



## *Season 2014–2015*

### *Melrose United Church*

86 Homewood Ave. (at Locke South), Hamilton, ON

### **Duet Club of Hamilton presents the 7th Annual Michael Geryk Memorial Piano Competition**

**Sunday, February 15, 2015 ∞ 2:30 pm**

#### **PROGRAMME**

The order of this afternoon's performers will be determined by a random draw.

#### **Dan Luong** (23 years old, from Mississauga, ON)

Hommage à Rameau ..... Debussy  
Scherzo no. 3, op. 39 ..... Chopin

Dan Luong is in his final year of a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance program at Western University in London, Ontario. He has been playing the piano since the age of 13 and currently studies with Professor John-Paul Bracey. Past teachers include Dr. Brett Kingsbury and Eugene Astapov. He enjoys performing both in concert halls and in non-traditional setting such as retirement homes and in-home private recitals. Dan is known for his broad smile during his performances, unless the music is melancholic and solemn. He competed in and won his first competition at Western University and was awarded the Fred Pattison Award in 2014. After graduating, Dan plans on continuing his studies privately before applying for graduate programs in the winter of 2015.

#### **Sheila Wang** (21 years old, from Ancaster, ON)

L'Alouette (The Lark) ..... transcribed by Mily Balakirev (originally for soprano by Mikhail Glinka)  
Diabolical Suggestion ..... Prokofiev

Sheila Wang began studying classical piano at age eight in Toronto. She had originally decided to terminate her studies after completing her RCM 10 exam at age fourteen, before ultimately returning to complete her formal training at age twenty. She is currently under the guidance of Olga Tcherniak and Pamela van Weelden. She has competed at the Ontario Provincial Finals, and received the highest marks in the Hamilton-Halton region for her RCM 9 and 10 exams. Sheila's participation in music festivals and competitions has resulted in numerous medals, awards, and scholarships throughout her musical training. She teaches privately and at McMaster University, performs regularly at McMaster's Hospital, and provides music at weddings. In addition to piano, she is also experienced with flute and trombone, and has played in the Hamilton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. Sheila is a fourth year undergraduate student at McMaster University, studying Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour.

#### **Gino Yeh** (19 years old, from Ancaster, ON)

Ballade no. 1 ..... Chopin  
Widmung ..... Schumann-Liszt

Gino Yeh is 19 years old. He is a student at McMaster University. Although he is majoring in Electric Engineering, he takes music very seriously. He is a winner of the Cultural Cup Competition in Taipei (Taiwan) in 2013 and 2014, as well as the Greater Hamilton Music Festival in 2014. Gino has studied piano with Larisa Gulenco and Dr. Alexei Gulenco. Music is his great passion. He loves to spend all his free time practising piano and listening to recordings of great pianists.

## THIS YEAR'S JUDGES

**Norman Reintamm.** Pianist, organist, and conductor. Presently Principal Conductor of the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra in Toronto. Former Senior Resident Conductor of the Estonian National Opera, and Assistant Conductor of the National Ballet of Canada. He recently became music director of St. Joseph's Parish in Hamilton.

**Ken Gee.** Friend of Michael Geryk and founder of the Memorial Fund. Former resident of Hamilton, involved in the performing arts as a teacher (private, McMaster University, Mohawk College, Sheridan College), freelance music critic for the Hamilton Spectator. Lives in Guelph where he is the pianist for Guelph Youth Singers and the Suzuki String School of Guelph, founder and director of Guelph Musicfest ([www.guelphmusicfest.ca](http://www.guelphmusicfest.ca)), chair of the Guelph Youth Music Centre, and a music engraver/text book designer for Frederick Harris Music and the Royal Conservatory.

Special Thanks to **Margaret Winters, Kay Lumsden & Margaret Davis** of the Duet Club of Hamilton,  
and **Ross Johnson** (piano technician, friend & colleague of Michael Geryk)

**MICHAEL GERYK** was a well-known and much-loved piano technician for many years, caring for the pianos of countless area residents, as well as tuning pianos for professional concerts at Hamilton Place, the Boris Brodt Festival, McMaster University, the Great Romantics Festival, and more. In 2002, Mike passed away at age 49, succumbing to injuries from a bicycling accident. A memorial scholarship was established and was administered by the Hamilton Kiwanis Music Festival. The scholarship fund was made up of generous donations from many of Mike's former customers, friends, family and colleagues. With the closing of the Festival, the memorial scholarship has found a new and fitting home in The Duet Club of Hamilton. Advanced piano students from within 80 kilometres of the Hamilton region were invited to compete for an annual \$500 scholarship, and an opportunity to perform in the Duet Club of Hamilton 2013 season, and also an opportunity to perform a concerto with the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra, Toronto. This afternoon's finalists were determined by a recorded performance preliminary round.

**THE DUET CLUB OF HAMILTON** is the oldest women's musical club in Canada, having been founded by Ellen Ambrose in 1889. Her students played piano duets when too shy to perform solos at Kingsthorpe School where she taught. Duet Club meetings have been held through the years in the Carey Piano Warerooms, the Hamilton Conservatory of Music, Dalewood School, Hamilton Place, and currently are in Hamilton's Melrose United Church, where its Steinway grand piano, that Vladimir Horowitz selected for us, travelling from New York City to be its first performer, resides.

In early years, meetings for study of specific composers were prepared by members themselves, with musical illustrations, including live performances. After a glorious past of presenting such eminent musicians as Gladys Swarthout, Gerald Moore, Jan Rubes, Herman Geiger Torel, and the Canadian Opera Company, the Duet Club now provides nine piano, vocal and instrumental scholarships for first class Conservatory students. Each deserving student has the opportunity to perform for a knowledgeable and talented audience: the Duet Club members.

**SAD NOTE...** Mary Geryk, Mike's mother who attended every Memorial Competition, passed away in November at age 89,

Please visit the web sites for more information: [www.artset.net/gerykmemorial.html](http://www.artset.net/gerykmemorial.html) and [hamiltonduetclub.org](http://hamiltonduetclub.org)

**Contributions to sustain the memorial fund are welcome.**

Donations are eligible for a tax receipt. Cheques may be sent payable to:

**Duet Club of Hamilton** 33 Crestwood Dr., Hamilton, ON L9A 3Y6  
(or donate this afternoon)

Please indicate **"Geryk Memorial"** on your cheque.

