



The Vancouver
CHOPIN
SOCIETY

2024-2025 **SEASON**

MUSIC IS AN OUTBURST OF
THE SOUL

~ Frederick Delius ~

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to The Vancouver Chopin Society's remarkable 2024 - 2025 season. Once again, we have devoted much time and hard work to arrange for this stellar array of artists to perform for you.

We begin our season with the debut of Canada's own **Kevin Chen**, who has been creating major sensations wherever he plays. Our season continues with appearances by **Martin Garcia Garcia** as well as **Vadym Kholodenko**. Garcia Garcia was one of the most original and interesting performers at the 2021 International Chopin Competition. Kholodenko's remarkable Vancouver debut led to his immediate re-engagement.

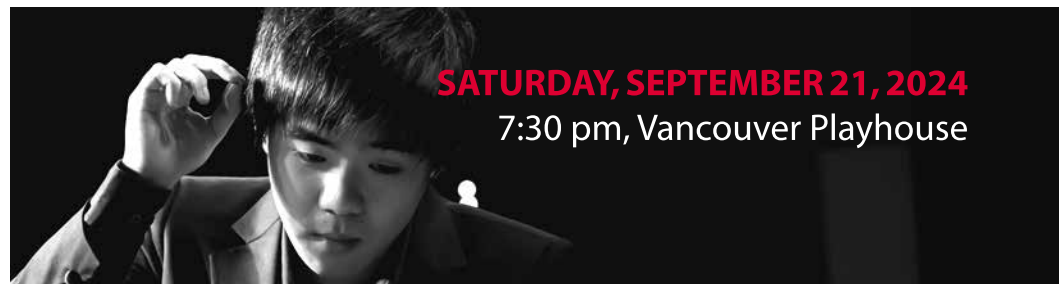
In 2025, the sensational French pianist **Lucas Debargue** will make his Vancouver debut, the consummate artist **Dang Thai Son** will return, and the young and very talented **Avery Gagliano** will play in Vancouver for the first time. In addition, we continue our happy and fruitful collaboration with Early Music Vancouver in presenting fortepianist **Dimitry Ablogin**, who will also be making his Vancouver debut.

During the global pandemic, concert halls were closed, and the world was starved of live music. Now that concert halls are open, and musicians are once again playing for us in person, let us not take for granted these indelible moments when we may experience the magic and beauty of live music-making, when a great artist can hold us spellbound and breathless with his or her music making. Such moments can never be experienced on YouTube.

We invite you to join us for every single concert of this remarkable season.

Lee Kum Sing

CONCERT 1 KEVIN CHEN



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

7:30 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

We begin our season with a concert by Canada's newest piano superstar.

Born in Calgary, Kevin has, in spite of his youthfulness, already triumphed in a string of major piano competitions, including 1st prize at the Liszt Competition in Budapest, 1st prize at the Mozart Competition in Lugano, 1st prize at the Hilton Head Competition, and 1st prize at the 17th Arthur Rubinstein Piano Competition.

In the summer of 2023, Kevin made his debut in Poland, performing at the prestigious Duszynski Festival as well as at the Chopin and His Europe Festival. His appearances at both festivals caused a major stir among music lovers, who declared that they had never heard piano playing of such genius.

Kevin has also appeared as concerto soloist with the Calgary and Edmonton symphony orchestras, and with the Minneapolis Orchestra. This multi-talented young artist is also an avid composer, with over 100 compositions to his credit, including symphonies and a piano concerto.

Do not miss this opportunity to experience the music-making of a young artist who is destined to write a major chapter in the annals of great performers.

CHOPIN
CHOPIN
CHOPIN

Ballade No. 1 in g minor, Op. 23
Polonaise-Fantaisie, Op. 61
Variations on "Là ci darem la mano", Op. 2

Intermission

LISZT
SCHUBERT/LISZT
LISZT

Ballade No. 2 in b minor, S. 171
Erlkönig, S. 558 No. 4
Années de pèlerinage II,
Sonetto 104 del Petrarca, S. 161 No. 5
Réminiscences de Don Juan, S. 418

LISZT

CONCERT 2 MARTIN GARCIA GARCIA



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

One of the most original artists to appear in the 2021 International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, Martin Garcia Garcia won 3rd prize in the prestigious competition as well as the prize for the best concerto performance. Earlier, he had won 1st prize in the 2021 Cleveland International Piano Competition.

In 2022, Martin Garcia Garcia performed over 70 concerto appearances and solo recitals internationally, including in iconic venues such as Carnegie Hall, Suntory Hall, and the National Auditorium of Music in Madrid. Last year, he continued to share his artistry and musicality with over 80 concerts in America, Asia, as well as Europe.

This young artist released his first solo album in 2023, with works by Bach, Chopin, Liszt, and Scriabin.

Martin strongly believes in approaching each concert with a profound purpose, and is committed to communicating the profundity and beauty of music to every member of the audience who has chosen to come and listen.

This will be Martin Garcia Garcia's Vancouver recital debut.

CHOPIN Barcarolle Op. 60 in F Sharp Major
CHOPIN Prelude No. 13 in F sharp major
CHOPIN Prelude No. 3 in G major
CHOPIN Prelude No. 2 in A minor
CHOPIN Prelude No. 14 in E flat minor
CHOPIN Sonata Op. 35 in B flat minor

Intermission

MOMPOU Variations on a theme by Chopin
ALBENIZ La Vega
ALBENIZ from Iberia Book III, El Polo
ALBENIZ from Iberia Book III, Lavapiés

CONCERT 3 VADYM KHOLODENKO



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

After his stunning recital debut for The Vancouver Chopin Society in 2022, we immediately re-engaged him for a return appearance.

Even since his gold medal win at the 2013 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Kholodenko has been dazzling audiences the world over with his superhuman virtuosity, his profound musicality and the depth of his interpretations. His artistry and pianism have led to invitations from the world's finest orchestras and concert halls.

His recordings for Harmonia Mundi have received accolades from Gramophone magazine as well as from BBC Music Magazine. His latest release, a pairing of Beethoven's towering "Diabelli Variations" with Rzewski's "The People United Will Never be Defeated", has been met with tremendous critical acclaim. Critic Norman Lebrecht describes Kholodenko as being "in the elite of classical pianists."

An avid chamber musician, Kholodenko has formed partnerships with some of today's finest musicians, including Vadim Repin, Alena Beava, and the Belcea and Jerusalem string quartets.

If you missed Kholodenko's first appearance in Vancouver, do not miss this opportunity to experience the music-making of this incredible artist and musician.

BYRD First Pavan and Galliard
BYRD John Come and Kiss me now
SAARIAHO Ballade
BETHOVEN Sonata in G Major, Op. 31, No. 1

Intermission

CHOPIN 3 Mazurkas, Op. 56
4 Mazurkas, Op. 41
Sonata No. 3 in B minor, Op. 58

CONCERT 4 LUCAS DEBARGUE

Monday(Family Day), February 17, 2025
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse



Following the triumph of Lucas Debargue at the 2015 Tchaikovsky International Competition in Moscow, Olivier Bellamy writes, "Since Glenn Gould's visit to Moscow and Van Cliburn's victory at the Tchaikovsky Competition in the heat of the Cold War, never has a foreign artist provoked such frenzy. Indeed, Debargue's remarkable story at the Tchaikovsky Competition is the subject of a major documentary, "To Music".

Lucas Debargue is regularly invited to give solo recitals and concerto appearances with the Berlin Philharmonic, Concertgebouw Orchestra, at London's Wigmore Hall and Royal Festival Hall, Carnegie Hall, as well as concert halls in Taipei, Seoul, and of course, at the Great Hall of the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow.

A recording artist for Sony Classical, he has already recorded five albums, as well as a four-volume tribute to Scarlatti, hailed by the New York Times as one of "the ten classical albums to usher in the next decade." He also devotes a significant amount of time to composition, and has created over twenty works for piano and chamber ensembles.

In his playing, Debargue draws inspiration from literature, painting, cinema, jazz, and develops very personal interpretations of a carefully selected repertoire.

The Vancouver Chopin Society is proud to present the Vancouver appearance of this remarkable and original young artist.

Programme to be announced later.

CONCERT 5 DMITRY ABLOGIN

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025
7:30 pm, Vancouver Playhouse



Jointly presented by The Vancouver Chopin Society and Early Music Vancouver
Dimitry Ablogin is considered one of today's most brilliant and creative keyboard artists.

A graduate of the Gnessin Academy in Moscow as well as the Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts, where he studied fortepiano as well as historically-informed performances, Ablogin has won numerous prizes at prestigious international competitions, including the 1st International Chopin Competition on Period Instruments in Warsaw, the International Competition "Musica Antiqua" for Pianoforte, and the German Piano Open in Hannover.

Today, he regularly gives performances at the Chopin and His Europe Festival, as well as in Germany, Denmark, France, Italy, Spain, Poland, Finland, Russia, and Switzerland.

On his most recent album, released by the Chopin Institute in 2023, he recorded a selection of Chopin's late works on a Pleyel Fortepiano (No. 14810) which once belonged to Chopin and was his very last instrument.

A collaboration with our friends at Early Music Vancouver, Dimitry Ablogin will be performing on a beautiful Conrad Graf Fortepiano, made by master instrument builder Paul McNulty.

BEETHOVEN
MENDELSSOHN

Six Bagatelles Op. 126
Sonata No. 1 in E Major Op. 6

Intermission

FIELD
FIELD
FIELD

Nocturne No. 10 in E minor
Nocturne No. 4 in A Major
Sonata No. 5 in F-sharp minor Op. 8

CONCERT 6 DANG THAI SON AND HIS PRIZEWINNING STUDENTS



SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

An artist that needs no introduction. Dang Thai Son's last sold out appearance with us in Vancouver caused people to clamour for his return.

Referred to as "a genuine musician" by the great Isaac Stern, a young and almost completely unknown Dang Thai Son caused a stir in the musical world by walking away with the gold medal at the 10th International Chopin Competition in Warsaw.

Equally sought after as a pedagogue, Dang Thai Son's students include some of today's most distinguished young pianists. For this Vancouver visit, Dang will be performing with three of his most talented pupils, young pianists who are already seasoned performers and winners at international competitions: Canadian J. J. Jun Li Bui, 6th prize winner at the 18th International Chopin Competition in Warsaw; Taiwanese Kai-Min Chang, quarterfinalist at the 2021 International Chopin Competition; and Canadian Sophia Liu, who has already performed at the prestigious Duszynski Festival as well as Warsaw's Chopin and His Europe Festival.

Join us for this very special concert with two generations of artists, another first for The Vancouver Chopin Society!

Programme to be announced later.

CONCERT 7 AVERY GAGLIANO



SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

At the 2021 International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, we found this young artist's playing so compelling that we knew we had to bring her to Vancouver to play for you!

Avery Gagliano made her Carnegie Hall debut at age 20. She won first prize and best concerto prize at the National Chopin Piano Competition, and she was the only American semifinalist at the 2021 International Chopin Competition.

At the invitation of Sir Andras Schiff, Gagliano appeared in recitals throughout Europe in the 2022/2023 season. She has also made appearances at the Verbier Festival, Gilmore Festival, Ravinia Festival Aspen Music Festival, in Warsaw's Philharmonic Hall, and in Paris' Salle Cortot.

In the 2023/2024 season, she made concerto debuts with the Rochester Symphony and Galveston Symphony, as well as performing recitals in Luxembourg, Vienna, Evian, and Miami.

Her album, "Reflections", was released by the Steinway & Sons label in 2021.

Come and share in the Vancouver debut of this distinctive and remarkable young talent.

Programme to be announced later.

SPECIAL CONCERT CARL PETERSSON



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2024
 7:30 pm, Christ Church Cathedral
 690 Burrard Street

Pianist Carl Petersson performs throughout North America, as well as throughout Europe and Asia. In 2023, Carl made numerous trips to Europe where he gave recitals in Sweden, France, and Holland, among other countries.

A prolific recording artist for Naxos, Petersson's albums include works by Beethoven, Burgmuller, Grieg, Godowsky, Offenbach, and von Flotow. The prestigious Diapason magazine praises his "brilliant performance" of Flotow's two piano concerti and awards it five stars. For his Grieg album, Petersson combined a performance of the composer's justly famous concerto with a reimagined version by Helge Evju of the composer's unfinished concerto.

A frequent concerto soloist, he has appeared with orchestras such as the Buffalo Philharmonic, the Toronto Concert Orchestra, and the National Czech Radio Orchestra. As a highly sought-after teacher, Carl's students have gone on to win prestigious awards and scholarships.

This concert is a special presentation by The Vancouver Chopin Society.

**BEETHOVEN
 CHOPIN**

Sonata Quasi una fantasia, Op. 27, No. 2 "Moonlight"
 Prelude Op. 28 No. 2
 Prelude Op. 28 No. 15

**ROSSINI/LISZT
 GODOWSKY**

Grand valse brillante Op. 18
 Wilhelm Tell Overture
 From the "Java Suite"

Gamelan
 Borobudur in Moonlight
 Bromo Volcano at Daybreak
 The Gardens of Buitenzorg

**LISZT
 BRAHMS/CZIFFRA
 PASIECZNY**

A Court Pageant in Solo
 Hungarian Rhapsody No. 13 in A Minor
 Hungarian Dance No. 5
 Serenitatis & Lunar Lullaby
 (world premiere performance)

SINGLE TICKETS

SINGLE TICKETS FOR NON-SUBSCRIBERS ON SALE – JULY 2, 2024

	Section	A	B	C
Saturday, September 21 at 7:30 pm KEVIN CHEN Vancouver Playhouse	A S	56 44	44 36	36 28
Sunday October 27, 2024 at 3 pm MARTIN GARCIA GARCIA Vancouver Playhouse	A S	56 44	44 36	36 28
Sunday November 17, 2024 at 3 pm VADYM KHOLODENKO Vancouver Playhouse	A S	56 44	44 36	36 28
Monday February 17, 2025 at 3 pm LUCAS DEBARGUE Vancouver Playhouse	A S	56 44	44 36	36 28
Saturday March 29, 2025 at 3 pm DMITRY ABLOGIN Vancouver Playhouse	A S	56 44	44 36	36 28
Sunday April 13, 2025 at 3 pm DANG THAI SON Vancouver Playhouse	A S	56 44	44 36	36 28
Sunday May 18, 2025 at 3 pm AVERY GAGLIANO Vancouver Playhouse	A S	56 44	44 36	36 28

Saturday November 9, 2024 at 7:30 pm CARL PETERSSON - Special Concert Christ Church Cathedral, 690 Burrard Street	Tickets \$30
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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 and the support of the City of Vancouver and Consulate General of Poland in Vancouver





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