

Welcome

2024-25 SEASON

NOON AT MET

FREE THURSDAY CONCERTS



MAY 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29



METROPOLITAN
UNITED CHURCH

MATTHEW LI, BASS | VLAD SOLOVIEV, PIANO

Thursday, May 1 at 12:00 p.m.

Dichterliebe, Op. 48

Robert Schumann, 1810-1856

1. Im wunderschönen Monat Mai
2. Aus meinen Tränen sprießen
3. Die Rose, die Lilie, die Taube, die Sonne
4. Wenn ich in deine Augen seh'
5. Ich will meine Seele tauchen
6. Im Rhein, im heiligen Strome
7. Ich grolle nicht
8. Und wüßten's die Blumen, die kleinen
9. Das ist ein Flöten und Geigen
10. Hör' ich das Liedchen klingen
11. Ein Jüngling liebt ein Mädchen
12. Am leuchtenden Sommermorgen
13. Ich hab' im Traum geweinet
14. Allnächtlich im Traume
15. Aus alten Märchen winkt es
16. Die alten, bösen Lieder

Pause

Nine Songs

Sergei Rachmaninoff, 1873-1943

- Mi otдохnom (*We shall rest*), Op. 26, no. 3
V molchani nochi taynoy (*In the silence of the night*), Op. 4, no. 3
Pora (*It is time*), Op. 14, no. 12
Ya byl u ney (*I was with her*), Op. 14, no. 4
Utro (*Morning*), Op. 4, no. 2
Siren (*Lilacs*), Op. 21, no. 5
Son (*A dream*), Op. 8, no. 5
V moyey dushe (*In my soul*), Op. 14, no. 10
Vesenniye vodi (*Spring waters*), Op. 14, no. 11

JONATHAN OLDENGARM, ORGAN

Thursday, May 8 at 12:00 p.m.

In memoriam Barrie Cabena, August 12, 1933 - April 24, 2025

Sonatina in a minor, op. 74

Sigfrid Karg-Elert, 1877-1933

I. Allegro moderato

Chorales from *Das Orgelbüchlein*

Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599

In dulci jubilo, BWV 608

In Dir ist Freude, BWV 615

Psalm Prelude Set 1, no. 3

Herbert Howells, 1892-1983

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me." -Psalm 23 Verse 4

Sonata XLII, op. 352 "a graduation present for Jonathan Oldengarm, with affection"

Barrie Cabena

Allegro

Andante

Presto

Vivace

Variations sur un thème de Clement Jannequin

Jehan Alain, 1911-1940

Handel in the Strand

Percy Aldridge Grainger, 1882-1961

Dished up by Barrie Cabena

On April 24 we lost a giant of the Canadian classical music scene: Australian-born, English-trained **Barrie Cabena** was doubtless Canada's most prolific composer, and a renowned organist and conductor. For many years Professor of Organ and Church Music at Waterloo's Wilfrid Laurier University, he was a teacher, mentor, and friend to generations of Canadian musicians—including Met's own Minister of Music Jonathan Oldengarm. His pedagogical approach was classical and structured, but was leavened with an almost childlike sense of wonder at the beauty and mystery of art and life. Today's programme honours some of Barrie's musical influences, passions, and his delightful wit.

ALEXANDER CAPPELLAZZO, TENOR | NARMINA AFANDIYEVA, PIANO

Thursday, May 15 at 12:00 p.m.

Prologue

Excerpts from Four Burns Songs, Op 92 (1978)

Afton Water

Winter

Benjamin Britten, 1913 – 1976

Robert Burns, 1759 – 1796

Part One

Las Horas de una Estancia Op. 11 (1943)

El Alba

La Mañana

El Mediodía

La Tarde

La Noche

Alberto Ginastera, 1916 – 1983

Silvina Ocampo, 1903 – 1993

Interlude

Piece (on the theme of an Avar folk song)

Murad Kazhlaev, 1931 – 2023

Part Two

Five Songs from Northern Seas (2008-2009)

Old Man and Sea

The Fisherman

A Departure

The Helmsman

The Seaman, An Epilogue

Gavin Bryars, b. 1943

George Bruce, 1909 - 2002

A graduate of the Baku Music Academy (Azerbaijan) and the University of Toronto, Faculty of Music, **Narmina Afandiyeva** devotes her artistic life to vocal and instrumental music. She is a holder of a number of prizes in solo piano competitions (Azerbaijan) and a winner of the Gwendolyn Koldofsky Prize for collaborative pianists (2012, Faculty of Music, University of Toronto).

In demand as a collaborative pianist, Narmina is involved in many projects in Toronto, the most recent of which include Cherubini's *Médée* (Voicebox Opera in Concert), Barber's *A Hand of Bridge*, Puccini's *Il Tabarro* (OperaFest), chamber music recitals featuring violin, viola, and cello sonatas by Fauré, Franck, Brahms and many others.

In June 2022 and 2023 Narmina enjoyed being a Faculty member in the beautiful La Roche d'Hys: Domaine des Arts (Burgundy, France) working with young singers.

Born on the auspicious Feast Day of Bach, Handel and Purcell, it was surely fated that **Alexander Cappellazzo** would immerse himself in music!

With "clarity and richness of voice" (Opera Canada), "force and strength" (National Capital Opera Society) and a "rich, well-rounded tenor" (Stage Door), "Alex also sings without guile, throwing himself into his programs fearlessly." (Barcza Blog).

From Handel, Bach & Mozart, to Wagner, Orff & Smetana, Alexander has performed roles including Tamino, Nemorino, Lensky, Acis, Don Ottavio, Oronte, and Vasek to name a few. Alexander sings with opera companies across Canada including: Opera Atelier, VOICEBOX: Opera In Concert, Toronto City Opera, Toronto Operetta Theatre, Southern Ontario Lyric Opera, Opera By Request, OperOttawa, Opera York, Mississauga Symphony Orchestra, and the Cultureland Opera Collective; and with choirs including the Trinity Bach Project, Grand River Chorus, Toronto Choral Society, Edison Singers, Brott Music Festival, and Metropolitan United Church.

In 2022, Alexander founded the Apocryphonia Concert Series and the Diapente Renaissance Vocal Quintet, dedicated to live performances of rare and underperformed classical music including such highlights as Renaissance Mexican Christmas music, Azerbaijani opera arias, and Norfolk sailor songs. Since starting, Alexander has produced fourteen concerts, providing unpretentious and affordable cultural events across the GTA.

Alex holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Vocal Performance and Opera from Montreal's McGill University, is a member of the Ralph Vaughan Williams Society and is an avid hiker & cinephile. Outside of music, he enjoys spending time with his wife, his son, and his cat.

MICHELLE SIMMONS, MEZZO-SOPRANO | HYE WON CECILIA LEE, PIANO

Thursday, May 22 at 12:00 p.m.

Banalités

Francis Poulenc, 1899-1963

1. Chanson d'Orkenise
2. Hôtel
3. Fagnes de Wallonie
4. Voyage à Paris
5. Sanglots

Three Songs, op. 45

Samuel Barber, 1910-1981

1. Now Have I Fed and Eaten Up the Rose
2. A Green Lowland of Pianos
3. Boundless, Boundless Evening

Selections from *Fables Enchantées*

Isabelle Aboulker, b.1938

1. Le Loup et l'Agneau
2. Le Corbeau et le Renard
3. Le Loup et le Chien
4. La Grenouille qui se veut faire aussi grosse que le Boeuf

Originally from Newfoundland, mezzo-soprano **Michelle Simmons** is a graduate of vocal performance programs of the University of Toronto under Lorna MacDonald, and Memorial University under Jane Leibel. She was the recipient of the Greta Kraus Graduate fellowship for her University of Toronto studies. On the Toronto opera stage, Michelle has sung with Toronto Operetta Theatre and Opera in Concert in productions as varied as Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites* to Haydn's *Voyage to the Moon*. On the concert stage, Michelle has been a soloist in performances of C. P. E Bach's *Die Israeliten in der Wüste*, Handel's *Brookes Passion*, Mozart's *Krönungsmesse* and *Missa Brevis in G minor*, as well as Bach's *Markus Passion* among others. Michelle has a strong commitment to performing and creating new music. She shared the stage with American artist Cynthia Hopkins as part of her multi-disciplinary touring performance on climate change, *This Clement World*. Michelle spent a summer bringing contemporary opera to communities in southern Ontario with the Bicycle Opera Project. She collaborated on developing and performing an original revue for the Alliance Française de Toronto, *Debussy Entre Les Lignes*, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth. With the support of a Newfoundland Arts Council grant, Michelle also commissioned a song cycle based on the works of poet, E.J. Pratt: *Many Moods* (Passmore). **Dr. Hye Won Cecilia Lee** is an inquisitive collaborative artist on all three major keyboard forms: piano, harpsichord, and organ. Cecilia enjoys playing solo and chamber music, and specializes in accompanying, full-score readings and new music projects; community-service projects are also a special interest for her. In addition to performing, Cecilia is an active recording engineer/producer, translator (Korean-English) for refugee-related matters, and writes for the Ludwig van Toronto, a web-based classical music site. Cecilia holds a DMA in Piano Performance from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

NOELLE SLANEY, SOPRANO | DAKOTA SCOTT-DIGOUT, PIANO

Thursday, May 29 at 12:00 p.m.

Voyage à Paris

Extrait de Banalités

Francis Poulenc, 1899-1963

Deux poèmes de Louis Aragon

C

Fêtes galantes

Francis Poulenc

Ariettes Oubliées

C'est l'extase

Il pleure dans mon cœur

L'ombre des arbres

Chevaux de bois

Green

Spleen

Claude Debussy, 1862-1918

Les Parapluies de Cherbourg

Michel Legrand, 1932-2019

Extraits de 12 Chansons folkloriques Acadien

L'escaouette

Wing tra la

Au chant de l'Alouette

L'Étoile du Nord

Le pommier doux

La belle Françoise

Partons, la mer est belle

Traditional

arr. Carl Philippe Gionet

Both on and off stage, soprano **Noelle Slaney** is unapologetically herself. Being a born and bred Newfoundlander, music has always been an inherent part of her life and though she now resides in Toronto where “the buildings reach the clouds,” she continues to be an active performer of opera and concert repertoire and strives to challenge the way people think about the world in every performance. Praised for her “lovely, rich tone” and “enviable coloratura”, Noelle was one of eight finalists in the Canadian Opera Company Centre Stage Competition in 2018, and was awarded second place in the vocal category of the Federation of Music Festivals’ National Competition in 2016. She holds a Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in vocal performance from Memorial University of Newfoundland and a Master’s degree in opera performance from the University of Toronto. A lover of contemporary music projects, she has added her voice to performances of excerpts of R. Murray Schafer’s *Wolf Music* and *Patria IV* (Octatonic Decadence), *A Window to a Dream* (Cultural Interchange – 360), and *Songbook XII* (Tapestry Opera). This season, Noelle is the soprano soloist in Brahms’ *Requiem* (MET Festival Choir), and *Carmina Burana* (VOCA).

Originally from Nova Scotia, Toronto-based pianist **Dakota Scott-Digout** has been heard across North America and Europe as both a collaborator and soloist, gaining praise particularly for his performances of chamber music and art song. Dakota serves on the artistic team of the Toronto Children’s Chorus, the VOCA Chorus of Toronto, Nathaniel Dett Chorale, and has enjoyed collaborations with the Elmer Isler Singers and Chroma Vocal Ensemble. Recent projects have included an ongoing collaboration with Echo Chamber Toronto in their production *A World Transformed*, which intertwines art song and chamber music with dance. Additionally, Dakota was a featured artist alongside soprano Tracy Cantin and tenor Marcel d’Entremont during Debut Atlantic’s 2022/2023 concert season.

Dakota holds degrees in piano performance from Université de Montréal and Mount Allison University. Currently, he is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Toronto where he was named the 2020 winner of the Gwendolyn Koldofsky Prize in Accompanying, awarded to the top collaborative pianist at the Faculty of Music. He has further refined his skills at the Orford Music Academy, Barachois Summer Music Festival, Musique sur Mer with pianist Susan Manoff, and was an Art of Song Fellow as part of the Toronto Summer Music Festival. His principal teachers have included Stephen Runge, Jimmy Brière, and Steven Philcox. Dakota is highly sought after in Toronto as a collaborative pianist, clinician, and serves as a pianist for voice performance classes at the University of Toronto.

METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH PIPE ORGAN SPECIFICATION

Casavant Frères Ltée, op. 1367 (built in 1930)

GREAT (second keyboard)

Contra Bourdon 32' (TC)
Double Open Diapason 16'
Bourdon 16'
Open Diapason I 8'
Open Diapason II 8'
Open Diapason III 8'
Violin Diapason 8'
Hohl Flute 8'
Doppel Flute 8'
Stopped Diapason 8'
Quint 5 $\frac{1}{3}$ '
Octave 4'
Principal 4'
Flûte Harmonique 4'
Flûte d'amour 4'
Quint 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ '
Fifteenth 2'
Harmonics V
Mixture III
Contra Tromba 16'
Tromba 8'
Posaune 8'
Octave Tromba 4'
Harp (CH)

SWELL (third keyboard)

Contra Geigen 16'
Lieblich Bourdon 16'
Open Diapason 8'
Geigen Diapason 8'
Salicional 8'
Lieblich Gedeckt 8'
Viola da Gamba 8'
Voix Celeste 8'
Aeoline 8'
Octave 4'
Flauto Traverso 4'
Fifteenth 2'
Cornet V
Mixture III
Double Trumpet 16'
Trumpet 8'
Oboe 8'
Vox Humana 8'
Clarion 4'
Tremulant
Harp (CH)

CHOIR (first keyboard)

Contra Viola 16'
Open Diapason 8'
Melodia 8'
Quintadena 8'
Spitz Flute 8'
Flute Celeste 8'
Dulciana 8'
Unda Maris 8'
Dulcet 4'
Flute d'amour 4'
Nazard 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ '
Harmonic Piccolo 2'
Tierce 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ '
Dulciana Mixture IV
Contra Fagotto 16'
Trumpet 8'
Clarinet 8'
Clarion 4'
Tremulant
Harp
Harp Sub

ORCHESTRAL (fourth keyboard)

Contra Gamba 16'
Gross Gamba 8'
Gamba Celeste 8'
Viole d'orchestre 8'
Viole Celeste 8'
Rohr Flute 8'
Gross Flute 8'
Fugara 4'
Concert Flute 4'
Cornet de Violes III
Trombone 16'
Bassoon 16'
Tuba Sonora 8'
Orchestral Trumpet 8'
French Horn 8'
Orchestral Oboe 8'
Corno di Bassetto 8'
Cor Anglais 8'
Octave Tuba 4'
Tremulant
Harp (CH)

BOMBARDE (fifth keyboard)

Stentorphone 8'
Mixture VII
Tuba Magna 16'

Tuba Mirabilis 8'
Quint Horn 5 $\frac{1}{3}$ '
Tuba Clarion 4'

PEDAL (for the feet)

Double Open Diapason 32'
Open Diapason I 16'
Open Diapason II 16' (ext)
Violone 16'
Gamba 16' (ORCH)
Bourdon I 16'
Bourdon II 16' (GT)
Viola 16' (CH)
Gedeckt 16' (SW)
Quint 10 $\frac{2}{3}$ '
Octave 8' (ext)
Cello 8' (ext)
Stopped Flute 8' (ext)
Still Gedeckt 8' (SW)
Octave Quint 5 $\frac{1}{3}$ ' (ext)
Super Octave 4' (ext)
Mixture IV
Contra Bombarde 32'
Bombarde 16' (ext)
Trombone 16' (ORCH)
Bassoon 16' (ORCH)
Tromba 8' (ext)
Clarion 4' (ext)

GALLERY ORGAN

ANTIPHONAL (floating)

Open Diapason 8'
Principal 4'
Hooded Trumpet 8'

ECHO (floating)

Chimney Flute 8'
Viola da Gamba 8'
Flute 4'
Tremulant
Zimbelstern
Nightingale

PEDAL (feet)

Bourdon 16'
Octavebass 8' (ext)

FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT MET

Met's music ministry would not be possible without the generous support of our many friends and donors. Our typical season includes around 40 freewill-donation Thursday noon hour concerts, six or so Sunday afternoon concerts (often in collaboration with other like-minded sacred arts groups), and numerous events put on by groups who rent our space. We seek to be a hub for sacred music in the heart of downtown Toronto, in a time when we all need beauty, peace, and transcendent experiences more than ever. We are profoundly grateful to you, our supporters, who make our programming possible. Thank you! If your name is not yet on this list and you would like to support Met's good musical work, please email Minister of Music Jonathan Oldengarm at jonathano@metunited.ca, or call 416.363.0331 x226 for more information.

Janice Andrews

An anonymous donor

Janet Allen,

in memory of her grandparents Jack (JB)

& Helen Allen

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in memory of William Wright

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Toba Bryant

Muriel Cairns

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in memory of William Wright

Susan MacLean, *in memory of William Wright*

Maureen Maguire

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William Martyn

Jennifer Anne McDonald

The Metropolitan Choir,

as a tribute to former members Mary Dee,

Martha MacVicar, Lucy Carrick, and

Lorraine Eddy

Rosemary Mok & Godwin Lau

Marion Moore

Gerry Mungham

Naomi & Rob Norquay

Edward Oikawa

Jenny & Martin Oldengarm

Jonathan Oldengarm, *in memory of John Derksen*

Patricia Orr, *in memory of William Wright*

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Lynn Patterson

Ruth & Bruce Peckover,

in memory of William Wright

Tracy Pratt

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in memory of Claudia Joan Mann

Marianne Sanders

Karen Scott, *in memory of William Wright*

Barbara Smolowitz,

in memory of William Wright

The Rev. Cynthia V. Stretton & Ross R. Stretton,

in memory of William Wright &

Dr. Melville Cook, FRCO

Ron & Vera Taylor

Regina Tgahrt

Wayne C. Vance

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Heather Walsh

Wilbert & Joyce Ward

Andrew Ward

June & David Weind

Peter & Hania White

Patricia Wright, *in memory of William Wright*

Kenneth Younie

Nina Yusa

Darrel Zehr

UPCOMING IN MUSIC AT METROPOLITAN

Carillon Festival - June 2025

June 5: Dr Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra

June 12: Joseph Min

June 19: Anne Lu

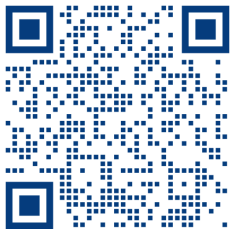
June 26: Dr Elisa Tersignii

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



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