

Based in central Manitoba and incorporated in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, Prairie Debut is a charitable status organization whose goal is to encourage community presenters to strive for artistic excellence in the presentation of professional classical and world music. The organization works to strengthen the interprovincial relationship of community presenters and contribute to the career development of Canadian professional classical and world artists by creating touring opportunities.

Artists who have toured with Prairie Debut since its inception in 1997 are:

St. Lawrence String Quartet  
 Bellows and Brass  
 Ricardo Peres, piano  
 Michael Donovan, baritone with Susan Sametz, piano  
 Anagnoson & Kinton, piano duo  
 Sylvie Proulx, guitar  
 Gryphon Trio, piano trio  
 Lee Pui Ming, piano  
 Jasper Wood, violin with Peter Allen, piano  
 Ian Parker, piano and Kaori Yamagami, cello  
 George Gao Trio Lucille Chung, piano  
 Erika Raum, violin with David Moroz, piano  
 Les Voix Baroques  
 Robert Pomakov, basso cantante with Brahm Goldhamer, piano  
 Daniel Bolshoy, guitar  
 Magnan and Parker, oboe & piano duo  
 Guy Few, trumpet, piano and voice and Stephanie Mara, piano  
 Fubuki Daiko, taiko drumming  
 Denise Djokic, cello and David Jalbert, piano  
 Gryphon Trio with Barry Shiffman, viola  
 Montreal Guitar Trio  
 Winston Choi, piano  
 Sophie Bouffard, soprano and David McIntyre, piano  
 Anne-Julie Caron, marimbist and Akiko Tominaga, piano

2008/09 Season will see these exciting touring artists on the Prairie Debut roster:

Les Boréades de Montréal  
 Bellows & Brass (Encore Tour Artists)  
 Allen Harrington, saxophone with David Moroz, piano

Prairie Debut Inc. is an organization incorporated and based in MB with adjacent incorporation in Saskatchewan and Alberta. (Charitable No. 86799 3495 RR0001)



*Anne-Julie Caron*  
 WITH AKIKO TOMINAGA  
 MARIMBA & PIANO  
 in Recital



Generous support for this Prairie Debut tour was received from:



Conseil des Arts  
du Canada Canada Council  
for the Arts



Lloyd Carr-Harris  
Foundation

## BIOGRAPHY

### ANNE-JULIE CARON

Canadian marimba soloist **ANNE-JULIE CARON** is distinguished by her sensational performances marked by their depth, colour and sensitivity. As a result, she can be heard on concert stages throughout Canada, United States, and Mexico and beyond. Ms Caron has won numerous international prizes including the prestigious 2007 Opus Prize as "Discovery of the Year", the 2nd Prize and a recording contract with Classic Concert Records (Europe) at the 2006 International Marimba Competition in Linz and two of the most prominent Canadian competitions: the 2005 Montreal Symphony Orchestra' Standard Life Competition and the 2004 Prix d'Europe.

Highlights of her career include appearances at international music festivals such as PASIC 2007 (the international percussion convention), Festival internacional de Marimbistas (Mexico), Zeltsman Marimba Festival, Festival International du Domaine Forget, Cool Drumming, Festival de Lanaudière and concerts with orchestras including the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and the Québec Symphony Orchestra.

Anne-Julie Caron graduated with Grand Distinction at the Conservatoire de musique de Québec. She also studied privately with renowned soloists Nancy Zeltsman (US), Bogdan Bacanu (Austria) and took masterclasses with Keiko Abe (Japan).

### AKIKO TOMINAGA

A native of Japan, **AKIKO TOMINAGA** began to play the piano at the age of 4. She has performed at various venues and concert halls in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Japan. Her solo and chamber performances have been broadcasted on C.B.C. and Radio-Canada. In Septmeber of 2007, she performed a tour in Poland, having been invited back after a successful tour the previous year. Another recent project was a recording of the Goldberg Variations by J.S. Bach.

Her past engagements include performing at the Festival Domaine Forget as well as the Festival Lanaudière, a concert tour of Canada with the members of the Israel Symphony (premiering works by Stewart Grant and Lior Navok) and a residency at the Banff Centre of the Arts. In 2003 she became the laureate of the OUM competition. Other solo experiences include performing with the Greater Bridgeport Symphony, the Young Artist Philharmonic, and the Reading Symphony in Pennsylvania and the Interschool Orchestra of New York at the Lincoln Center. Akiko is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, and is a doctoral candidate at the Université de Montréal. She is now on the faculty of Mount Royal College in Calgary.

## PROGRAMME

### Anne-Julie Caron, marimba with Akiko Tominaga, piano

<i>Wind in the Bamboo Grove</i>	K. Abe
<i>La Rencontre</i>	O. Lozowchuk
I. L'étincelle	
II. La flamme	
III. Lumière éternelle	
<i>Cinco Piezas for solo guitar</i>	A. Piazzolla
I. Campero	
II. Romantico	
V. Compadre	
<i>Concerto for marimba and strings</i>	E. Séjourné
I. Tempo souple	

### INTERMISSION

<i>Marimba d'Amore</i>	K. Abe
<i>Alborada del gracioso</i>	M. Ravel
<i>Introduction &amp; Rondo Capriccioso</i>	C. Saint-Saëns

Ms Caron is represented by Richard Paul Concert Artists, Toronto.



# Anne-Julie Caron

WITH AKIKO TOMINAGA  
MARIMBA & PIANO  
in Recital

Program notes :

## **Wind in the Bamboo Grove** (K. Abe, born in 1937)

"In the early morning haze as I stood in the middle of a bamboo grove, I became enwrapped in a rich medley of sound. Listening to the bamboo leaves rustling against each other in the occasional whip of the breeze, I seemed to hear the song of the wind...I sensed the dynamic and powerful nature of life forces. I took out of my pocket a marble and threw it into the grove. The blue marble disappeared into the morning haze, leaving behind it beautiful echoes as it rebounded from stalk to stalk." (K. Abe)

## **La Rencontre** (Oleksa Lozowchuk, né en 1976)

I-L'étincelle  
II-La flamme  
III-Lumière éternelle

"La Rencontre is a work inspired by the rhythms of the heart, and by the humble of heart. Having always been moved by the desert encounter between the famous prostitute-saint, Mary of Egypt, and the holy man Zossima, I felt that the marimba was ideally suited to emotionally depicting such a journey of two souls towards the Unknown. The marimba has this wonderful ability of taking disparate rhythms and overtones, and creating new sonorities, full of emotion, which resonate with both the performer and the listener. So, similarly, I juxtaposed three core elements which, I felt, inter-connected the story, the instrument and the heart together: the desert, wood, and light. La Rencontre is thus, a simple reminder of the rhythms that help shape and guide our encounters in life." (O. Lozowchuk)

## **Cinco Piezas pour guitare seule** (Astor Piazzolla, 1921-1992)

(Arrangement : Anne-Julie Caron)  
I-Campero  
II-Romantico  
V-Compadre

Astor Piazzolla's oeuvre revolutionized the traditional tango into a new style termed nuevo tango incorporating elements from jazz and classical music. This new style used extended harmonies and dissonance, counterpoint and ventures into extended compositional forms. The forward art of Piazzolla incites musicians to transcribe or arrange pieces for different instruments. Cinco Piezas was chosen by Anne-Julie for its poesy, its strong rhythms and its emotional melodic phrases of startling nostalgia. (A-J. Caron)

## **Concerto for Marimba and Strings** (Emmanuel Séjourné, b. 1961)

Emmanuel Séjourné was first trained as a classical musician on the piano and eventually started his percussion studies with a teacher who made him discover a whole new world : Pop, jazz, world music, fusion, contemporary music, improvisation and more. Today, he is mostly working as a composer and his composition's style is influenced and enriched by this double life.

The Concerto for Marimba and Strings was originally written for the austrian marimbist Bogdan Bacanu who loves the romanticism and lyricism in Rachmaninoff. As a result, the first movement of the concerto is slow, solemn, with long lyrical solo passages, sometimes flighty, sometimes laconic, at a point exuberant, then again melancholic. (A-J. Caron)

## **Marimba d'amore** (K. Abe, b.1937)

This piece develops the theme of the song "Plaisir d'amour" by Martini and explores the infinite possibilities of the expressive power of the marimba from many angles. Each fragment of the theme turns into various messages containing different content. The sense of color that the major and minor keys weave together is incorporated into the unique beat of the marimba. The notes at the beginning accompanied by grace notes suggest an auspicious moment. This is a technically difficult piece for solo marimba music. (K. Abe)

## **Alborada del gracioso** (Morning Song of the Jester) (Maurice Ravel, 1875-1937)

This is the 4th piece in the piano suite Miroirs. The word Alborada means 'dawn' in Spanish, and refers to music played during the early hours, especially at festive occasions. Gracioso was a household jester in classic Spanish comedies by Calderón and Lope de Vega, two of the most prominent dramatists during the Spanish Golden Age. Ravel's connection to Spain was his mother, whom he idolized greatly. She lived in Madrid in her youth and spoke fluent Spanish. It is known that she often sung Spanish folk melodies to the composer, whose influence can be heard in this piece.

The piece opens with a jumpy, rhythmic, percussive figure that is repeated insistently, characterizing the jester. The repeated notes passage that follows (famous for their difficulty in execution!) portrays strumming on the guitar. The excitement winds down and the middle section begins, calm and ballad-like. It alternates between a song filled with emotion and a subdued rhythmic accompaniment of the guitar. The beginning section returns again, leading to sweeping passages with double glissandi (famous for causing hangnails!) The piece concludes in heightened frenzy. (A. Tominaga)

## **Introduction & Rondo Capriccioso** (Camille Saint-Saëns, 1835-1921)

Saint-Saëns wrote this composition for violin and orchestra in 1863 for the virtuoso violinist Pablo de Sarasate. In two major sections, this now melancholy, now coruscating piece is an exercise in classically controlled passion that calls for the ultimate in virtuosic heroism : grace under fire. Since its premiere, it has continued to be one of Saint-Saëns most popular compositions. (A-J. Caron)