

Welcome

2024-25 SEASON

NOON AT MET

FREE THURSDAY CONCERTS



MARCH 6 | 13 | 20 | 27



METROPOLITAN
UNITED CHURCH

MATTHEW HAKKARAINEN, VIOLIN
BENJAMIN SMITH, PIANO

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

Violin Sonata in E minor, K. 304

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756-1791

I. Allegro

II. Tempo di menuetto

Selections from *Six Pieces*, op. 79

Jean Sibelius, 1865-1957

Souvenir

Tanz-Idylle

Berceuse

Violin Concerto in E minor, op. 64

Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

I. Allegro molto appassionato

II. Andante

III. Allegretto non troppo — Allegro molto vivace

Matthew Hakkarainen is the first American violinist to win first prize at the Premio Rodolfo Lipizer International Violin Competition, where he also received three special prizes. He attended the Curtis Institute of Music (BM '22), where he studied with Pamela Frank, and the Juilliard School (MM '24), where he studied with Sylvia Rosenberg and Ronald Copes.

Matthew was recently awarded third prize at the Stuttgart International Violin Competition. He also won the second prize, audience prize, and contemporary piece prize at the Mirecourt International Violin Competition. Matthew performed as a soloist with Michael Tilson Thomas and the New World Symphony as the winner of their Concerto Competition, and he also won the Aspen Music Festival's Violin Competition. This past summer, he received first prize ex æquo in the Prix Ravel at the Conservatoire américain de Fontainebleau.

Matthew has served as Concertmaster of the Juilliard Orchestra and the Curtis Symphony Orchestra, the latter for which he recorded the violin solos from Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*. He is Associate Concertmaster of Symphony in C, and has appeared as a substitute with the New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra. He is also an active chamber musician, recently appearing as a guest artist with Caspian Monday Music and Viridian Strings.

Matthew is very grateful to perform on a Giuseppe Guaragnini violin and an Étienne Pajeot bow graciously provided by the company CANIMEX INC. from Drummondville (Québec), Canada.

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.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PIANISTS

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

Sonata in B flat major, K. 333
III. *Allegretto grazioso*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756-1791

-La fille aux cheveux de lin

Claude Debussy, 1862-1918

Angela Ng

Three pieces for piano
Prelude
Toccata

Marjan Mozetich, b. 1948

Phoebe Lin

Faschingschwank aus Wien Op. 26
Romanze
Intermezzo
Finale

Robert Schumann, 1810-1856

Zhilin Xiao

Andante spianato et Grande Polonaise Brillante Op. 22

Frédéric Chopin, 1810-1849

Chiya Hou

Angela Ng is in her third year of Piano Performance studies under Lydia Wong at the University of Toronto. A Grand Prize winner of the Canadian Music Competition (2017), Angela made her orchestral debut with the Orchestre de la Francophonie. She has also performed in Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall (2017), and with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in 2023. Recently, Angela won first prize in the Women's Musical Club Scholarship Competition (2024), and was a winner in the University of Toronto Concerto Competition (2025). Angela's aspirations are to form meaningful connections with others through music, which is why she enjoys teaching and performing.

Phoebe Lin is a third-year Piano Performance student at the University of Toronto, studying under Lydia Wong. Her deep love for music has led her to explore many forms of collaboration, from piano-saxophone sonatas in high school to flute playing and singing in ensembles. During university, she enjoys performing with cellists, saxophonists, and vocalists, as well as accompanying other musicians. Phoebe believes making music with others is a natural and meaningful way for people to connect and express themselves. Outside of school, she works as a piano teacher and accompanist, sharing her passion with students and fellow performers.

Zhilin Xiao began her musical journey at the age of five and has since established herself as an exceptional classical pianist. She is recognized for her natural artistic instinct and ability to push the boundaries of her musicianship. Currently in her third year of undergraduate studies in piano performance at the University of Toronto, studying under Professor Lydia Wong. Zhilin has a deep enthusiasm for chamber and collaborative music; she has collaborated with the University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra (UTSO) as a piano accompanist and worked alongside many outstanding musicians who share her passion for music. She strives to inspire audiences through her expressive playing and thoughtful approach to music-making.

Yaqi (Chiya) Hou is a promising young talent from Shanghai, China, currently in year 3 of Bachelor of Music Piano Performance program under the instruction of Professor Lydia Wong. Chiya started piano at 4 and studied with Professor Wu from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. She earned multiple 1st prizes at the Shanghai Student Art Festival Piano Competition and performed at the Shanghai Concert Hall as a soloist in 2017. During her undergraduate studies, she received the Patricia Parr Scholarship and the Ann D. Sutton Award from the University of Toronto. She has also participated in numerous performances and is an active chamber musician and collaborative pianist.

ALEXANDER JACOB, PIANO

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

Swan Lake

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. 1840-1893

Introduction

Act I - Valse

Act II - Pas d'action (Odette et le prince)

Act III – Scène finale

Act IV - Scène finale

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) wrote his ballet *Swan Lake* in 1875-76, and it was premiered at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow in 1877 with choreography by Julius Reisinger. The ballet was revived in 1895 at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg with choreography by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, the version that is most often followed today. Nikolai Kashkin (1839-1920) was Professor of Piano at the Moscow Conservatory and he was a prominent champion of the music of Tchaikovsky. His transcription of the entire score of Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* for solo piano was published in 1895.

Alexander Jacob obtained his Master's in English Literature from the University of Leeds and his Ph.D. in the History of Ideas from the Pennsylvania State University. His post-doctoral researches were conducted at the University of Toronto. He is the author of several books and editions on natural philosophy and political philosophy. Jacob also holds a Licentiate diploma in piano from the Trinity College of Music, London, and has performed piano concerts in Toronto as well as in England, Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Brazil and Mexico. He has recorded Nikolai Kashkin's transcriptions of *Swan Lake*, as well as Richard Kleinmichel's transcriptions of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* and *Parsifal*, and F.H. Schneider's transcriptions of *Lohengrin*, which are available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) (Digital Music).

JONATHAN OLDENGARM, HARPSICHORD

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

Toccatà in D major, BWV 912

Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

Ouvertüre nach Französischer Art, BWV 831

J.S. Bach

Overture

Courante

Gavotte I/II

Passepied I/II

Sarabande

Bourrée I/II

Gigue

Echo

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.

UPCOMING IN MUSIC AT METROPOLITAN

Noon at Met - April 2025 April 3 - Chamber music groups from the Glenn Gould School of Music; April 10 - University of Toronto musician TBA; April 17 - no concert (Holy Week) - April 24 - University of Toronto musician TBA.

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. Scan below to order tickets through the Royal Conservatory of Music's Box Office service:



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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