

Welcome

2024-25 SEASON

NOON AT MET

FREE THURSDAY CONCERTS



FEBRUARY

6 | 13 | 20 | 27



ST. STANISLAV YOUTH CHOIR

Damijan Mocnik, conductor

Thursday, February 6 at 12:00 p.m.

Adoro te devote	Gregorian chant, arr. Damijan Močnik, b.1967
Heroes pugnate viri fortissimi "Heroes fight the strongest men"	Jacobus Handl Gallus, 1550–1591
The Lord will cover you with His wings	France Kimovec, 1878–1964
The Moon is Shining <i>France Prešeren</i>	Jurij Fleišman, 1818–1874, arr. Emil Adamič, 1877–1936
A Song about the mountains	Anton Foerster, 1837–1926, arr. Slavko Mihelčič, 1912–2000
Mount Triglav <i>Matija Zemljič - Slavin</i>	Jakob Aljaž, 1845–1927, arr. Janez Močnik, 1936–2016
What Shall I ask you? <i>Anton Aškerc</i>	Radovan Gobec, 1909–1995
Cuckoo Bird	Slovenian folk song, arr. Vasilij Mirk, 1884–1962
Small Boat	Slovenian folk song, arr. France Marolt, 1891–1951
My little guardian angel	Slovenian folk song, arr. Damijan Močnik
Oculi omnium	Charles Wood, 1866–1926
Cantate Gloria	Alan Bullard, b. 1947
Be like the bird <i>Victor Hugo</i>	Abbie Bettinis, b. 1980
My Soul's been anchored in the Lord	Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan, 1957–2003
Raindrops keep fallin' on my head	Burt Bacharach, 1928–2023, arr. Anna Cederberg-Orreteg, b. 1958

The **St. Stanislav Youth Choir** of the Diocesan Classical Gymnasium is one of the six high school choirs in St. Stanislav's Institution in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Music underpins the school curriculum. There are 600 students, half of whom participate in choral singing. The choir performs a diverse repertoire, from Gregorian chant to various styles of 20th century music. The group impresses with its colourful sound, relaxed performance, youthful energy and convincing interpretations. Under the leadership of conductor and composer Damijan Močnik, concerts are moments of surprising improvisation on various themes from folk music to Gregorian chant. The St. Stanislav Youth Choir of DCS has received many awards and prizes at youth choral competitions in Slovenia and at international choral festivals, including gold medals and awards for the best choir of the competition. This choir also regularly performs larger vocal-instrumental works and collaborates with professional institutions.

Special awards and achievements:

2009 4th place at the esteemed choral competition in Marktoberdorf (Germany);

2011 participation in the monumental performance of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 8, in which over a thousand musicians performed under the baton of Valerij Gergijev;

2013 winner of the 30th International Youth Choral Festival in Celje (Slovenia);

2014 International Choral Kathaumixw, won the title "Choir of the World" at Kathaumixw Award (Powell River, Canada) as well as the 1st prize for Folk & Cultural Traditions;

2016 winner of the gold medal and three special awards for the best youth mixed choir, the most creative programme and the most convincing performance of a contemporary music at the 25th National Competition on choral singing in Zagorje (Slovenia);

2017 concert tour to Lodz and Warsaw (Poland), Tallinn (Estonia), Seinajöki and Helsinki (Finland);

2018 concert tour to Krakow (Poland) and Trenčín (Slovakia).

In 2021 the choir was invited to participate as a demonstration choir in different workshops with renowned conductors at the European choral convention Europa Cantat, which was live broadcast via EC Festival TV.

Damijan Močnik graduated from Ljubljana Academy of Music in composition and furthered his skills abroad, especially in conducting (with Eric Ericson). Since 1993 he has been an artistic leader of music activities at St. Stanislav's Institution in Ljubljana. He founded and leads a choral organization which remains an important factor of Slovenian and European choral life. He has received numerous awards at international competitions with his choirs. He is in demand as a clinician at choral events and symposiums, and as a juror of choral competitions at home and abroad. Since 2021 he has been a professor of analysis and compositional techniques at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana. His artistic and educational activities have been awarded with highest honours in Slovenia. Močnik's compositional activity is devoted to choral music, a cappella and vocal-instrumental. He is a winner of numerous Slovenian and international composition competitions. As composer-conductor, he toured Europe, Taiwan and the USA, where he performed his compositions with university choirs and lectured at the University of Washington (Seattle), Seattle Pacific University and University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Močnik is currently among the most performed contemporary Slovenian composers abroad. His pieces are regularly performed by professional and the best amateur choirs worldwide. Močnik's music has been recorded on numerous CDs, including four under his own leadership.

DAVID BAIK, VIOLIN
BENJAMIN SMITH, PIANO

Thursday, February 13 at 12:00 p.m.

Sonata No. 1

Johannes Brahms, 1833-1897

1. *Vivace ma non troppo*
2. *Adagio*
3. *Allegro molto moderato*

Faust Fantasy

Henryk Wieniawski, 1835-1880

Featured on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's (CBC) "30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians Under 30", South Korean-born violinist **David Baik** is noted for his powerful yet sincere sound. Baik is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2023 Peter-Mendell Award from the Jeunesses Musicales Canada Foundation, Grand Prize at the 2021 NAC Bursary Competition, consecutive First Prizes at the 2016 and 2017 Canadian Music Competition, Sturdevant Prize, Gerhard Kander Graduating Award, Dorothy Richard Starling Foundation Fellowship, and the Gabriella Dory Prize. Most recently, Baik was named a winner of the 2023 Canada Council Musical Instrument Bank competition.

An avid chamber musician, Baik has engaged in notable collaborations with esteemed artists such as Camden Shaw, Charles Richard Hamelin, Jennifer Koh, Andrew Wan, Desmond Hoebig, Jonathan Crow, and Philip Chiu. Additionally, his string quartet, the Stelios Quartet, has garnered acclaim, earning multiple awards, including the 2024 Schiermonnikoog Festival Audience Award and the Grand Prize at the 2023 McGill Chamber Music Competition.

David Baik performs on the 1871 Jean Baptiste Vuillaume violin, generously on loan from the Canada Council for the Arts.

Described as having "scintillating technique" (Barrie Examiner), pianist **Benjamin Smith** has performed both as soloist and chamber musician across Canada and the United States. He has been a laureate of numerous competitions, including the Dublin International Piano Competition, the Virginia Waring International Piano Competition, and the CMC Stepping Stone Competition. Guest appearances include the Stony Brook Symphony Orchestra, the New Juilliard Ensemble, the Las Vegas Young Artists Orchestra, the Ontario Philharmonic, Orchestra London, the Burlington Symphony, the Windsor Symphony, and the University of Toronto's Hart House Orchestra. As soloist, he has performed under esteemed conductors Rossen Milanov, Marco Parisotto, and Yunior Lopez, with concertos including rarities such as the

Schoenberg Piano Concerto. Summer festival performances include repeat appearances at Toronto, Stratford, Niagara, Port Milford, and New Park (Ithaca, NY). American performances include recitals for the Texas Chopin Society and Chicago's Landowska Harpsichord Society. Recent seasons have seen two concerts in Carnegie Hall: once as soloist in Gershwin's Rhapsody In Blue with the Hart House Orchestra, and previously in recital with Canadian cellist Dongkyun An. A disc with Mr. An of Saint-Saens, Schumann, and Beethoven was released in December 2016. Other commercial recordings available include a disc of Canadian chamber music (Aboriginal Inspirations, 2017) and extensive recordings for the 2022 Royal Conservatory Celebration piano series.

Devoting considerable time to chamber music, Ben has been heard nationally across Canada on CBC Music, as well as radio broadcasts in the UK. He has partnered in recital with a myriad of renowned artists including Martin Beaver, Timothy Chooi, Colin Carr, Narek Hakhnazaryan, Jacques Israelievitch, Jinjoo Cho, Stanislav Pronin, Gábor Tarkövi, Øystein Baadsvik, and William VerMeulen, as well as with ensembles such as the Penderecki, Cecilia, Annex, and Tokai string quartets. For two seasons he performed as one-third of the Israelievitch-Smith-Ahn piano trio. Involved with music of our time as well, he is regularly found playing keyboards with the Esprit Orchestra in Toronto, and has worked with composers John Corigliano, Reinaldo Moya, and Chandler Carter.

Increasingly in demand as a teacher, Ben has been active as an adjudicator and juror for festivals and competitions for many years, and has adjudicated many of the largest music festivals in Canada. His students have had success in this realm as well, including the CFMTA National festival. He has also served on panels for competitions internationally, most recently for the OPUS competition in the US.

Dr. Smith currently resides in Toronto, maintaining a concert schedule and serving on the faculties of both the Glenn Gould School (GGS) and the Taylor Young Artist Academy at the Royal Conservatory. Previously, he held a position on the piano faculty at Western University. His principal teachers included Andrea Battista, James Anagnoson, Julian Martin, and Christina Dahl. Along with a DMA from Stony Brook University, he holds a Bachelors degree from the University of Toronto, an Artist Diploma from the GGS, and a Masters from Juilliard.

JONATHAN OLDENGARM, ORGAN

Thursday, February 20 at 12:00 p.m.

*Celebrating 100 years of the Toronto Centre, Royal Canadian College of Organists,
and featuring works by four members of the founding Executive Council.*

Concert Overture in C minor <i>Director of Music at Metropolitan Methodist (later United) Church, 1917-1943</i>	Herbert Austin Fricker, 1868-1943
Passacaglia in G minor	Ernest MacMillan, 1893-1973
Excerpts from <i>In a Great Cathedral</i> <i>A Stained Glass Window at Sunset</i> <i>In a Quiet Chapel</i>	Thomas J. Crawford, 1877-1955
Minuet and Trio	Albert Ham, 1858-1940
Prelude and Fugue in C minor	Healey Willan, 1880-1968

Hailed for his “unalloyed musicality”, organist, harpsichordist, conductor, chamber musician and arranger **Jonathan Oldengarm** loves to colour outside the lines. Passionate about repertoire from the 16th to 21st centuries, he is equally at home as a soloist and ensemble player. His recording credits include discs on the ATMA Classique, Klanglogo and Analekta labels with Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal; saxophonist Claudia Tesorino; the Ottawa Bach Choir (Lisette Canton, director); the A&P Choir (Jean-Sébastien Vallée, conductor); and Buzz Brass. Recent performance collaborations include Hammer Baroque, the 2023 and 2025 RCCO National Conventions, KW Symphony Brass Quintet, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Trinity Bach Project, the Elora Festival, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, Gallery Players, North Winds Concerts and Cappella Intima. Jonathan is Minister of Music and Organist at Toronto’s Metropolitan United Church, home to multiple ensembles, two concert series, and a treasury of instruments that include Canada’s largest pipe organ and Canada’s oldest tuned carillon. He holds degrees in organ and harpsichord performance from Wilfrid Laurier and McGill Universities; the Fellowship diploma of the Royal Canadian College of Organists; and studied at the Hochschule für Musik in Stuttgart, Germany. From 2008 until 2022 he taught organ, harpsichord, keyboard skills, and liturgical improvisation at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University, while serving as Director of Music and Organist at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal. He has recently joined the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Music as Instructor of Harpsichord.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO CHAMBER MUSICIANS

Thursday, February 27 at 12:00 p.m.

Scott Jolicoeur, guitar - Katie Kirkpatrick, flute

Oboe Sonata in A Minor

Georg Phillip Telemann, 1681-1767

1. *Siciliana*
2. *Spiritoso*
3. *Andante*
4. *Vivace*

Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5

Heitor Villa Lobos, 1887-1959

Intermezzi, nos. 1 & 3

Jeff Smallman

Sonatina, op. 205

Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, 1895-1968

2. *Tempo di Siciliana*
1. *Allegretto Grazioso*

James Baker, guitar - Eleanor Song, flute

L'Aube Enchantée sur la Raga «TODI»

Ravi Shankar, 1920-2012

Histoire du Tango

Astor Piazzolla, 1921-1992

1. Bordel 1900
2. Café 1930

NOON AT MET - MARCH 2025

Mar. 6: Matthew Hakkarainen, Violin - Mar. 13: U of T pianists Mar. 20: Alexander Jacob, piano

March 27: Opera Hits with Holly Chaplin, Amy Moodie & Austin Laurisson

UPCOMING IN MUSIC AT METROPOLITAN

Friday, February 7 at 7:30 p.m. Vice and Virtue. The Gallery Players, North Wind Concerts and Music at Met team up to present Rossi's 1650 mini-opera *Giuseppe*, the story of Joseph and the coat of many colours. Tickets are pay-what-you-can (\$35/20 suggested), at the door or <https://bemusednetwork.com/events/detail/1041>.

Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 3:00 pm. Diapente in Concert. Formed in 2022 in Toronto, the Diapente Renaissance Vocal Quintet specializes in the beautiful, wonderful, rare and unique vocal music of the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries. Sponsored by the Norquay Fund of Metropolitan United Church. Tax-deductible donations to the fund are much appreciated.

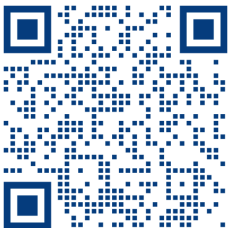
Good Friday, April 18, 2025 at 7:30 pm. Brahms' Requiem. The Met Festival Choir and Chamber Orchestra, with soprano Noelle Slaney and baritone Parker Clements and under the direction of Jonathan Oldengarm, present Johannes Brahms' timeless *Requiem* in the intimate chamber arrangement by Joachim Linckelmann. Pre-concert talk by Jonathan Oldengarm at 6:30 p.m. Tickets will be available in early 2025: \$40 (in person), \$15 (livestream).

ORGAN AND CARILLON MUSIC STAFF

Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm - Minister of Music jonathano@metunited.ca

Ethan Duan & Sean Lee - Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholars

Dr. Elisa Tersigni - Wayne C. Vance Carillonist carillon@metunited.ca



Our sound and livestream technician is Charlie Davidson. Metropolitan's livestreaming equipment was made possible thanks to the generosity of **Wayne C. Vance**. Your freewill donations support the ongoing musical ministry of Metropolitan United Church, and allow us to maintain our landmark heritage musical instruments and building. If you prefer to donate electronically, please visit metunited.ca/donate or scan the QR code here.

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