson released Bis, his first album for Analekta showcasing a collection of encore pieces, to critical acclaim. He recorded John Rutter's Visions with the composer himself and the Aurora Chamber Orchestra for Collegium Records, after giving its world premiere in London, UK. He has also been invited by Canadian composer Francois Dompierre to record his piece, Les Diableries. Kerson can also be heard on CBC Television, CBC/Radio Canada, the BBC Radio 3, Radio France, Radio Television Suisse, American Public Media's SymphonyCast, NRK, RAI, Deutschlandradio Kultur, and Czech Radio. He has been a recipient of many awards such as the Sylva Gelber Music Foundation Award (2015-2017) and the Young Soloist Prize 2015 by the Radios Francophone Publiques, as well as having received a Mentorship Award from the Lin Yao Ji Music Foundation of China for inspiring younger generations. He was named Revelation Radio-Canada 2014-2015 for classical music.

Kerson is an associated artist of the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel in Belgium, where he was mentored by Augustin Dumay. Teaching is becoming a growing passion for Kerson, having given masterclasses and taught at various festivals and universities including the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, the University of Ottawa, and Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland.

He has always been keen on making connections between music and other fields. Ever since his dad started introducing him to physics concepts about string resonance, they have strongly influenced his playing and philosophy on sound production. Together with his dad, he has given lectures about this subject in places such as the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, the Barratt Due Music Institute in Oslo, and various universities in California.

Kerson performs on a 1741 Guarneri del Gesù courtesy of Canimex Inc, Drummondville (Quebec), Canada.

*Biography provided by the artist

Biography

Stéphane Tétreault

Cello



In addition to innumerable awards and honours, Stéphane Tétreault is the recipient of the prestigious 2019 Virginia Parker Prize from the Canada Council for the Arts in recognition of his outstanding talent, musicianship, artistic excellence and his valuable contribution to artistic life in Canada and abroad. Chosen as the first ever Soloist-in-Residence of the Orchestre Métropolitain, he performed alongside Yannick Nézet-Séguin during the 2014-2015 season. In 2016, Stéphane made his solo debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Nézet-Séguin and performed at the Gstaad Menuhin Festival in Switzerland. In 2017, he took part in the Orchestre Métropolitain's first European tour with Maestro Nézet-Séguin performing Elgar's Cello Concerto at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Kölner Philharmonie in Cologne and the Philharmonie de Paris. In 2018, he made his debut with the London Philharmonic Orchestra with conductor John Storgårds. Stéphane has performed with violinist and conductor Maxim Vengerov and has worked with pianists Alexandre Tharaud, Jan Lisiecki, Marc-André Hamelin, Roger Vignoles, John Lenehan and Louis Lortie. He has participated in several masterclasses, notably with cellists Gautier Capuçon and Frans Helmerson.

His debut CD recorded with the Quebec Symphony Orchestra and conductor Fabien Gabel was chosen as "Editor's Choice" in the March 2013 issue of Gramophone Magazine. His second album with pianist Marie-Ève Scarfone, featuring works from Haydn, Schubert and Brahms, was chosen as Gramophone Magazine's "Critics' Choice 2016" and recognized as one of the best albums of the year. Stéphane was a student of the late cellist and conductor Yuli Turovsky for more than 10 years. He holds a master's degree in Music Performance from the University of Montreal.

Stéphane plays the 1707 "Countess of Stainlein, Ex-Paganini" Stradivarius cello, generously loaned to him by Mrs. Sophie Desmarais.

*Biography provided by the artist

Biography

Serhiy
Salov

Piano



Serhiy Salov is recognized as an outstanding pianist, whose playing is both energetic and imbued with sensitivity. He is known for his remarkable technique, his exacting rigour and virtuosity, qualities that unwaveringly serve the poetry inherent in the music. Public enthusiasm and critical acclaim have amply confirmed his prominent status on the international music scene as a soloist and chamber musician. In addition, Serhiy Salov has achieved distinction for his piano transcriptions of symphonic works such as Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, Debussy's *Nocturnes*, Mussorgsky's *Night on a Bald Mountain*, and many others.

After beginning his musical training in Ukraine, Salov pursued his studies in London, obtaining a master's degree from the prestigious Guildhall School of Music and Drama, followed by a Doctor of Music degree from the Université de Montréal. His gifts extend far beyond the mastery of piano technique: the disciplines of improvisation, musicology, and the study of languages complement his training and enable him to deploy a highly expressive individual approach.

A superlative concert performer, Serhiy Salov has collaborated with renowned conductors and numerous orchestras around the world. He is regularly featured at the foremost international music festivals and has been awarded many prizes in competitions worldwide.

*Biography provided by the artist

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