



The Vancouver
CHOPIN
SOCIETY

2025-2026 **SEASON**

MUSIC IS THE DIVINE WAY TO TELL
BEAUTIFUL, POETIC THINGS TO
THE HEART

~ Pablo Casals ~

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to The Vancouver Chopin Society's remarkable 2025 - 2026 season. Once again, we have devoted much time and effort to arrange for this stellar lineup of artists for this season.

The season kicks off in a spectacular fashion with two Canadian artists – Eric Guo, winner of the 2nd International Chopin Competition on Period Instruments in 2023, and Charles Richard-Hamelin, silver medalist of the 2015 International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, and Artistic Director of The Vancouver Chopin Society.

Japanese superstar Kyohei Sorita will make a return visit to Vancouver. You may remember the excitement of his sold-out debut recital for us in 2023. Get your tickets early!

The excitement continues in 2026 with an Orpheum concert presenting the winner of this year's International Chopin Competition in Warsaw. Who will be crowned winner of this, one of the world's most prestigious competitions, in October this year? Stay tuned!

With our friends at Early Music Vancouver, we will present Ronald Brautigam, highlighting the beautiful and intimate sound world of the forte piano.

We have also arranged for two additional concerts – the debut of Ukrainian-Canadian Dmitry Levkovich and the return of Sofya Gulyak, who last played for us in 2013. In May of 2026, there will be a concert featuring another prizewinner of the upcoming International Chopin Competition.

Finally, a concert that will surely heat up our ticketing system – a solo recital by Daniil Trifonov – his first solo recital in Vancouver since 2013.

We thank you for your continued support of our society, and we look forward to seeing you at all our concerts!

Patrick May

CONCERT 1 ERIC GUO



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

Presented with Early Music Vancouver

We begin our season with a concert by Canada's own Eric Guo, winner of the 1st prize at the Chopin Competition on Period Instruments in Warsaw 2023.

Eric's winning of the 1st prize at the Chopin Competition on Period Instruments in Warsaw 2023 and the Mazurkas Prize has led to performances at prestigious festivals such as the Dvorak Prague (Czech), Nohant's Festival Chopin (France), the Duszniaki Festival (Poland), Chopin and his Europe (Warsaw), the Bolzano Festival (Italy), Vienna's Golden July Music Festival, the Frost Chopin Festival (Miami), as well as the Paderewski Festival (Raleigh), just to name a few.

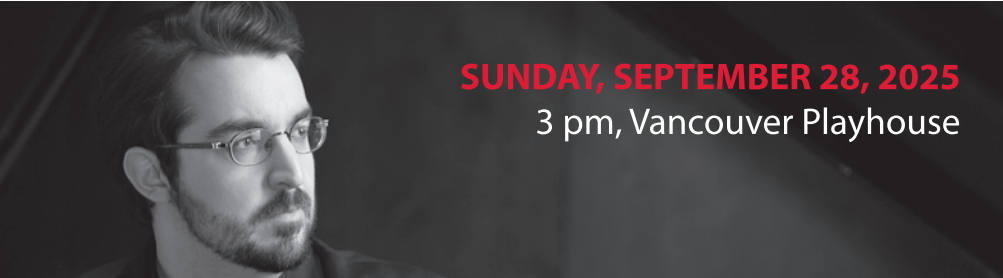
He has collaborated with prestigious orchestras, including the Royal Philharmonic, the Orkiestra, Collegium 1704, the Bach Collegium Japan, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony, among others. Eric was named CBC's 30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians Under 30, and he was recipient of the Hnatyshyn Foundation Developing Arts Grant in Piano.

CHOPIN Etude in E flat minor, Op. 10, No. 6
Mazurkas Op.17
Polonaise in F-sharp minor, Op. 44
Prelude in A Major, Op. 28 No. 7
Ballade No. 4 in F minor

Intermission

CHOPIN Sonata No. 2 in B-Flat minor, Op. 35
Prelude in E minor, Op. 28 No.4
Prelude in D Major, Op. 28, No. 5
Prelude in B Major, Op. 28 no. 11
Prelude in B flat minor Op. 28 No. 16
Prelude in E flat Major Op. 28 No. 19
Prelude in D minor Op. 28 No. 24

CONCERT 2 CHARLES RICHARD-HAMELIN



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

Charles-Richard-Hamelin, the first Canadian to win the silver medal at the 2015 International Chopin Competition will return with his fourth appearance in our series. This will be his first appearance since his appointment as our Society's Artistic Director.

Since that fateful 2015, Hamelin has gone from strength to strength, performing both concertos and recitals in major musical centres, as well as making numerous award-winning recordings.

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." His latest disc features music by Granados, Albeniz and Chopin.

Join us for what will surely be a concert you won't forget, by Canada's own poet of the piano.

RAVEL Sonatine, M. 40
I. Modéré
II. Mouvement de menuet
III. Animé

POULENC Suite Napoli, FP. 40
I. Barcarolle
II. Nocturne
III. Caprice italien

Intermission

CHOPIN Scherzo No. 1 in B minor, Op. 20
Scherzo No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 31
Scherzo No. 3 in C-sharp minor, Op. 39
Scherzo No. 4 in E Major, Op. 54

CONCERT 3 KYOHEI SORITA



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

Clamour for Kyohei Sorita's Vancouver debut recital was so high that we knew we had to arrange his return!

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.

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." Since his ravishing performances in Warsaw, Sorita has been extremely busy, performing both in his native Japan and internationally.

A conductor as well as pianist, Sorita founded the Japan National Orchestra in 2019, a 17-member chamber orchestra. A superstar in his native country, almost every single concert he gives in Japan is invariably sold out. In August of 2025, he will make his debut at the highly prestigious Salzburg Festival as both pianist and conductor in an all-Mozart programme.

BRAHMS Piano Sonata No. 3 in F minor, Op. 5

Intermission

CHOPIN Scherzo No. 1 in B minor, Op. 20
Scherzo No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 31
Scherzo No. 3 in C-sharp minor, Op. 39
Scherzo No. 4 in E Major, Op. 54

CONCERT 4

DEBUT RECITAL BY WINNER OF THE 19TH
INTERNATIONAL CHOPIN COMPETITION
IN WARSAW

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026

3 pm, The Orpheum



In October of 2025, Warsaw will once again be the piano capital of the world, as some of today's finest young pianists congregate to take part in the 19th International Chopin Piano Competition. This year, a record 642 participants from all over the world applied. In the preliminaries, to take place in April of 2025, 80 pianists will be chosen to perform in Warsaw in October.

Ever since its inception in 1927, the International Chopin Competition has launched the careers of some of today's legendary pianists – from artists like Lev Oborin, Bella Davidovich, Maurizio Pollini, Martha Argerich, and Vladimir Ashkenazy, to recent winners such as Krystian Zimerman, Rafal Blechacz, Seong-Jin Cho, and Bruce Liu.

Once again, Vancouver will be the ONLY Canadian stop of this winner's tour for this year's gold medalist. Demand for tickets for this concert will be extremely high.

Our long-time subscribers well know that we have presented in recital many of the competition's past winners and laureates.

Come and be witness to music history in the making.

2-23 October 2025 – COMPETITION IN WARSAW

- 2 October - Inaugural concert
- 3-7 October - I stage
- 9-12 October - II stage
- 14-16 October - III stage
- 18-20 October - Finals
- 21 October - First prize winner's concert
- 22 October - Second prize winner's concert
- 23 October - Third prize winner's concert

Program TBA

CONCERT 5 RONALD BRAUTIGAM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

7:30 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

Jointly presented with Early Music Vancouver



One of the leading pianists of his generation, Ronald Brautigam is one of the few to perform at the highest level on modern as well as period instruments. A student of the legendary Rudolf Serkin, he has over the years established himself as an authority on the classical and early romantic composers, with an acclaimed discography on the BIS label that includes complete cycles of works by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven, as well as recordings of solo works and concertos by Kraus, Weber and Mendelssohn.

Ronald Brautigam has performed with leading orchestras across the world – from Amsterdam's Concertgebouworkest to the Sydney Symphony Orchestra – as well as the foremost period instrument ensembles.

His recordings have earned him a number of awards including four Edisons, two Diapason d'Or de l'Année, and two MIDEM Classical Awards, for best solo piano and best concerto recording respectively.

His editorial work includes a reconstruction of the orchestra score of Beethoven's piano concerto WoO4 from 1784, as well as an edition of the 5 piano concertos by Johann Wilhelm Wilms, published by Ries & Erler in Berlin.

Come and experience the unique and beautiful sound world of the forte piano, presented by one of its most outstanding exponents.

BEETHOVEN Sonata C minor, Op. 13 (Pathétique)
Sonata C Major, Op. 53 (Waldstein)

Intermission

SCHUBERT Impromptu Op. 142, D935

CONCERT 6 DMITRY LEVKOVICH



SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

Ukrainian-born Canadian pianist and composer Dmitri Levkovich's performances were praised for "artistic sophistication far above the ordinary" (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung). Dmitri honed his skills on the piano under the guidance of Sergei Babayan for 11 years and in composition at the Curtis Institute of Music. He is the winner of more than 20 international piano competitions, including the Cleveland, German Piano Award, Gina Bachauer, Jose Iturbi and the Vendôme Prize. Dmitri has earned numerous 'audience favorite' awards and special prizes, notably for best performance of the works of Chopin. The Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra has performed his "Fantasie" for piano and orchestra, and his Piano Trio was performed at the prestigious Verbier Festival in Switzerland.

Do not miss this Vancouver debut of an artist who, in the words of legendary pianist and pedagogue Sergei Babayan, possesses "musical ability...as powerful and spontaneous as a force of nature."

- CHOPIN** Barcarolle, Op. 60 in F sharp Major
Etude Op.10, No.4 in C sharp minor
Etude Op.10, No.5 in G flat Major "Black Keys"
Etude Op. 10 No. 3 in E Major "Tristesse"
Etude Op. 10 No. 12 in C minor "Revolutionary"
- MOZART** Sonata No.10 in C Major, K.330 (Vienna/Salzburg, 1783)
Allegro Moderato
Andante Cantabile
Allegretto

Intermission

- RACHMANINOFF** Prelude Op. 32, No.12 in G sharp minor
Prelude Op. 23, No. 5 in G minor
Prelude Op. 32, No. 5 in G Major
Etude Op. 39, No. 5 in E flat minor
Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 13
Grave – Allegro di molto e con brio
Adagio cantabile
Rondo: Allegro
- BEETHOVEN**

CONCERT 7 DANIIL TRIFONOV



SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026
3 pm, The Orpheum

Since Trifonov's last recital under our auspices in April of 2013 we have been working very hard for more than a decade to bring him back another performance. A classical musician with nearly rock star status, he is one of today's most in-demand pianists.

Grammy Award-winning pianist Daniil Trifonov has made a spectacular ascent of the classical music world, as solo artist, champion of the concerto repertoire, chamber and vocal collaborator, and composer. Combining consummate technique with rare sensitivity and depth, his performances are a perpetual source of awe. "He has everything and more, ... tenderness and also the demonic element. I never heard anything like that," marveled pianist Martha Argerich. With Transcendental, the Liszt collection that marked his third title as an exclusive Deutsche Grammophon artist, Trifonov won the Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Solo Album of 2018. Named Gramophone's 2016 Artist of the Year and Musical America's 2019 Artist of the Year, he was made a "Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" by the French government in 2021. As The Times of London notes, he is "without question the most astounding pianist of our age."

It was during the 2010-11 season that Trifonov won medals at three of the music world's most prestigious competitions, taking Third Prize in Warsaw's Chopin Competition, First Prize in Tel Aviv's Rubinstein Competition, and both First Prize and Grand Prix – an additional honor bestowed on the best overall competitor in any category – in Moscow's Tchaikovsky Competition.

Need we say more about this young legend? Get your tickets now!

- HANDEL** Suite No. 7 in G minor, HWV 432
BRAHMS Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel, Op. 24

Intermission

- SCHUMANN** Davidsbündlertänze, Op. 6
BRAHMS Variations on a Theme by Robert Schumann, Op. 9

CONCERT 8 SOFYA GULYAK

CONCERT 9



SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

In September 2009 Sofya Gulyak was awarded 1st prize and the Princess Mary Gold Medal at the Sixteenth Leeds International Piano Competition – the first woman in the history of the competition to achieve this distinction.

Since then she has appeared all over the world to great acclaim. Her recital programs are frequently reviewed in superlatives, and her concerto appearances with major orchestras are noted in glowing terms by the world's music press. Sofya has been praised for her "tremendous precision and coloration...exquisite soft playing ...with delicacy" and described as a "Rach star"(Washington Post).

In recent years, she has been a professor of piano at the Royal College of Music in London. In 2023 she was appointed associate professor at the Jacobs school of Music at Indiana University. A prolific recording artist, her performances on disc have received ecstatic reviews from some of today's major critics. Her recording of Brahms's Handel Variations led one writer to compare her favourably with the young Martha Argerich, and another critic who considered her performance superior to that of Murray Perahia.

Do join us for this, Sofya Gulyak's long overdue return to Vancouver, her first concert here since 2013!

BACH-BUSONI Chaconne
FRANK Prelude, Fugue and Variation
BACH-BUSONI Choral Prelude "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland"
BWV659
BACH-BUSONI Toccata e Fugue in D minor BW565

Intermission

CHOPIN Prelude in C sharp minor Op. 45
CHOPIN Rondo a la Mazur Op. 5
CHOPIN - LISZT From 6 Polish songs:
Meine Freuden
Madchen Wunsch
LISZT Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 (with my cadenza)

**RECITAL BY PRIZE WINNER OF THE 19TH
INTERNATIONAL CHOPIN COMPETITION
IN WARSAW**

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

Ever since its inception in 1927, many of today's legendary figures in music have first made their mark at Warsaw's International Chopin Competition. Quite often, the most interesting artists can be found among the runners up of the competition.

Mitsuko Uchida, silver medalist of the 1970 competition, is now considered one of today's greatest artists. Fou Ts'ong, who won the bronze medal as well as the Mazurka prize, also went on to become an artist respected by both audience members as well as his peers. Ingrid Fliter, silver medalist of the 2000 competition, enjoys a busy performing career, and is considered one of today's most distinguished Chopin interpreters.

In previous years, we have presented both memorable and exciting performances by some of these laureates of the Chopin Competition, names such as Eric Lu, Kate Liu, Martin Garcia Garcia, Dina Yoffe, and Krzysztof Jablonski, the list goes on.

From the 19th International Chopin Competition, to be held in October of 2025, we will keep our ears open to find an artist of promise, to be presented in a solo recital debut under our auspices.

Who will this special artist be? We promise that you will be the first to know!

Program TBA



SINGLE TICKETS

SINGLE TICKETS FOR NON-SUBSCRIBERS ON SALE – JUNE 3, 2025

	Section	A	B	C	D
Sunday September 14, 2025 at 3 pm ERIC GUO Vancouver Playhouse	ADULT S	64 52	52 42	42 34	
Sunday September 28, 2025 at 3 pm CHARLES RICHARD-HAMELIN Vancouver Playhouse	ADULT S	64 52	52 42	42 34	
Sunday November 9, 2025 at 3 pm KYOHEI SORITA Vancouver Playhouse	ADULT S	64 52	52 42	42 34	
Mon (Family Day) Feb 16, 2026 at 3 pm WINNER OF THE 19TH CHOPIN COMPETITION The Orpheum	ADULT S	92 74	74 60	60 48	48 38
Saturday February 28, 2026 at 7:30 pm RONALD BRAUTIGAM* Vancouver Playhouse	ADULT S	88	64	42	
Sunday March 22, 2026 at 3 pm DMITRY LEVKOVICH Vancouver Playhouse	ADULT S	64 52	52 42	42 34	
Sunday April 19, 2026 at 3 pm DANIIL TRIFONOV The Orpheum	ADULT S	136 108	108 86	86 70	70 56
Sunday April 26, 2026 at 3 pm SOFYA GULYAK Vancouver Playhouse	ADULT S	64 52	52 42	42 34	
Sunday May 24, 2026 at 3 pm PRIZE WINNER OF THE 19TH CHOPIN COMPETITION Vancouver Playhouse	ADULT S	64 52	52 42	42 34	

*Tickets for Brautigam's concert can be purchased only through Early Music Vancouver

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

Youth (Grades 1 to 12) - \$18 All concerts except Trifonov (\$30)

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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in Vancouver



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