



# The Vancouver Chopin Society

2016-2017

Ewa Poblocka  
Charles Richard-Hamelin  
Jean-Efflam Bavouzet  
Sergei Babayan



## Our 2016-2017 (19th) Season

We are continuing our tradition of a series of four solo recitals, presenting established artists as well as rising stars. This is a season you won't want to miss!

Once again, we have for you a fantastic line up of four great pianists: **Ewa Poblocka**, known in musical circles as the first lady of the piano in Poland; **Charles Richard-Hamelin**, silver medalist at the 17th International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, the first Canadian ever to win a top prize in this prestigious competition; **Jean-Efflam Bavouzet**, considered by many critics to be incomparable for his Debussy and Ravel interpretations; and **Sergei Babayan**, one of today's top pianists.

We continue to make our subscriptions affordable to everyone, particularly seniors and students, in order to make great music available and accessible to everyone. **The prices are as low as \$15 per ticket.** We are able to keep our costs low because our society is entirely run by wonderful and dedicated volunteers.

After each concert, we invite you to a reception in the lobby of the Playhouse, where you will have a chance to mingle and meet the artist.

Lee Kum-Sing - *Artistic Director*  
Iko Bylicki - *President*

## MISSION STATEMENT

The society aims at promoting cultural interaction with and between peoples of Vancouver, who come from a diverse and rich cultural and ethnic backgrounds. We have chosen CHOPIN as a name for the society because of the universal appeal of Frederick Chopin's music and his recognition as one of the greatest composers for the piano.

## SPONSORS



Daniel Chocolate



## CONCERT 1 Ewa Póblocka

Friday, October 14, 2016 at 7:30 PM

Vancouver Playhouse



*"Póblocka in Chopin produces a warm tone that breathes, at every dynamic level. She is active as a chamber musician and vocal accompanist, unlike most Chopin players, and you can hear the effect of that in her playing. She unfailingly conveys the singing line, while effortlessly letting us hear multiple voices in a gorgeous sonority. Furthermore, this is Chopin of great maturity and wisdom."*

Dave Saemann

Ewa Póblocka comes from a musical family, as her mother was a professional singer. She is a laureate of international piano competitions in Vercelli (1977), Bordeaux (1979), and Warsaw (1980), where she also received the prize for the best performance of Chopin Mazurkas. Since then she has performed on all continents playing at most famous concert halls.

Ewa Póblocka is an active chamber musician, frequently playing with the Silesian String Quartet, bass singer Evgenij Nesterenko and contralto singer Ewa Podleś. She is also a part of the Multitrio ensemble with her daughters Ewa Leszczyńska (soprano) and Maria Leszczyńska (cello).

There are almost 50 CD's in her phonographic output, covering solo, chamber and orchestral repertoire ranging from Baroque to contemporary music recorded for such labels as Polskie Nagrania „Muza”, Deutsche Grammophon, Pony Canyon, Victor JVC, Conifer Records, CD Accord, and BeArTon.

She is a jury member of many international piano competitions including the International Chopin Competition in Warsaw.

The Consulate General of Poland is proud to announce that the concert of Madam Ewa Póblocka will begin the 25th Anniversary of our existence in Vancouver. In addition, we express our gratitude to The Vancouver Chopin Society for its outstanding efforts in promoting the music of Frederic Chopin and Polish culture in British Columbia.

### Programme:

MOZART Fantasia in D minor KV397

SCHUBERT Four Impromptus D. 899, (Op. 90)

#### *Intermission*

CHOPIN Two Nocturnes, Op. 55  
Ballade No. 1 in G minor, Op. 23  
Impromptu No. 1 in A-flat major, Op. 29  
Six Waltzes TBA  
Scherzo No. 1 in B minor, Op 20

***A reception for all will follow the concert***

## CONCERT 2 Charles Richard-Hamelin

Sunday, November 6, 2016 at 7:30 PM

Vancouver Playhouse



*“His sense of time, his sense of harmony, above all his structural originalities are immensely sophisticated and daring. Richard-Hamelin seemed to be aware of the total Chopin – not just melting us with liquid line after liquid line of Chopin’s famous melodies, but exposing inner voices and harmonic twists in both left and right hands, and illuminating Chopin’s extraordinary structural gambits, especially in his Third Sonata which closed the program. He is an artist firmly on a unique and original path.”*

Robert Harris, The Globe and Mail

In October 2015, at the prestigious 17th International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, two Canadians, Charles Richard-Hamelin and Ying(Tony) Yang, shocked the world by winning 2nd and 5th prize respectively.

Canada has never had prize winners in this competition, which made this accomplishment a historical success.

Silver medalist and laureate of the Krystian Zimerman award of the best sonata at the International Chopin Piano Competition in 2015, Charles Richard-Hamelin is now one of the most important pianists of his generation. He also won the second prize at the Montreal International Musical Competition and the third prize and special award for the best performance of a Beethoven sonata at the Seoul International Music Competition in South Korea.

His latest Chopin CD released on the Analekta label made the number one position in CBC Music’s Top 10 of the best Canadian classical albums of 2015 !

**Among many brilliant Canadian pianists, one now finally has a legitimate claim to be called a chopinist.**

You can not miss his concert!

### Programme:

CHOPIN            Nocturne in B major, Op. 62 No. 1  
                      Ballade No.3 in A-flat Major, Op. 47  
                      Polonaise-Fantaisie, Op. 61  
                      Introduction & Rondo, Op. 16

### *Intermission*

CHOPIN            4 Mazurkas Op. 33  
                      Sonata No. 3 in B minor, Op. 58

***A reception for all will follow the concert***

## CONCERT 3 Jean-Efflam Bavouzet

Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 3:00 PM

Vancouver Playhouse



*"...the CD's raison d'être is the Ravel. Bavouzet's G major concerto is the best since Michelangeli's 50 years ago: it has style, verve, poetry and balance."*

*Financial Times, January 2011*

*"Bartók's Third Piano Concerto... expansive, beautifully realized, but never lacking in virtuosity. This was music-making that was controlled but seemingly spontaneous and on occasion, electrifying. Little wonder that the capacity audience jumped to its feet at the end."*

*(Seen and Heard, February 2016)*

One of the most engaging live performers of his generation, the multi-award-winning French pianist Jean-Efflam Bavouzet enjoys a prolific recording and international concert career and has worked closely with conductors such as Pierre Boulez, Vladimir Jurowski, Danielle Gatti, Valery Gergiev, Neeme Järvi, Vladimir Ashkenazy and Bruno Mantovani

He was named Artist of the Year at the 2012 International Classical Music Awards, and nominated by Deutsche Grammophon as one of their Artists of the Year in 2012.

Bavouzet records exclusively for Chandos and his disc featuring the complete Prokofiev Piano Concertos with the BBC Philharmonic and Gianandrea Noseda conducting won the Concerto category of the 2014 Gramophone Awards. Other recordings include Haydn's Piano Concertos with Manchester Camerata and Gábor Takács-Nagy, Bartok's Piano Concertos with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and Gianandrea Noseda, and Stravinsky's Complete Works for Piano. Bavouzet's recordings have garnered two other Gramophone Awards, two BBC Music Magazine Awards, a Diapason d'Or and Choc de l'année. Ongoing recording projects include Beethoven and Haydn piano sonata cycles.

### Programme:

HAYDN                      Sonata No. TBA

BEETHOVEN              Sonata No. 7 in D major, Op. 10 No. 3

#### *Intermission*

RAVEL                      Miroirs

DEBUSSY                 L'isle joyeuse

***A reception for all will follow the concert***

## CONCERT 4 Sergei Babayan

Sunday, May 28, 2017 at 3:00 PM

Vancouver Playhouse



*"Babayan favors a playing style that speaks to the senses, to the range of his love for the music, which is unsurpassed. An enthusiastic multi-instrumentalist, tirelessly studying the works of his predecessors as if they were his contemporaries, he does not hide himself from this nearly obsessive research of a spiritual music, which comes close to magic."*

*L'Actualité*

Hailed for his emotional intensity, bold energy and remarkable levels of color, Sergei Babayan brings a deep understanding and insight to a stylistically diverse repertoire, which includes a performance history of 54 concertos. *Le Figaro* has praised his "unequaled touch, perfectly harmonious phrasing and breathtaking virtuosity."

Highlights of the 2015/2016 season included concerto performances with the Rotterdam Philharmonic conducted by Valery Gergiev and with the Camerata Israel in Tel Aviv; performances at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland, and at Bad Kissingen, Germany; recital and concerto performances in duo with Daniil Trifonov at the Mariinsky Theater in St. Petersburg, Russia; and a return to Wigmore Hall in London.

In the 2014/2015 season, Mr. Babayan's schedule included performances in Lugano with Martha Argerich; a return to the Verbier Festival, where he debuted in July 2014; and performances in London at Wigmore Hall.

Since Sergei Babayan's outstanding protege Daniil Trifonov has won major competitions, he is one of the world's most sought-after piano teachers.

### Programme:

RYABOV	Fantasia in C minor, Op. 21
CHOPIN	Polonaise in C-sharp minor, Op. 26 No. 1
	Waltz in C-sharp minor, Op. 64 No. 2
	Barcarolle in F-sharp major, Op. 60
	Waltz in B minor, Op. 69 No. 2
	Impromptu No. 1 in A-flat major, Op. 29
	Ballade No. 3 in A-flat major, Op. 47

### *Intermission*

BACH	Goldberg Variations
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## SUBSCRIPTIONS ( Save 25% over single tickets)

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## SINGLE TICKETS on sale Sept 1, 2016

	Section A		Section B	
	Adult	Senior/Student	Adult	Senior/Student
Concert 1	40	30	30	20
Concert 2	40	30	30	20
Concert 3	40	30	30	20
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- 15% discount for BCRMTA members
- Group discount of 10% available for purchases of 10 or more tickets.

**All concerts:** Purchase through Tickets Tonight Call Centre 604.684.2787 or on-line at [www.ticketstonight.ca](http://www.ticketstonight.ca).

## VENUE

**Vancouver Playhouse**, Hamilton at Dunsmuir, downtown Vancouver.

**Section A** – middle and left side (orchestra & balcony)

**Section B** – right side (orchestra & balcony)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Address:** The Vancouver Chopin Society,  
#400–601 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 4C2

**Tel:** 604.871.4450

**E-mail:** [info@chopinsociety.org](mailto:info@chopinsociety.org)

**Website:** [www.chopinsociety.org](http://www.chopinsociety.org)

**Membership:** all subscribers are members of the society.  
Membership for non-subscribers: \$35 per person, \$50 per family.

## ALL SALES ARE FINAL

Artists and programmes are subject to change without notice.  
Refunds are only available when an event is cancelled, with no replacement artist.

## Subscription form

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Subscription	Section A	Section B	Qty	Total
Adult	\$140	\$110		
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	Senior/Student	\$20	\$15	

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