PRAIRIE DEBUT

Lynne Bailey
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11.12

October 2010

Prairie Debut is celebrating its 15th year of presenting classical and world music tours throughout the Prairie Provinces.

Since 1997, Prairie Debut has presented 32 artists to 62 communities. In total, Prairie Debut is responsible for 385 concerts over the past 14 years, reaching over 50,000 people.

This activity has been thanks to the remarkable professional classical and world music artists who have toured under the auspices of the Prairie Debut organization and the community presenters throughout Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta who have supported Prairie Debut by participating in the tours.

As the organization celebrates this important milestone, it is with pleasure that we present the artists for the 2011/2012 15th Anniversary Season of Prairie Debut.

The Prairie Debut organization will continue to contribute to the career development of Canadian professional classical and world music artists and endeavor to enrich the cultural life of the communities with which it works.

Lynne Bailey
Executive Director, Prairie Debut

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

TORQ

Percussion Quartet

"I was awestruck by a fabulous performance by four gifted musicians... TorQ amazed a full house with an array of technique. Never have I seen such an interesting combination of instruments create such breathtaking sounds."

- THE JOURNAL PIONEER (Summerside, P.E.I.)

Awarded a MARTY for "Best Emerging Performing Arts Group - 2009" by the Mississauga (ON) Arts Council, TorQ was formed in 2004 by four young, enthusiastic Toronto-area percussionists looking to add new energy to percussion repertoire and performance. As well as competing as the sole Canadian representative at the Luxembourg International Percussion Quartet Competition, TorQ has performed to much acclaim and standing ovations across Canada, including feature performances at MusicFest Canada Nationals, the Open Ears Contemporary Music Festival, the Four Seasons Centre for the Arts, Stratford Music Festival and with the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra for the world premiere of David Gillingham's Concertino for Four Percussion and Orchestra. TorQ's repertoire ranges from sweetly lyrical mallet quartets to no-holds-barred, high energy percussive show pieces. In addition to performing classic percussion ensemble repertoire, TorQ is committed both to commissioning works from emerging Canadian composers, and to promoting music education in schools, through school concerts and clinics aimed at elementary and high school students.

Members Richard Burrows, Jamie Drake and Daniel Morphy all met while studying music at the University of Toronto with Russell Hartenberger, Beverley Johnston and John Rudolph, while Adam Campbell hails from PEI and studied at Acadia University before completing further studies at UofT. The members of TorQ are each accomplished musicians in their own right; together they form an incredibly dynamic chamber group. Under the initial guidance of Robin Engelman (NEXUS), they have honed their craft to form an ensemble that is as exciting as it is musical.

TorQ solo concerts generally consist of a balance of new and established works for percussion quartet; each performance features at least one recent Canadian work. TorQ has commissioned approximately 40 works from contemporary Canadian composers, as well as from members within the ensemble. In Fall 2008 TorQ served as the in-class ensemble at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto for classes taught by renowned Canadian composer Christos Hatzis, which resulted in many new works, including a new version of "In the Fire of Conflict" by Hatzis. Other upcoming commissions in the works include compositions by Toronto composers Kevin Lau and Alice Ho, and a multi-media theatre collaboration with the Hamilton Children's Choir and award-winning composer Eric Robertson.

www.torqpercussion.ca
The artists are represented by Marilyn Gilbert Artists Management, Toronto.

SHARON WEI & ANGELA PARK

Viola & Piano Duo

"The performance by Sharon Wei...
was marked by an intense concentration
on detail and moments where
a relaxed pleasure flared."

– SHOWTIMEMAGAZINE.ca

"Park flawlessly rendered a series of
dazzling and dramatic variations,
bringing the concerto (Mozart K. 491) to
a conclusion and the audience to its feet."

- The London Free Press

Canadian musicians Sharon Wei and Angela Park have captivated audiences around the world through their unique interpretations of the viola and piano repertoire from Bach to new creations. Since their first collaboration in 1998, they have gone on to win such prestigious honours as the 2006 CBC Rising Stars Galaxie Award, a Debut Atlantic tour of the Maritimes, Canada and Ontario Arts Council career and touring grants, and in 2008 were selected by Chatelaine Magazine as one of "80 women to watch".

They have performed on series including the Banff Centre for the Arts, the New York Viola Society Recital, the 2006 International Viola Congress in Montreal, CBC's Music Around Us, the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto, Jeffery Concerts in London, Oakmont Series in California, Ottawa International Chamberfest, Stratford Summer Music, and at Yale University. Their performances have been recorded and aired on CBC Radio. As individual musicians they have won many awards and prizes. Angela captured the Grand Prize of the Grace Welsh International Competition in Chicago and received awards of recognition at the World Piano Competition, the Honens International Piano Competition, and the Maria Canals International Competition. Sharon graduated from Yale with the Viola Prize, and has garnered awards in the Sinfonia Toronto International Concerto Competition, Washington International Strings Competition, and the Grand Prize at the London Music Foundation Competition. Sharon has taught in Yale Undergraduate program and is currently on faculty at Stanford University. They have played concerts all over North America, Europe, and Asia and have appeared as soloists with various orchestras. They are also founding members of the award-winning Ensemble Made in Canada with violinist Judy Kang and cellist Rachel Mercer.

Sharon and Angela studied at the University of Western Ontario. Sharon completed her studies at the Curtis Institute of Music and Yale University and Angela to received her masters form the University of Toronto and earned her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the Université de Montréal. They have given viola, piano, and chamber music masterclasses at the University of Western Ontario, Laurier University, Brandon University, University of Ottawa, University of Manitoba, and conducted a residency at the State University of New York in New Paltz. Sharon plays on a viola kindly on loan to her from the Banff Centre for the Arts.

www.sharonwei.net
www.angelapark.com

ALEXANDER SEVASTIAN

Accordionist

"Russian Alexander Sevastian
masters the accordion with
the most absolute swiftness."

- LA PRESSE, Montreal

With three first prize wins at the International Accordion Competition to his credit, Alexander Sevastian has truly commanded the world's attention as one of the best. His awards extend from early in his career to current achievements. He first gained attention in the musical world when he won the Norway's Oslofjord Accordion Competition in 1988. Shortly following, he won The Cup of the North in Russia in 2000, the 2001 Anthony Galla-Rini Accordion Competition in the US and most recently, first prize at the 2009 Roland Competition in Toronto.

Born in Minsk, Belarus, Alexander began his accordion studies at the age of seven. In 1991, he attended the Glinka Musical College in Minsk. His advanced studies took him to Moscow's famed Gnessin Academy of Music where he graduated with his Masters Degree in Performance, studying with renowned performer and pedagogue, Friedrich Lips. While at the Gnessin Academy, Alexander extended his studies to include piano, conducting, and philosophy.

He began his professional performance career in Moscow in 1996 where he was quickly heard performing with the Russian Radio Orchestra. Following his first performance, he has subsequently toured as soloist with the Russian Radio Orchestra throughout Russia, Ukraine, Germany, Italy and Japan. Alex is also a very active recitalist and chamber musician. His performances have graced the stages in such prestigious venues as Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, The Great Hall of Moscow Conservatory, St. Petersburg's Glinka Capella Hall, Tokyo's Suntory Hall, and Minato Mirai Hall. Recent solo and orchestral engagements include recitals in Canada, the US, Mexico, and Italy.

Alex and his family moved to Canada in April 2001. Within one year, he joined the internationally recognized Quartetto Gelato and in 2003, he completed an Advanced Certificate in Performance at the University of Toronto where he studied with Joseph Macerollo. Over the past five years, with the quartet, Alex has extensively toured Canada, the US, Italy, Japan, Korea, Sweden, Estonia, and Guatemala.

Alex lives in Toronto with his wife Anna and son Vladimir and in 2005, proudly became a Canadian citizen.

www.accordions.com/sevastian
The artist is represented by Agence Station Bleue, Montreal.

ABOUT PRAIRIE DEBUT

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 music artists by creating touring opportunities.

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

1997/98	St. Lawrence String Quartet
1998/99	Bellows & Brass
1999/00	Ricardo Peres, piano
	Michael Donovan, baritone with Susan Sametz, piano
2000/01	Anagnoson & Kinton, piano duo
	Sylvie Proulx, guitar
2001/02	Gryphon Trio
	Lee Pui Ming, piano
2002/03	Jasper Wood & Peter Allen, violin & piano
	George Gao Erhu Trio
	Ian Parker & Kaori Yamagami, piano & cello
2003/04	Lucille Chung, piano
	Erika Raum & David Moroz,violin & piano
	Les Voix Baroques Ensemble
2004/05	Robert Pomakov, vocal bass
	Daniel Bolshoy, guitar
	Magnan & Parker, oboe & piano
2005/06	Susanne Hou & Daniel Spiegel, violin & piano
	Guy Few & Stephanie Mara, trumpet & piano
	Fubuki Daiko, taiko drumming
2006/07	10th Anniversary Season
	Denise Djokic & David Jalbert, cello & piano
	Gryphon Trio & Barry Shiffman
	Montreal Guitar Trio
2007/08	Winston Choi, piano
	Sophie Bouffard & David McIntyre, soprano & piano
	Anne-Julie Caron & Akiko Tominaga, marimba & piano duo
2008/09	Les Boréades de Montréal
	Harrington & Moroz, saxophone & piano
	Bellows & Brass
2009/10	The Schumann Letters
	Quartango
	Jean Sébastien Roy & Mathieu Gaudet, violin & piano
2010/11	Bax & Chung, piano duo
	Guth, Duncan & Switzer, voices with piano
	Jorge Miguel Flamenco Ensemble

WHERE WE'VE BEEN

Prairie Debut works with communities right across the Prairies. Without their local enthusiasm and contribution, concerts would not exist. Prairie Debut has forged partnerships with all these communites and is honoured to work with countless numbers of amazing people who take it upon themselves to bring great music to their own communities. For this reason alone, we are grateful.

Since 1997, these are the communities who have been partners of Prairie Debut:

Assiniboia Arts Council, Assiniboia SK
Banff Centre for the Arts, Banff AB
Barrhead Arts Council, Barrhead AB
Biggar & District Arts Council, Biggar SK
Brandon University, Brandon MB
Canadian University College, Lacombe AB
Canora Arts Council, Canora SK
Chautaqua Edson Arts Council, Edson AB
City of Okotoks, Okotoks AB
City of Thompson, Thompson MB
Dow Centre for the Arts, Fort Saskatchewan AB
Eastern Manitoba Concert Association, Pinawa MB
Estevan Arts Council, Estevan SK
Festival Place, Sherwood Park AB
Flin Flon Arts Council, Flin Flon MB
Glesby Centre, Portage la Prairie MB
Golden District Arts Council, Golden BC
Golden Prairie Arts Council, Carman MB
Grand Prairie Concerts, Grand Prairie AB
Haines Performing Arts, Haines Junction, Yukon
Horizon Stage, Spruce Grove AB
Hudson Bay Allied Arts Council, Hudson Bay SK
Keyano Theatre, Fort McMurray AB
Kindersley & District Arts Council, Kindersley SK
Kinosoo Performing Arts, Cold Lake AB
Kipling Arts Council, Kipling SK
La Ronge Arts Council, La Ronge SK
Langenburg Arts Council, Langenburg, SK
Leader & District Arts Council, Leader SK
Luseland Arts Council, Luseland SK
MacLab Centre for the Performing Arts, Leduc, AB
Melfort Arts Council, Melfort SK
Melville Arts Council, Melville SK
Minnedosa Concert Association, Minnedosa MB
Moosomin Arts Council, Moosomin SK
Newell Concert Association, Brooks AB
Outlook & District Arts Council, Outlook SK
Prince Albert Arts Council, Prince Albert SK
Quill Plains Arts Council, Quill Plains SK
Ravna Concerts, Snow Lake MB
Red Deer Concert Society, Red Deer AB
Redvers & District Arts Council, Weyburn SK
Redvers Arts Council, Redvers SK
Regina Musical Club, Regina SK
Saville Theatre, Ravenscrag SK
Shaunavon Arts Council, Shaunavon SK
Southern Manitoba Concerts, Morden MB
Station Arts Centre, Rosthern SK
Steinbach Arts Council, Steinbach MB
Stettler Variety Showcase, Stettler AB
Strathclair Community Theatre, Strathclair MB
Swift Current Allied Arts Council, Swift Current SK
The Pas Arts Council, The Pas MB
Tri-Lake Concert Assoc., Killarney MB
Unity Council of the Arts Unity SK
University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon SK
Vic Juba Community Theatre, Lloydminster AB
Virden Arts Council, Virden MB
Virtuosi Concerts, Winnipeg MB
Watrous Area Arts Council, Watrous SK
Westlock Cultural Arts Theatre Series, Westlock AB
Weyburn Concert Series, Weyburn SK
Whitehorse Concerts, Whitehorse Yukon
Wynyard Arts Council, Wynyard SK
Yorkton Arts Council, Yorkton SK