



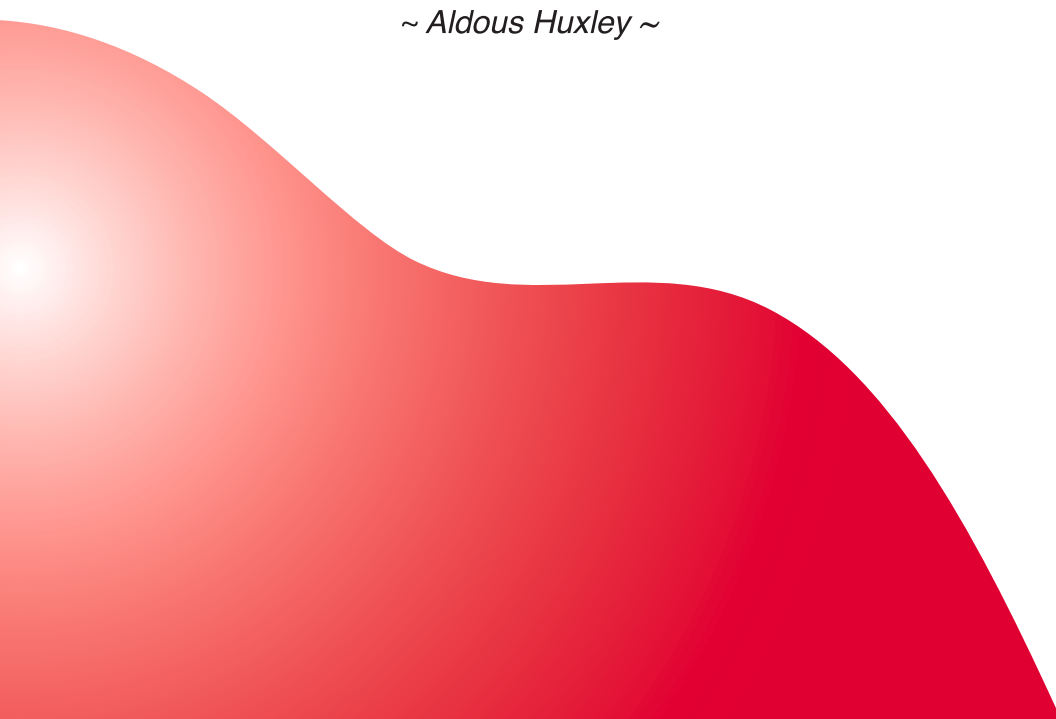
The Vancouver
CHOPIN
SOCIETY

2026-2027 **SEASON**

AFTER SILENCE, THAT WHICH COMES NEAREST
TO EXPRESSING THE INEXPRESSIBLE IS

MUSIC

~ Aldous Huxley ~



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Welcome to The Vancouver Chopin Society's exciting 2026-2027 season. We have curated a series that includes names familiar to you, as well as artists playing in Vancouver for the very first time.

As we are still basking in the pride we felt when, for the third time in a row, a Canadian artist came home with a major prize at the International Chopin Competition in Warsaw. Pianist **Kevin Chen**, silver medalist from the 19th edition of the competition, will make a welcome return to the Playhouse. We have also invited **David Khrikuli**, a finalist at the competition who won countless fans with his stunning playing, as well as 4th prize winner, 17-year-old **Tianyao Lyu**, who wowed the Warsaw audience with her stunning talent. Also making their Vancouver debuts will be pianists **Saskia Giorgini** and **Aimi Kobayashi**.

Last season, **Daniil Trifonov** had to cancel his appearance because of illness. We are pleased that we successfully secured a new date for his Vancouver recital, which will be held at the beautiful and acoustically resplendent Chan Centre for the Performing Arts.

Returning to Vancouver will be fan favourites **Zlata Chochieva**, **Federico Colli** and **Alexander Gavrylyuk** – musicians who have new ideas and interpretation to offer with every concert they give.

We hope you are as excited – and proud - as we are about our upcoming season. We are mindful that Vancouver has many wonderful cultural events to offer, and we do appreciate your support by attending our concerts. We look forward to seeing all of you at the recitals in the new season.

Patrick May

CONCERT 1 KEVIN CHEN

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse



We begin our season with a concert by Canada's very own Kevin Chen, silver medalist at the 19th International Chopin Competition in Warsaw. His decision to perform the complete set of Chopin's Etudes, Op. 10 drew wide attention and praise, with Polish critics calling his interpretation "a complete musical story, not a show of virtuosity."

Following his highly successful 2024 debut in our series, we immediately re-engaged Kevin for this return appearance, and we were understandably ecstatic over his triumph in Warsaw last year. In addition, Kevin is also 1st prize winner of the Artur Schnabel International Piano Master Competition (2023), the Concours de Genève (2022), the Franz Liszt International Piano Competition (2021), and the Hilton Head International Piano Competition (2020) - a very accomplished young musician indeed.

Chen has collaborated with many prestigious orchestras and conductors, and has been a favourite guest artist in some of the most distinguished music festivals internationally.

Please join us in welcoming back this stunningly talented young Canadian artist, and one of the nicest young men we have met!

CHOPIN 24 Préludes, Op. 28

Intermission

SCRIABIN Prélude in B Major, Op. 11, No. 11

SCRIABIN Fantasy, Op. 28

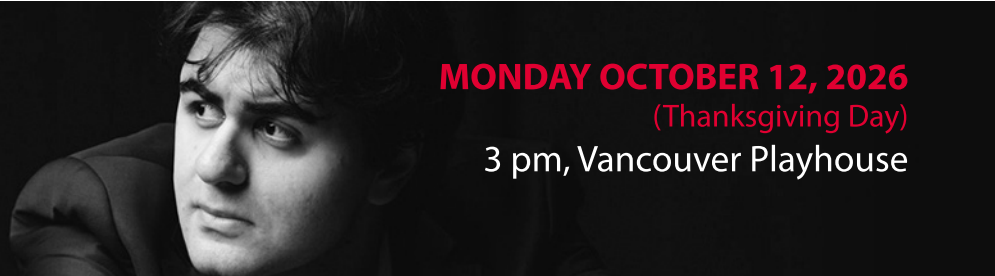
Vers la flamme, Op. 72

LISZT Années de pèlerinage III, Les Jeux d'eaux à la Villa d'Este, S. 163 No. 4

LISZT Les préludes (Symphonic poem), S. 97 (solo piano transcription arranged by Kevin Chen)

CONCERT 2 DAVID KHRIKULI

MONDAY OCTOBER 12, 2026
(Thanksgiving Day)
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse



At the 19th International Chopin Competition in Warsaw in 2025, we were so moved and stunned by David Khrikuli's performance that we immediately engaged him for his Vancouver debut even before his performance in the final round. Indeed, his performances in Warsaw won him fans around the world.

After one of his performances, pianist Gabriela Montero wrote, "What a beautiful poet. His voicing, line and shifting from dark to light in Chopin's kaleidoscopic emotional world is deeply touching and captivating. Listen if you can."

Before his appearance at the Chopin Competition, Khrikuli won first prize in the Cantù International Piano Orchestra Competition in Italy and the Audience Prize in the Vigo International Piano Competition in Spain. He has also won major prizes in international competitions in Georgia, Russia, the Netherlands, as well as Denmark, and has appeared as concerto soloist with distinguished orchestras internationally.

Judging from the reaction from the audience to his performances in Warsaw in 2025, we know that his Vancouver concert will be eagerly awaited by his many adoring fans.

BRAHMS 4 Klavierstücke, Op. 119
SCHUMANN Kreisleriana, Op. 16

Intermission

CHOPIN Ballade No. 2 in F Major, Op. 38
4 Mazurkas Op.17
Sonata No. 3 in B minor, Op. 58

CONCERT 3 SASKIA GIORGINI

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2026
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse



Charles Richard-Hamelin, our distinguished Artistic Director, introduced us to the playing of this incredibly talented young Italian pianist. Indeed, both her performances and recordings have been lauded by audiences and critics alike.

Winner of the International Mozart Competition in Salzburg (2016), she appears regularly in recital and broadcast at venues such as the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Wigmore Hall London, the Musikverein and Konzerthaus Vienna, Salzburg's Mozarteum, and the Warsaw Philharmonic, to name just a few, and has appeared with distinguished orchestras and conductors.

A review of one of her recording of Liszt states, "With an incredible feeling for structure she stretches big arches from one piece to the other; she understands the art of making the sounds become liquid, and lets the magic float weightlessly around the room."

Giorgini is also a dedicated chamber musician as well as an active recording artist with an extensive discography of solo and chamber music. Her Vancouver recital will include the familiar music of Chopin and Debussy, as well as music of two major women composers, Mélanie Bonis and Lili Boulanger.

CHOPIN 3 Valses, Op. 34
3 Mazurkas, Op. 56
Polonaise-Fantaisie, Op. 61

Intermission

MÉLANIE BONIS Ophélie, Op. 165
Mélisande, Op. 109
LILI BOULANGER Trois Morceaux pour piano
ENESCU Pavane Op.10
DEBUSSY Danse L.69
L'isle joyeuse L'106

CONCERT 4 AIMI KOBAYASHI

Sunday, January 17, 2027
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse



A child prodigy who started piano lessons at age 3, and made her concerto debut at age 8, Aimi Kobayashi won 4th prize at the 18th International Chopin Competition. To this date, we remember her stunning performance of the 24 Preludes in the 3rd round of the competition. Before her triumph in Warsaw, Kobayashi had won prizes in many international competitions, including the Gina Bachauer Young Artist Competition. In 2011, she made her acting debut in the Japanese film "Sleep."

She gave her first Carnegie Hall recital for the Japan NYC Festival, of which the late Seiji Ozawa was director, and she has appeared with distinguished orchestras both within Japan and internationally. An immensely popular musician in Japan, she performs regularly as recitalist as well as concerto soloist. She has also performed with orchestras such as the Orchestra of the 18th Century, the Moscow Virtuosi, the Japan Philharmonic, the New Japan Philharmonic, the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, and the Münchner Philharmoniker.

An active recording artist, she has recorded works by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin and Liszt. In 2024, she recorded her latest CD, music of Schubert, for Warner Classics.

BEETHOVEN Bagatelles Op. 126
CHOPIN Nocturne in F Major, Op. 15, No. 1
Mazurka in F minor, Op. 68, No. 4
Ballade No. 1 in G minor, Op. 23

Intermission

SCHUBERT Piano Sonata in A Major, D. 959

CONCERT 5 ZLATA CHOCHIEVA

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2027
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse



Many wonderful things have happened to pianist Zlata Chochieva since her last Vancouver appearance. She performed a sold-out recital in New York's Carnegie Hall, her album of piano concerti by Rimsky-Korsakov, Prokofiev and Alexander Tsfasman with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra received rave reviews from major critics, and she was appointed Professor of Piano at the Bern University of the Arts. Congratulations Zlata!

Her piano playing has earned her favourable comparison with legendary figures such as Rachmaninoff, Martha Argerich, and Mikhail Pletnev, her teacher and mentor.

Chochieva records exclusively for Naïve Records, and all her albums have been both critical as well as popular successes.

Since her first stage appearance at age 4, she has performed at distinguished international venues such as the Philharmonie de Paris, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Teatro La Fenice in Venice, and Taiwan's National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts, to name only a few.

We warmly welcome back this distinguished artist and look forward to her performance at the Playhouse.

BEETHOVEN Sonata No. 23, Op. 57 in F minor "Appassionata"
COWELL "Aeolian Harp"
RAVEL Gaspard de la nuit

Intermission

SAINT SEANS Prelude and Fugue in F minor Op. 52, No. 3
BRAHMS Sonata No. 3 in F minor

CONCERT 6 DANIIL TRIFONOV



FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2027
7:30 pm, Chan Centre

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 for 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."

HANDEL Suite in E Major
STRAVINSKY Piano Sonata (1924)
SCHUBERT Fantasie in C Major, D.760, "Wanderer-Fantasie"

Intermission

GARCIA Sambumbia (Rapsodia Dominicana)
VILLA-LOBOS Valsa da Dor, W. 316
LANDESTOY El Vals de Santo Domingo
GINASTERA Milonga, Op. 2, No. 1
TRIFONOV Tango
LANDESTOY Estudio en Zamba
GUARNIERI Dança Negra
VILLA-LOBOS Bachianas Brasileiras No. 4

CONCERT 7 TIANYAO LYU



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2027
7:30 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

Since her appearance at the 19th International Chopin Competition in Warsaw at age 16, we have received numerous requests to invite Tianyao Lyu to perform with us. Well, we extended an invitation to her, and she enthusiastically accepted.

A rising-star of her generation, Lyu is known for her vivid musical imagination, natural command of the piano, and charismatic stage presence. Her performance in Warsaw wowed the audience and won her many fans, and won her 4th prize at this very distinguished competition.

After her performance in Warsaw, the distinguished Polish pianist Piotr Paleczny effusively praised the young musician's artistry and musical sensitivity.

Even at such a young age, Tianyao has already been soloist with major orchestras, and has performed in concert halls throughout Asia, Europe, and the United States.

Do join us in welcoming this very talented and gracious young artist to our stage.

CHOPIN Nocturnes, Op. 37 in G minor, No.1 / in G Major, No. 2
Mazurkas, Op. 41
Waltzes, Op. 64 No.1 in D-flat Major / No. 2 in C-sharp minor /
No. 3 in A-flat Major
Scherzo No. 4 in E Major Op. 54

Intermission

CHOPIN Prelude in D-flat Major, Op. 28, No.15 ("Raindrop")
Ballade No. 2 in F Major, Op. 38
Polonaise-Fantaisie in A-flat Major, Op. 61
Variations in B-flat Major on "La ci darem la mano", Op. 2

CONCERT 8 FEDERICO COLLI

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2027

3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

Presented with Vancouver Recital Society



Since his debut on our series in 2021, Federico Colli has been much in demand as concerto soloist, chamber musician, recitalist, and recording artist.

In January of 2026, he made his debut at Napoli's Teatro di San Carlo, and in March of 2025, he made a highly anticipated debut at Milan's legendary La Scala, both times with the Schumann Concerto.

An exclusive recording artist for Chandos Records, his album of Scarlatti Sonatas won Presto Classical's "Recording of the Year" (2018). An ardent interpreter of the works of Mozart, his discography includes two albums of this composer's solo piano works, as well as an album of the piano quartets. Of his recording of Bach/Busoni's Chaconne, one reviewer writes, "Colli's performance is characteristically thoughtful and considered, yet has a self-aware sense of the epic about it."

One of the most original musical thinkers of his generation, Colli brings something new to every performance he gives. We eagerly await his return to Vancouver, and we are excited by his appearance both as a recitalist in our series, and as a chamber musician with the Vancouver Recital Society.

SCARLATTI

7 Sonatas
K19 in F minor
K439 in D major
K9 in D minor
K431 in G major
K35 in G minor
K90 in C major
K39 in A major
Pour le piano

DEBUSSY

Intermission

SCHUBERT MOZART

Sonata in A Major, Op. 120
Sonata K. 331 (manuscript edition)

CONCERT 9 ALEXANDER GAVRYLYUK

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2027

3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse



In 2014, Alexander Gavrylyuk stunned Vancouver audiences by performing all four Rachmaninoff's piano concerti and the Paganini Rhapsody with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. As a recitalist, many of us will remember his stunning rendition of Rachmaninoff's Sonata No. 2 at his last appearance at the Playhouse.

Born in Ukraine and currently residing in Australia, Gavrylyuk was recipient of the Gold Medal at the Horowitz International Piano Competition (1999), First Prize at the Hamamatsu International Piano Competition (2000), and Gold Medal at the Artur Rubinstein International Piano Masters Competition (2005).

As a recitalist, he has performed in some of the most prestigious venues, including the Musikverein in Vienna, Wigmore Hall, and the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory.

Join us for this exciting final concert of our 2026-2027 season!

MOZART CHOPIN LISZT

Piano Sonata in C Major, No. 10, K. 330
Fantasie in F minor, Op. 49
Venezia e Napoli: Tarantella

Intermission

TCHAIKOVSKY

Children's Album, Op. 39
I. Prière du matin from Album pour enfants Op. 39
IV. Maman from Album pour enfants Op. 39
V. Marche des soldats de bois from Album pour enfants Op. 39
VI. La poupée malade from Album pour enfants Op. 39
VII. Enterrement de la poupée from Album pour enfants Op. 39
VIII. Valse from Album pour enfants Op. 39
X. Mazurka from Album pour enfants Op. 39
XXI. Douce rêverie from Album pour enfants Op. 39
XXIV. A l'église from Album pour enfants Op. 39
Piano Sonata No. 7 in B Major "Stalingrad"

PROKOFIEV

SINGLE TICKETS

SINGLE TICKETS FOR NON-SUBSCRIBERS ON SALE – JUNE 2, 2026

	Section	A	B	C	D
Sunday September 20, 2026 at 3 pm KEVIN CHEN Vancouver Playhouse	ADULT S	68 56	56 44	44 36	
Monday, October 12, 2026 at 3 pm DAVID KHRIKULI Vancouver Playhouse	ADULT S	68 56	56 44	44 36	
Sunday November 22, 2026 at 3 pm SASKIA GIORGINI Vancouver Playhouse	ADULT S	68 56	56 44	44 36	
Sunday January 17, 2027 at 3 pm AIMI KOBYAASHI Vancouver Playhouse	ADULT S	68 56	56 44	44 36	
Sunday February 14, 2027 at 3 pm ZLATA CHOCHIEVA Vancouver Playhouse	ADULT S	68 56	56 44	44 36	
Friday March 12, 2027 at 7:30 pm DANIIL TRIFONOV Chan Centre	ADULT S	108 88	88 72	72 56	56 45
Wednesday April 7, 2027 at 7:30 pm TIANYAO LYU Vancouver Playhouse	ADULT S	68 56	56 44	44 36	
Sunday May 2, 2027 at 3 pm FEDERICO COLLI Vancouver Playhouse	ADULT S	68 56	56 44	44 36	
Sunday May 16, 2027 at 3 pm ALEXANDER GAVRYLYUK Vancouver Playhouse	ADULT S	68 56	56 44	44 36	

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, the City of Vancouver, and the Consulate General of Poland in Vancouver.



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