



The Vancouver
CHOPIN
SOCIETY

2022-2023 **SEASON**

A SILVER ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to The Vancouver Chopin Society's 25th anniversary season. Since our official incorporation on April 22, 1997, The Vancouver Chopin Society has been presenting great performances of timeless music to Vancouver audiences. In these many years, we have been responsible for the Vancouver debut recitals of many of the laureates of the International Chopin Competition, promising young artists who are now today's musical legends, as well as some of today's most respected pianists and musicians.

We thank all of you for your continuing support, especially during these last two extraordinary years. We are very pleased and proud of our stellar array of artists who will be playing for you this season, from Canada's own **Charles Richard-Hamelin** and **Dang Thai Son** to the return of the remarkable **Zlata Chochieva**, as well as the Vancouver debuts of **Vadym Kholodenko**, **Tomasz Ritter** and **Kyohei Sorita**.

The April 16th concert with **Tomasz Ritter** will be our "official" 25th anniversary celebration. As part of this special day, distinguished musicologist **Benjamin Vogel** will give a lecture comparing today's pianos with those of Chopin's time. As well, there will be a post-concert reception for the entire audience.

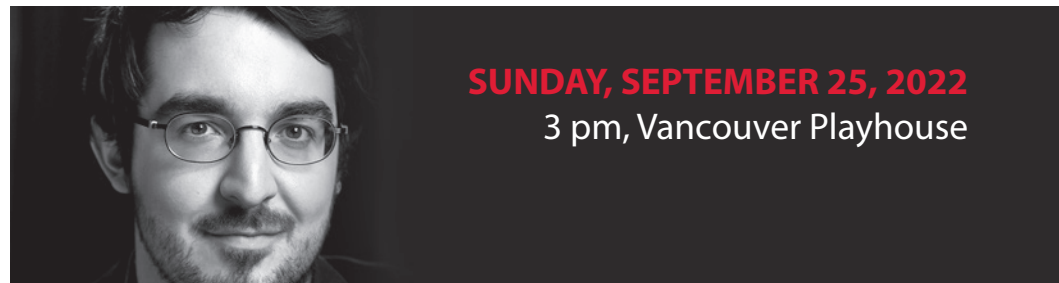
All of us in The Vancouver Chopin Society firmly believe in the power of music to bring people together. As we celebrate this watershed anniversary, we commit ourselves yet again to bringing to our community some of today's most remarkable musicians. We look forward to seeing all of you at our recitals this season.

We continue our commitment to make our tickets affordable to everyone, in particular seniors and students. BCRMTA members enjoy a substantial discount of 25%. **The price for youth (Grades 1 through 12) will once again be an unbelievable \$15 per ticket.** If you are between the ages of 18 and 35, you are eligible to purchase single tickets at the extraordinarily low price of \$18.

Here's to the next 25 years!

Lee Kum Sing

CONCERT 1 CHARLES-RICHARD HAMELIN



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

We start off our anniversary season with the return of Charles Richard-Hamelin, the first Canadian silver medalist at the 2010 International Chopin Competition.

Since that eventful year, Hamelin has gone from strength to strength, with both concerto and recital appearances in major musical centres, as well as award-winning recordings. In the 2021-2022 season, he made his long-awaited appearance with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in a ravishing performance of Chopin's 1st piano concerto.

In the recording studio, he continues his complete cycle of Beethoven's violin sonatas with Andrew Wan, concertmaster of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. For his recording of Chopin's two piano concerti with Kent Nagano and the Montreal Symphony, *Gramophone* magazine writes, "*His playing never sounds routine or exhibitionistic...Chopin's bravura passagework is imbued with meaning...High flown fioritura seems informed by what a great singer could accomplish.*" He has also made distinguished recordings of Chopin's Preludes, Impromptus, and Ballades, as well as the Sonata No. 3 in B minor, all for the Analekta label.

Join us for what will surely be a concert you will always remember, by Canada's own poet of the piano.

CHOPIN

Two Nocturnes, Op. 27
No. 1 in C-sharp minor
No. 2 in D-flat Major
Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 35

Intermission

CHOPIN

24 Préludes, Op. 28

CONCERT 2 VADYM KHOLODENKO



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2022
7:30 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

A Vancouver debut by one of today's most musically dynamic and technically gifted young pianists.

Born in Kiev, Ukraine, Kholodenko was winner as well as audience favourite at the 2013 Van Cliburn Competition. Since then, he has collaborated with some of today's great conductors and orchestras, and has given recitals in New York, Lucerne, Paris, and other major musical centres. He is a frequent guest at today's most prestigious music festivals, including the Chopin and His Europe Festival, the Grange de Meslay Festival, and the International Keyboard Odyssey and Festival (USA).

A prolific recording artist, Kholodenko records for the Harmonia Mundi label. His recording of the Grieg concerto and Saint-Saens' Piano Concerto No. 2 was awarded "Editor's Choice" by *Gramophone*. His most recent recording of solo works by Scriabin received a Diapason d'Or de l'année. In a review of his performance of Prokofiev's 5th piano concerto, a critic writes, "*What a knockout!*" Another review describes how he "*unleashes technical prowess and immersive lyrical engagement*".

Fasten your seat belts before another "knockout" performance by Vadym Kholodenko!

PROKOFIEV
PROKOFIEV
SCHUBERT

Four pieces, Op. 32
Things in themselves, Op. 45, "B"
Sonata in E-flat major, D 568

Intermission

SCHUBERT
PROKOFIEV
PROKOFIEV

Drei Klavierstücke, D 946
Things in themselves, Op. 45, "A"
Sonata No. 7

CONCERT 3 ZLATA CHOCHIEVA



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2022
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

We promised to bring her back, and here she is!

When Zlata Chochieva made her Vancouver debut in November of 2019, audience members were both stunned and moved by her playing of Chopin and Rachmaninoff. Geoffrey Newman of Vancouver Classical Music named her recital one of Vancouver's three best classical music event of the season.

Her recent recording of transcriptions by Rachmaninoff, Liszt and Friedman was universally praised for the originality of its concept as well as her stunning pianism, and was nominated for both the Opus Klassik Award and Shallplattenkritik Award. Her recording of Chopin's Etudes was selected as an Editor's Choice by *Gramophone*, and was also named as one of the 10 greatest Chopin recordings.

She is a resident of Berlin, where she continues her very active concert and recording career. She most recently made her long-awaited debut in Singapore, where she again moved audience in the historic Victoria Concert Hall with the poetry and beauty of her playing.

If you attended her debut recital in Vancouver, we know you would want to experience her music-making again. If you missed that incredible concert, you are in for an indelible musical experience!

PESCETTI
PROKOFIEV
BACH-BARTOK
BARTOK

Sonata in C minor IGP 2
10 Pieces, Op. 12
Trio Sonata No. 6, G major BWV 530: II. Lento
The Piano Sonata

Intermission

MOZART

Ten Variations on "Unser dummer
Pöbel meint" (C. W. Gluck) in G major, KV 455
Five Preludes, Op. 15
Sonata No. 3

SCRIABIN
SCRIABIN

CONCERT 4 DANG THAI SON



SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

In 1980, a relatively unknown pianist from Vietnam stunned the musical world by winning the gold medal at the 10th International Chopin Competition in Warsaw. Since that eventful year, Dang Thai Son has become much sought after as recitalist, concerto soloist, competition adjudicator, as well as master teacher. His students include some of today's most notable pianists, including Bruce Liu, Kate Liu, Eric Lu, and Charles Richard-Hamelin. Dang Thai Son has performed under the direction of conductors such as Sir Neville Marriner, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Pinchas Zukerman, and Ivan Fischer. Since winning the Chopin Competition, he has maintained a close connection with Poland. In 2005, he was the only guest artist at the Opening Gala of the 15th International Chopin Competition. In 2018, Poland's Ministry of Culture awarded him the Gloria Arts Gold Medal for Merit to Culture. A prolific recording artist with an extended discography, Dang Thai Son has recorded for Deutsche Grammophon, Melodiya, Polskie Nagrania Muza, SONY, Analekta, Victor JVC, as well as for the Fryderyk Chopin Institute. Don't miss the first appearance under the auspices of The Vancouver Chopin Society of one of today's most revered artists.

- FAURE** Nocturne in E flat minor Op. 33, No. 1
Barcarolle no 1 in A minor Op. 26
- DEBUSSY** Images Book 2: Cloches à travers les feuilles
Et la lune descend sur le temple qui fut
Poissons d'or
- FRANCK** Prelude, Chorale and Fugue
- Intermission*
- CHOPIN:** Polonaise in C minor, Op. 40, No. 2
Three Ecossaises, Op. 72, No. 3
Three Waltzes - in A minor, Op. posth.
in F minor, Op. 70, No. 2
in A-flat Major, Op. 34, No. 1
Four Mazurkas, Op. 24
Tarantelle in A-flat Major, Op. 43
Polonaise in A-flat Major, Op. 53, "Heroic"

CONCERT 5 TOMASZ RITTER



SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

During the pandemic, we presented a short online performance by Tomasz Ritter, winner of the 1st International Chopin Competition on Period Instruments in 2018. We are overjoyed that Tomasz will finally be making his debut in Vancouver this season.

Regarding his performance at that competition, Witold Paprocki writes, "Ritter's performance draws attention to the deliberate, consistent concept of interpretation and the ability to use the display of virtuosity to highlight the music's expressive qualities." Of his performance of Chopin's 1st piano concerto, veteran critic Michael Moran writes, "So many levels of expression were present here, some bordering on the divine." The same writer comments on Ritter's performance of Chopin's Op. 33 Mazurkas: "*His pauses were eloquent and emotionally charged. There were heartbreaking moments at the conclusion of this (B minor) mazurka.*"

Although equally comfortable with the modern piano, Ritter has been involved with early instruments since the age of 12. He is already a veteran of the concert stage, having performed extensively throughout the music world. In 2014, he released his first album featuring works by Bach, Beethoven, Szymanowski, and Ginastera for the Polskie Nagrania Muza label.

We thank Suzie LeBlanc and our friends at Early Music Vancouver for the loan of their beautiful 1819 Conrad Graf piano on which Ritter will perform, built by master instrument builder Paul McNulty.

- BACH / BRAHMS** Chaconne in D minor
CHOPIN Nocturne in F Major, Op. 15
Nocturne in B flat minor, Op. 9
BEETHOVEN Sonata in E major, Op. 109
- Intermission*
- MOZART** Fantaisie in C minor, K 475
SCHUBERT Sonata in C minor, D 958

CONCERT 6 KYOHEI SORITA



SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

The artistic find of the 18th International Chopin Competition, Kyohei Sorita's playing at the competition touched the hearts of the Varsovian audience, and caught the ears of the discerning jury members, with his heartfelt and mature interpretations. He was awarded the silver medal, the highest prize for a Japanese-born pianist since Mitsuko Uchida's second prize in 1970.

Since his outstanding performance in Warsaw, Sorita has been extremely busy, performing both in his native Japan and internationally. Anna Debowska, writing for the *Gazeta Wyborcza*, praised his performance of Chopin's 1st piano concerto as being the highlight of the competition: *"The ripe found kept changing its colour, shape and weight."* From another writer covering the same event: *"...one pianist...whose musical maturity, imagination, poetry, and technical prowess have fused seamlessly to blissful proportion. His name is Kyohei Sorita."*

A conductor as well as pianist, Sorita founded the Japan National Orchestra in 2019, a 17-member chamber orchestra.

A major Vancouver debut by this refined and mature artist and musician.

CHOPIN

Ballade No.1 in G minor, Op. 23
Ballade No.2 in F Major, Op. 38
Ballade No.3 in A-flat Major, Op. 47
Ballade No.4 in F minor, Op. 52

Intermission

SCRIABIN

Fantasy in B minor, Op. 28

RACHMANINOFF

Prelude in D major, Op. 23 No. 4
Piano Sonata No. 2, Op. 36

A Very Special Event

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

7 pm, Vancouver Academy of Music

As part of the celebration of our 25th Anniversary, The Vancouver Chopin Society has commissioned a reproduction of a bust of Chopin, created by Polish sculptor and painter Wacław Szymanowski.



Varsovian Szymanowski is best known for his iconic statue of Chopin in Warsaw's Łazienki Park.



This beautiful bust is now close to completion, and will be shipped to Vancouver very soon. It will find a home in the lobby space of the Vancouver Academy of Music. The official unveiling of the bust will take place on Monday, September 26, 2022 at 7 pm.

The Vancouver Chopin Society will be hosting a fundraising event in conjunction with the unveiling.

Charles Richard-Hamelin, Canada's own silver medalist at the 2015 International Chopin Competition, will play a short recital before the unveiling of the sculpture. The ceremony will be followed by a reception.

We hope that you will be able to join us for this joyful event, when this beautiful work of art will find a home to be enjoyed by all.

Tickets for this fundraiser for our society can be purchased using the order form, or by calling The Vancouver Chopin Society at 604-871-4450 or 236-878-4056.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the City of Vancouver and Consulate General of Poland in Vancouver



Frédéric Chopin

SINGLE TICKETS

SINGLE TICKETS FOR NON-SUBSCRIBERS ON SALE – JULY 1, 2022

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE NO LONGER USING CHAN CENTRE BOX OFFICE AS OUR TICKET VENDOR

	Section	A	B	C
Sunday September 25, 2022 at 3 pm CHARLES RICHARD-HAMELIN Vancouver Playhouse	A S	50 40	40 32	30 24
Tuesday November 8, 2022 at 7:30 pm VADYM KHOLODENKO Vancouver Playhouse	A S	50 40	40 32	30 24
Sunday November 20, 2022 at 3 pm ZLATA CHOCHIEVA Vancouver Playhouse	A S	50 40	40 32	30 24
Sunday March 12, 2023 at 3 pm DANG THAI SON Vancouver Playhouse	A S	50 40	40 32	30 24
Sunday April 16, 2023 at 3 pm TOMASZ RITTER (25 th Anniversary celebration) Vancouver Playhouse	A S	68 54	52 42	36 29
Sunday May 21, 2023 at 3 pm KYOHEI SORITA Vancouver Playhouse	A S	50 40	40 32	30 24
Sunday April 16, 2023 at 1:30 pm Vancouver Playhouse Salons Prof. Benjamin Vogel - Lecture	FREE for Tomasz Ritter concert ticket holders			
Monday September 26, 2022 at 7 pm FUNDRAISING EVENT - Unveiling of the Chopin bust, The Vancouver Academy of Music	Tickets \$100.00 EACH (RECEIPT for taxes \$75)			

A-Adult S-Senior/Student/ BCRMTA members (20% discount)

Youth (Grades 1 to 12) - \$15 All concerts

Under 35? Tickets are only \$18

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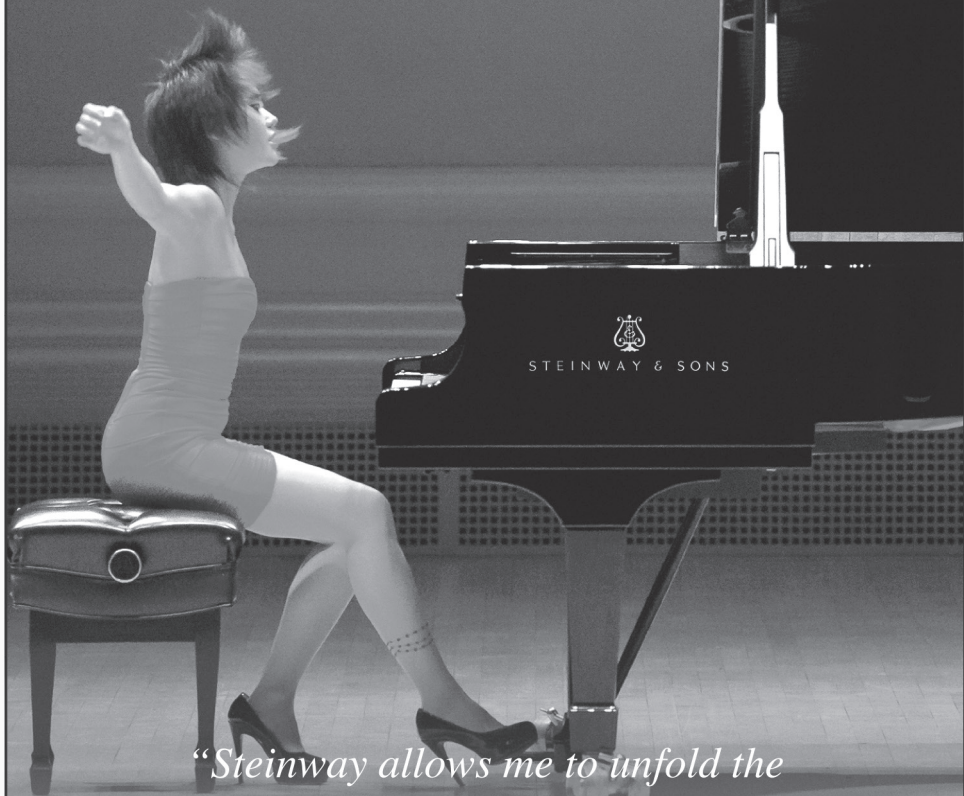


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