



The Vancouver

**CHOPIN**

SOCIETY

2023-2024 **SEASON**

WHERE WORDS FAIL

**MUSIC SPEAKS**

## MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to The Vancouver Chopin Society's 2023-2024 season. As we enter into our next quarter century, The Vancouver Chopin Society is proud to have introduced to Vancouver audiences laureates of the International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, legends of the piano, as well as promising young artists who are already showing signs of becoming tomorrow's stars.

What a season we have for you! Lilya Zilberstein, an artist at the height of her powers, will make a welcome return to Vancouver. We have our dear friend Rafal Blechacz, whose appearances here have always been very special occasions. Alexander Gavrylyuk, whose performance of Rachmaninoff's second sonata still rings in our ears, will return to perform for us. As well, we have the Vancouver recital debut of Anna Geniushene, silver medalist of the Cliburn Competition. Together with our friends at Early Music Vancouver, we will present fortepianist Melisande McNabney in recital.

And we have two very special performances at the Orpheum Theatre – keyboard legend Yefim Bronfman and the return of Bruce (Xiaoyu) Liu!

Need we say more?

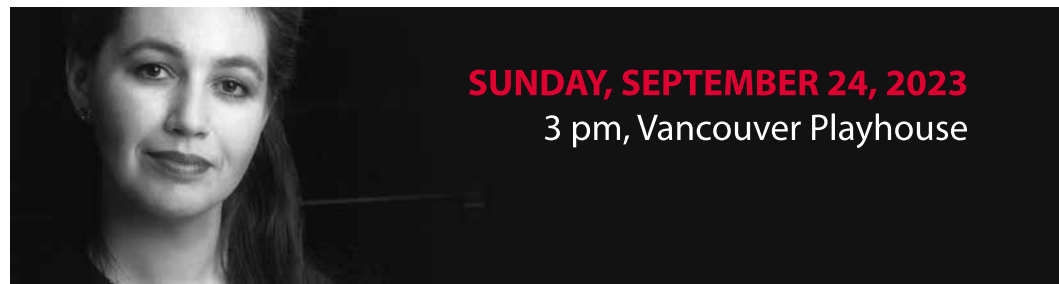
We already feel the excitement about our upcoming season as we write these words. Please do join us for another extraordinary series of performances that you would remember and talk about for a long time to come.

We continue our commitment to make our tickets affordable to everyone, in particular seniors and students. BCRMTA members enjoy a substantial discount of 20%. **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.

Come help us celebrate the beauty and excitement of live music!

*Lee Kum Sing*

## CONCERT 1 LILYA ZILBERSTEIN



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023**

**3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse**

We open our season with a performance by this supreme artist and musician at the heights of her power.

Lilya Zilberstein won the Busoni Competition in 1987, after which the first prize was not even awarded for another five years.

Zilberstein regularly appears with major orchestras such as the Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, to name just a few, and has collaborated with conductors Claudio Abbado, Gustavo Dudamel, James Levine, and Michael Tilson Thomas, among many others.

Her recitals take place in major music centres the world over, and she performs solo recitals as well as in chamber music performances with Martha Argerich and Maxim Vengerov. A prolific recording artist, Zilberstein has recorded 20 albums for Deutsche Grammophon, and on EMI Classics. She also contributed to Deutsche Grammophon's recordings of the complete works of Chopin, released in 1999. More recently, her recording of Brahms' Sonata for two pianos with Martha Argerich was released on EMI Classics.

We are overjoyed that we finally managed to invite Ms. Zilberstein back to Vancouver, and that she has included Vancouver as one of the stops of her very busy international touring schedule in 2023.

### **SCHUBERT SCHUBERT-LISZT**

6 Moments Musicaux, Op. 94, D780  
4 Lieder  
"Der Wanderer", Op. 15, D760  
Ständchen von Shakespeare, D 889  
Gretchen am Spinnrade, Op.2, D 118  
Auf dem Wasser zu Singen, Op.72, D 774

### *Intermission*

### **RACHMANINOFF**

13 Preludes, Op. 32

## CONCERT 2 MELISANDE MCNABNEY



**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023**  
7:30 p.m., Christ Church Cathedral

We are delighted to be once again collaborating with our friends at Early Music Vancouver to bring you Canadian fortepianist Melisande McNabney.

Active on the concert scene, Melisande has been invited as soloist in many prestigious concert series, such as the Clavecin en Concert, and the Sene Jacques Dansereau at Bourgie Hall. She is also a regular collaborator with such distinguished ensembles as Le Violins du Roy and the Montreal Bach Festival Orchestra.

A recording artist with ATMA Classique, she has so far released two solo albums. Her second album received 5 *Diapasons* from this famous French music magazine.

If you are new to period instrument performances, join us for this unique opportunity to hear one of Canada's most distinguished exponents of historical performance practice, and treat yourself to a new and unforgettable listening experience.

**McNABNEY**  
**C. P. E. BACH**  
**McNABNEY**  
**C.P.E. BACH**  
**MOZART**  
**MOZART**  
**MOZART**  
**KOZELUCH**  
**MOZART**  
**MOZART**  
**BEETHOVEN**

Improvisation according to C.P.E. Bach  
Fantasia and Fugue in C minor, Wq 119.7  
Improvisation according to C.P.E. Bach  
Fantasia in F-sharp minor, Wq 67  
Modulating Prelude from F major to E minor  
Fantasia in C minor, K. 475  
Four Preludes, K. 248a (Nos. 1 and 2)  
Prelude (Capriccio) in E-flat Major  
Four Preludes, K. 248a (Nos. 3 and 4)  
Fantasia in C minor, K. 396  
Sonata in C-sharp minor, Op. 27, No. 2

## CONCERT 3 ALEXANDER GAVRYLYUK



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023**  
7:30 pm, St. Andrew Wesley Church

In his 2018 appearance at the Vancouver Playhouse, Alexander Gavrylyuk stunned the audience with a sweeping performance of Rachmaninoff's Sonata No. 2. Since then, we have been working hard to bring him back.

Gold medalist at the 1999 Horowitz Competition, the 2000 Hamamatsu Competition, and the 2005 Artur Schnabel Competition, this Ukrainian artist, who now resides in Australia with his family, delivers performances that go beyond virtuosity, with playing that generates a visceral excitement that we only experience with the greatest artists.

He has given recitals in, among others, Vienna's Musikverein, Zurich's Tonhalle, Geneva's Victoria Hall, Wigmore Hall, and the Concertgebouw. In 2009, he made an acclaimed recording of Prokofiev's complete piano concerti with Vladimir Ashkenazy and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, which was recorded live at the Sydney Opera House. In a review of his album of music by Brahms and Liszt, Gramophone magazine declares, "*This album should be in every serious collector's library.*"

Don't miss a rare Vancouver appearance by this "*revelatory*" and "*electrifying*" musician.

**SCHUMANN**  
**BRAHMS**  
**BRAHMS**  
**Liszt-Horowitz**

Kinderszenen, Op. 15  
Intermezzi, Op. 117, Nos. 2 and 3  
Rhapsody in G minor, Op. 79, No. 2  
Danse Macabre

*Intermission*

**MUSSORGSKY**

Pictures at an Exhibition

## CONCERT 4 RAFAL BLECHACZ

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024

7:30 pm, Vancouver Playhouse



Even though Rafal Blechacz is an old friend of our Society, each of his Vancouver appearances causes both audience members and music critics in search of new superlatives.

The unquestionable winner of the 2005 International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, he has since developed into a thoughtful and mature artist and musician, whose every appearance or recording is eagerly anticipated. In the words of distinguished pianist John O'Connor, "*Rafal Blechacz is one of the greatest artists I have ever heard in my life.*"

A Deutsche Grammophon recording artist, Blechacz's every album has been the recipient of rave reviews as well as prestigious awards. His 2007 recording of Chopin's Preludes achieved platinum status in Poland, and has been honoured with awards by Germany's Echo Klassik and France's Diapason d'Or. He now has a dozen universally acclaimed albums to his credit.

In 2015, at a concert with the Warsaw Philharmonic, Blechacz received the President of the Republic of Poland's medal Cavalier Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta.

We are delighted that Rafal Blechacz has again agreed to share his artistry with Vancouver audiences.

<b>MOZART</b>	Sonata in A Major, K. 331
<b>DEBUSSY</b>	Suite Bergamasque

*Intermission*

<b>SZYMANOWSKI</b>	Variations
<b>CHOPIN</b>	Polonaise Fantasy, Op. 61
<b>CHOPIN</b>	Nocturne, Op. 55 No. 1
<b>CHOPIN</b>	Mazurkas, Op. 6

## CONCERT 5 ANNA GENIUSHENE

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024

3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse



Anna Geniushene's scheduled Vancouver debut had to be postponed because of the pandemic, but here she is now!

In 2022, Anna travelled to Fort Worth, Texas, swept the audience off its feet, caught the jury members' ears, and walked off with the silver medal at the Van Cliburn Piano Competition. Her magisterial performance of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 that closed the competition prompted Gramophone magazine to write, "*I couldn't help but equate Anna Geniushene's seasoned pianism to Cliburn at his best.*"

Highlights of her 2022-2023 post-Cliburn season include performances at the Grand Teton Music Festival, recital tours, and orchestral appearances with the Lithuanian State Symphony Orchestra and the Taipei Symphony Orchestra and, not the least of which, the birth of her second child.

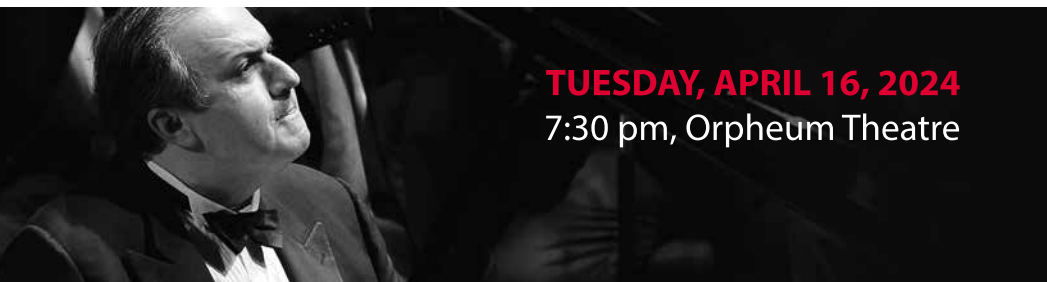
Join us for the long-awaited debut of this remarkable young musician with "*powerhouse sound, forceful musical personality and sheer virtuosity.*" No doubt we would be hearing much more of her and from her in the coming years.

<b>CLEMENTI</b>	Sonata E flat major Op. 1
<b>TCHAIKOVSKY</b>	Two pieces Op.1
<b>CHOPIN</b>	Rondo Op.1
<b>WEINBERG</b>	Wiegenlied Op.1
<b>SCHUMANN</b>	Abegg Variations

*Intermission*

<b>BERG</b>	Sonata Op.1
<b>BRAHMS</b>	Sonata No.1 Op.1

## CONCERT 6 YEFIM BRONFMAN



**TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024**  
7:30 pm, Orpheum Theatre

A true legend of the keyboard, Yefim Bronfman is one of today's most universally acclaimed and admired pianists. His commanding technique, stratospheric virtuosity, power and exceptional lyrical gifts have time and again been acknowledged by press, audiences and his fellow musicians.

A regular collaborator with some of today's greatest conductors and orchestras, Bronfman also appears in chamber music performances with distinguished colleagues as well as in solo recitals. In 2022, he appeared in such major musical centres as New York and Chicago, as well as at the Salzburg and Verbier festivals.

Following a recent Chicago performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, a critic writes, *"Listening to Bronfman play Beethoven's familiar concerto is like being in a crowded room when suddenly a profound conversationalist begins to speak and everyone just steps back to listen with rapt attention."*

Get your tickets right now for Bronfman's return to the Orpheum Theatre. You will be talking about this performance for a long time after the concert.

**SCHUBERT**  
**SCHUMANN**

Sonata in A minor, D784  
Faschingsschwank aus Wien

*Intermission*

**SALONEN**  
**CHOPIN**

Sisar  
Sonata in B minor Op. 58

## CONCERT 7 BRUCE (XIAOYU) LIU



**SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024**  
3 pm, Orpheum Theatre

Just the mention of this young keyboard star should send many people rushing to snap up tickets. His 2021 debut in Vancouver caused many local pianists to declare the concert to be the finest Chopin performance they had heard.

Since his sensational win at the 18th International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, Bruce has been traveling the world, and moving audiences with both his effortless virtuosity as well as his mature and thoughtful musicality.

An exclusive recording artist with Deutsche Grammophon, his first album of music by Chopin was included by Gramophone magazine as one of the best classical albums of 2021. The same prestigious magazine described Bruce's playing as *"evoking Shura Cherkassky and Georges Cziffra."*

Already an artist with a unique personality as well as musical insights far beyond his years, every single performance by Bruce Liu is an event to be savoured and treasured.

**HAYDN**  
**CHOPIN**  
**KAPUSTIN**

Piano Sonata in B minor Hob XVI/32  
Piano Sonata No. 2 in B flat minor, Op. 35  
Variations Op. 41

*Intermission*

**RAMEAU:**

- Les Tendres Plaintes
- Les Cyclopes
- Menuets I et II
- Les Sauvages
- La Poule
- Gavotte et six doubles

**PROKOFIEV**

Piano Sonata No. 7





Frédéric Chopin

# SINGLE TICKETS

SINGLE TICKETS FOR NON-SUBSCRIBERS ON SALE – JULY 4, 2023

	Section	A	B	C	D
Sunday September 24, 2023 at 3 pm <b>LIYA ZILBERSTEIN</b> Vancouver Playhouse	A S	56 44	44 36	36 28	
Friday September 29, 2023 at 7:30 pm <b>MELISANDE MCNABNEY</b> Christ Church Cathedral	A S	56 44	44 36	36 28	
Saturday October 21, 2023 at 7:30 <b>ALEXANDER GAVRYLYUK</b> St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church	A S	56 44	44 36	36 28	
Wednesday March 13, 2024 at 7:30 pm <b>RAFAL BLECHACZ</b> Vancouver Playhouse	A S	56 44	44 36	36 28	
Sunday April 7, 2024 at 3 pm <b>ANNA GENIUSHENE</b> Vancouver Playhouse	A S	56 44	44 36	36 28	
Tuesday April 16, 2024 at 7:30 pm <b>YEFIM BRONFMAN</b> Orpheum Theatre	A S	80 64	64 52	52 40	36 28
Sunday May 19, 2024 at 3 pm <b>BRUCE LIU</b> Orpheum Theatre	A S	80 64	64 52	52 40	36 28

A-Adult S-Senior/Student/ BCRMTA members (20% discount)  
Youth (Grades 1 to 12) - \$18 All concerts  
Under 35? Tickets are only \$18

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



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