

Welcome

2025-26 SEASON

NOON AT MET

FREE THURSDAY
CONCERTS



APRIL

9 | 16 | 23 | 30



METROPOLITAN
UNITED CHURCH

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO GUITARISTS

Thursday, April 9 at 12:00 p.m.

Scott Jolicoeur

6 Pieces from *El Maestro*

Luis de Milán, c1500-1561

Fantasia I - Fantasia VI - Fantasia VII - Fantasia XIII - Pavana IV - Pavana VI

Kai Stokes

Sarabande, Bourée, and Gigue, BWV 1009

Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

Cédric Thériault

Prelude, BWV 998

J.S. Bach

Les Barricades Mystérieuses

François Couperin, 1668-1733

Carmine Coccimiglio and James Baker

Duo Concertante, op. 31 no. 1

Antoine de Lhoyer, 1768-1852

Adagio Cantabile

Rondo

JOYCE ZHENG, PIANO

Thursday, April 16 at 12:00 p.m.

Preludes, op. 11 no. 5 and no. 9

Alexander Scriabin, 1872-1915

Piano Sonata no. 30, op. 109

Ludwig von Beethoven, 1770-1827

Vivace ma non troppo — Adagio espressivo

Prestissimo

Gesangvoll, mit innigster Empfindung. Andante molto cantabile ed espressivo

Piano Sonata no. 4, op. 30

Alexander Scriabin

Andante

Prestissimo volando

6 Moments musicaux, op. 16

Sergei Rachmaninoff, 1873-1943

Joyce Zheng is a Toronto-based pianist whose performances have taken her throughout Canada, the United States, and Europe. She has been awarded top prizes in international competitions and scholarships to perform in international festivals. She received the W. O Forsyth Graduating Scholarship upon completing her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance at the University of Toronto where she studied with Lydia Wong and Enrico Elisi. She is completing her Masters of Music in Performance at the University of Toronto under the guidance of Steven Philcox and Lydia Wong.

Notable performances include those at the Weill Concert Hall of Carnegie Hall, Steinway Hall New York, and for series by Music Toronto, the JUNOS, and the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto. Along with her work as a soloist, Joyce is also a passionate collaborative pianist as she was a pianist of the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra and actively plays in chamber ensembles. She has presented collaborative performances in Roy Thomson Hall with the TSYO, Mazzoleni Hall of the Royal Conservatory of Music, and for the Nine Sparrows Arts Foundation. Joyce has been awarded scholarships to perform in festivals throughout Italy, Texas, San Francisco, and the Netherlands where she has worked with artists such as Boris Slutsky, Anton Nel, Michelle Cann, and Boris Berman.

Joyce has won top prize awards in international music competitions for placing first at the New York Global Music Competition, Canadian International Music Competition-MOMA, and runner up at IPPA Conero Competition, as well as top prizes in competitions throughout Toronto. Joyce has held her private piano studio since 2018 for students in the Greater Toronto Area.

NOELLE SLANEY, SOPRANO | MATHEUS COELHO, CLARINET

Thursday, April 23 at 12:00 p.m.

Three Vocalises

Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

I. Prelude

II. Scherzo

III. Quasi menuetto

Letter from Beirut

Jennifer Stevenson

I Never Saw Another Butterfly

Lori Laitman, b. 1955

I. The Butterfly

II. Yes, That's the Way Things Are

III. Birdsong

IV. The Garden

V. Man Proposes, God Disposes

VI. The Old House

Multitudinous Stars and Spring Waters

Jenni Brandon, b. 1977

Part I: Spring Song arr. For Clarinet by Natalie Groom

Part II: Thinking of Someone

Part III: Married Love

Nesta Rua

Trad. Brazilian, arr. Jennifer Stevenson

The Banks of Newfoundland

Trad. Newfoundland (Land and Sea / Spirit), arr. D. F. Cook, 1937-2025
adapted for clarinet and voice by Noelle Slaney

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

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.

Some favourite highlights of Noelle’s include the soprano solo in Brahms’ Requiem (Met Festival Choir), Laurie Moss in *The Tender Land* (University of Toronto), and Carlotta in the Atlantic Canadian debut of *Phantom of the Opera* (Opera on the Avalon). 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 was featured as a soloist in the *Johannes-Passion* (Met Festival Choir) and today presents a program of contemporary duets for soprano and clarinet with Matheus Coelho in the Noon at Met recital series.

Inspired by classical and Brazilian popular music, **Matheus Coelho** is a versatile conductor, clarinetist and baritone with a deep passion for music. Showcasing a diverse repertoire, his career spans symphonic, choral, chamber, and operatic performances. Matheus earned a Master of Music degree from the University of Manitoba, where he was mentored by Naomi Woo.

Matheus is a former student of the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra Academy of Music (OSESF), led by the acclaimed American conductor Marin Alsop. Immersed in the vibrant daily life of São Paulo Hall, he gained invaluable experience learning from distinguished musicians and renowned conductors, including Marin Alsop, Sian Edwards, Giancarlo Guerrero, Stefan Blunier, Neil Thomson, Alexander Liebreich, and Robert Treviño. Twice a fellow of the Campos do Jordão International Music Festival, also run by OSESF, Matheus was honored with a nomination for the Eleazar de Carvalho Prize.

Matheus Coelho is a doctoral student at the University of Toronto, focusing his research on Brazilian composers Chiquinha Gonzaga and Heitor Villa-Lobos. His work explores how the social and musical themes embedded in their compositions—such as issues of racism, misrepresentation, and the portrayal of Indigenous peoples—impact a conductor’s preparation and performance practices.

CANON SHIBATA, VIOLONCELLO

Thursday, April 30 at 12:00 p.m.

Programme to be announced.

Celebrated for her "technically flawless and extraordinarily expressive playing" (Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi), cellist Canon Shibata has established herself as one of the most notable Japanese cellists of the rising generation.

A native of Japan, Canon was the first prize winner of the 14th Viva Hall International Music Competition and the second prize winner of the 92nd Music Competition of Japan. In 2022, she won the Grand Prize at Canada's Robert W. and G. Ann Corcoran Concerto Competition, and the following year achieved first prize in the Duo and Chamber divisions of the GGS Chamber Music Competition. She was named a CHANEL Pygmalion Days Artist as part of the brand's prestigious artist support program in Japan. She is also the 2025/26 Rebanks Fellow of The Royal Conservatory's Glenn Gould School—the first Japanese artist ever selected for the fellowship.

As a soloist, Canon has performed with prestigious orchestras such as the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa, and the Gumma Symphony Orchestra, collaborating with notable conductors including Joshua Weilerstein, Naoto Otomo, and Toshiaki Umeda. In October 2023, Canon gave the Japanese premiere of Fazil Say's Cello Concerto, *Never Give Up*, alongside Shimpei Sasaki and Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa.

In January 2023, Canon released her debut album *Canon Shibata in Concert* on Octavia Records, later featured in *Record Geijutsu* magazine. That October, she also began contributing serialized articles to the Japanese classical music magazine *Sarasate*.

Canon recently graduated with program honors from Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music, where she studied under Hans Jørgen Jensen. She previously earned her Bachelor of Music degree from the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music, studying with Andrés Díaz and Hans Jørgen Jensen.

Canon Shibata performs on a rare 1694 Giovanni Grancino cello, generously loaned by the Munetsugu Collection, and a Eugène Sartory bow, loaned by Mr. Kenji Nishimura. She is supported by the Ezoie Memorial Recruit Foundation, Rohm Music Foundation, Yamaha Music Foundation, Rotary Japan Showa, and the Tokuji Munetsugu Music Foundation, and has received the Daiko Foundation's Scholarship Study Prize and recognition as a 2025 Luminarts Fellow in Classical Music.

UPCOMING IN MUSIC AT METROPOLITAN

Music at Met

Saturday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. - Music at Met co-presents the Toronto Mendelssohn Chamber Choir in *The Sacred Veil*, a choral programme raising awareness around cancer. Tickets and details:

<https://www.tmchoir.org/event/the-sacred-veil/>

Sunday, May 3 at 11:00 a.m. - The Metropolitan Choir with period instrumental ensemble sings J.S. Bach's church cantata *Weinen, klagen, sorgen, zagen*, BWV 12, within a Sunday morning service. Prelude is Bach's *Harpsichord Concerto in A major*, BWV 1055, and organ postlude is Bach's *Toccatà in C*, BWV 564.

Saturday, May 16 at 3:00 p.m. - Toronto Chamber Choir with Jonathan Oldengarm, organist, present (Re-)-Building Notre Dame, a celebration of that great cathedral's rebirth. Tickets:

<https://torontochamberchoir.ca/e-registration/25/may16>

Noon at Met - May 2026

May 7 - Manuel Piazza, organ | **May 14** - James Coole Stevenson, baritone

May 21 - Melody Chan, piano | **May 28** - Jonathan Oldengarm, organ

MUSIC STAFF

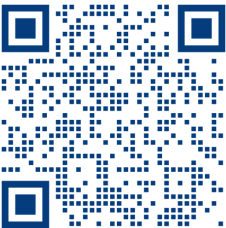
Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm - Minister of Music jonathano@metunited.ca

Ethan Duan & Edward Xu - Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholars

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

Alessia Signorella - Conductor, Metropolitan Choristers

Fran Harvey - Conductor, Metropolitan Silver Band



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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Toronto
Mendelssohn
Choir

Jean-Sébastien Vallée
Artistic Director &
Principal Conductor



THE SACRED VEIL

A VIGIL FOR CANCER AWARENESS

APRIL 25, 2026

Metropolitan United Church

tickets at tmchoir.org



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Arwork: *Lionhearted* by Michelle Marin