

SEASON THREE | HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MENDELSSOHN!

Guelph Musicfest

Sunday May 10 to Friday May 22, 2009

Guelph Youth Music Centre Recital Hall | Ken Gee (artistic director) | www.guelphmusicfest.ca

MEDIA RELEASE March 2009

Guelph Musicfest is back for a THIRD exciting season of classical music in May.

After two successful seasons, Guelph Musicfest returns this May to the **Recital Hall** of the **Guelph Youth Music Centre** 75 Cardigan St., Guelph.

The theme of this year's festival is **HAPPY 200th BIRTHDAY, MENDELSSOHN!**, and the **4-Concert ARTIST SERIES** highlights great works by the brilliant 19th-century composer.

Guelph Musicfest 2009 also introduces an entirely new series... **STAGE TWO! Stage Two** is a departure from the **Artist Series**, and will feature fantastic performances that are not in the standard "recital or chamber music" format. There will be two **MATINEE CONCERTS** on **Sunday afternoons at 3 pm.**

CONCERT ONE (STAGE TWO)

The festival begins with the superlative **TACTUS VOCAL ENSEMBLE** on **Sunday, May 10 at 3 pm.** This crack "a capella" vocal ensemble will present its acclaimed **Shakespeare's Music: Rhyme & Reason.** Tactus will be joined by instrumentalists **Terry McKenna** (lute) and **Shannon Purves-Smith** (recorders & viol). For the show, Tactus wonders, "What is it with Shakespeare? For Tactus, in simplest terms, he's just hard to get out of your blood. The Bard has inspired so much in the broad realm of art, that we simply can't help ourselves with this "concert" format. In the past we've explored a musical day in the life of Will, and now we muse over Shakespeare's rhyme and reason, an admittedly generous theme.



We've bastardized the Bard's tongue, as he used the expression "neither rhyme nor reason" on two occasions. The line originates in his Comedy of Errors (1590) with Dromio of Syracuse:

*Was there ever any man thus beaten out of season,
When in the why and the wherefore is neither rhyme nor reason?*

Shakespeare must have been fond of the line, for he used it again (which was not common for the genius of so many words) in As You Like It (1600) with Rosalind asking Orlando:

*But are you so much in love as your rhymes speak?
Neither rhyme nor reason can express how much.*

We believe that rhyme and reason can express much, whether in a little catch like "Ah, Robin" from Twelfth Night, or a fairy-inspired violin flourish leading into the strange world of A Midsummer Night's Dream, or the cunning reasoning evident in Kate's power past-taming (The Taming of the Shrew)."

CONCERT TWO (ARTIST SERIES)

Valerie Tryon (piano) had the standing-room-only audience cheering wildly after her stunning Guelph Musicfest recital in 2007. Valerie returns on **Thursday, May 14 at 8 pm**, bringing a wonderful selection of Mendelssohn works plus some musical favourites from her vast repertoire.



Without doubt, Valerie is one of the greatest pianists in the world, and since making Canada her home, one of our national treasures!

Her career as a concert pianist began while she was still a child. Before she was twelve she had broadcast for the BBC and was appearing regularly before the public on the concert platform. She was one of the youngest students ever to be admitted to the Royal Academy of Music where she received the highest award in piano playing and a bursary which took her to Paris for study with Jacques F evrier.

Her place among Britain's acknowledged artists was assured when a Cheltenham Festival recital brought her the enthusiastic acclaim of the country's foremost critics. Since then she has played in most of the major concert halls and appeared with many of the leading orchestras and conductors in Britain. Her career has latterly taken her to North America where she has appeared in such cities as Toronto, Montreal, Boston, Washington, Pittsburgh, Minneapolis, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

Her repertoire is enormous and ranges from Bach to contemporary composers; it includes more than sixty concertos and a vast amount of chamber music. Among British composers, both Alun Hoddinott and John McCabe have dedicated works to her. She is well known for her sensitive interpretations of the romantics — Chopin, Liszt, and Rachmaninov in particular. When the BBC launched its Radio Enterprises record label, some years ago, Valerie Tryon's performance of Rachmaninov's Etudes Tableaux, op. 39, was the first classical disc to be released. More recently she has recorded the complete Ballades and Scherzos of Chopin for the CBC's Musica Viva label, which Harold Schonberg of the New York Times described as "the best Chopin recording of the past decade." Notwithstanding her involvement in the music of the 19th century, she retains a deep love of Scarlatti, whose keyboard sonatas she has delighted in playing in public since her childhood and early youth, and to which she remains deeply committed. Likewise, her ongoing series of the complete piano music of Claude Debussy, represents a special passion: she has twice performed this important repertoire in a demanding cycle of five successive recitals.

One of Valerie's chief enthusiasms is chamber music. Two of her best-known duo partners in England were Alfredo Campoli (violin) and George Isaac (cello), with both of whom she made a number of significant recordings. Her performance with Isaac of Rachmaninov's Cello Sonata is now considered to be a collector's item.

Valerie has been awarded several distinctions for her services to music. She was an early recipient of the Harriet Cohen Medal. More recently the Liszt Memorial Plaque was bestowed on her by the Hungarian Minister of Culture in recognition of her lifelong promotion of Franz Liszt's music.

PROGRAM (revised)

MENDELSSOHN: Andante and Rondo Capriccioso

Variations Serieuse

Three Songs without Words

DEBUSSY: Arabesque no. 1

Clair de Lune

RAVEL: Jeux d'eau

Alborada del Grazioso

POULENC: 3 pi eces pour piano (Pastorale, Hymne, Toccata)

CHOPIN: Fantaisie, op. 49

Nocturne in C minor

SCHULZ-EVLER: Arabesques on a theme of the Blue Danube

CONCERT THREE (ARTIST SERIES)

Marion Samuel-Stevens (soprano) is one of Canada's rising stars. For her recital on **Friday, May 15 at 8 pm**, she will be joined by pianist **William Shookhoff**.



Marion Samuel-Stevens is a graduate of the University of Toronto's Voice Performance and is building a reputation as a performer of Oratorio and Opera. Marion is an avid supporter of new music and was a finalist in the 2008 Eckhardt-Grammatté competition and has performed Grigori Frid's *Diary of Anne Frank* as Anne, Peter Skoggard's new opera *Stratas* in the title role, Ruth in Ronald Beckett's opera *Ruth*, Mark Adamo's *Little Women* as Beth, as well as David Del-Tredici's *Alice* with the National Ballet of Canada Orchestra. Operatic roles include Elle in *La Voix Humaine* by Poulenc, Hélène in Hindemith's *Hin und Zurück* and Estelle in *The Stronger* by Hugo Weisgall, Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute* by Mozart and Titania in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Oratorio highlights include Mozart's *Coronation Mass* and *Vespers*, Haydn's *Paukenmesse*, *Lord Nelson Mass*, and *Creation*. Vivaldi's *Gloria* and *Magnificat*, Gounod's *St. Cecilia Mass*, Faure's *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah* and Vaughan Williams' *Sea Symphony*, Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* and the *Christmas Oratorio* by J. S Bach.

William Shookhoff is a noted conductor, pianist and vocal coach throughout Canada and abroad. He has conducted Canadian orchestras from coast to coast, as well as in the Netherlands and China. He has served on the music faculties of the Universities of Toronto, Alberta, Wilfrid Laurier, as well as the Banff Centre for the Arts and the Johannesen Summer Institute of Music. He has been on the Music Staff of the Canadian, Netherlands, Edmonton, and Portland (Oregon) Opera Companies.

Equally at home in Music Theatre, Mr Shookhoff was the Associate Conductor of the inaugural Canadian production of *Les Miserables*, and of the Canadian Tour and Toronto productions of *Phantom of the Opera*. He has been a guest Music Director with Neptune Theatre (Halifax), Persephone Theatre (Saskatoon), and Citadel Theatre (Edmonton).

Recent guest appearances as opera coach and orchestra conductor have taken him to Chichester, England, Burgundy, France, Siegraben, Austria; and Wuhan, China. He has also devoted his efforts to the development and presentation of the *Massed Piano* or *Monster Concert*, and has conducted such events at Carnegie Hall, New York; Massey Hall and Nathan Philips Square, Toronto; the White House, Washington, DC; and the Castel Sant'Angelo, Rome. Mr. Shookhoff is Artistic Director Emeritus at Tryptych Productions.

PROGRAM

HAYDN: English Songs

MENDELSSOHN: Songs

CANTELOUBE: Songs of the Auvergne

BERG: Sieben Fruhe Lieder

HEGGIE: Paper Wings

Fun stuff!

CONCERT FOUR (STAGE TWO)

Four friends, four trombones, full choral sound. If you love the rich sound of brass, you'll love **Slide by Slide** when it performs **Spirited to the Bone!** on **Sunday, May 17 at 3 pm**. It plays a very eclectic collection of musical styles as arranged for trombone quartet—everything from Gabrielli to Gershwin.



Slide by Slide is an exciting new Trombone Quartet in the Golden Triangle region of Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge and Guelph. Members of the group are John Monkhouse, Dave Davidson, Jim Edwards and Susan Follows.

They formed the group simply for the joy of making music—some people golf, they play quartets—and until recently used the quartet genre as a musical outlet strictly for their own enjoyment. However, in the Spring of 2003 they were asked to perform as part of the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Music Society concert series and chose the name **Slide by Slide** as their 'stage name.'

As well as their regular engagements they have been featured in concerts with the Kitchener Musical Society Concert Band, as guest performers at the Central Ontario Band Workshop, and with the London (Ontario) based brass group, Brassroots (Bram Gregson, Musical Director) with guest artist Alistair Kay. With the release of their first CD, "Between Friends," in 2008 Slide by Slide offers everyone the opportunity to hear them any time as they explore an eclectic collection of everything from Baroque to jazz standards with a little Dixieland jazz on the side.

CONCERT FIVE (ARTIST SERIES)

Guelph Musicfest brings together three musical friends, and past performers in the series, to create the **Festival Trio**, appearing **Thursday, May 21 at 8 pm** and performing the great Mendelssohn Piano Trio in D minor.



Violinist **Jerzy Kaplanek** performed in Guelph Musicfest 2008 with the Penderecki Quartet. He received a BMUS degree at the Conservatory in Bytom, Poland, and a MA from the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music, where he studied with Janusz Skramlik, Stanislaw Lewandowski, and Aureli Blaszcok. He has been a member of the Penderecki String Quartet since 1987. With the Quartet, and also as a soloist and chamber musician, he performs internationally. His discography includes a dozen CDs with the Penderecki Quartet and Schoenberg's Perrot Lunaire with the Blue Ride Ensemble. His chamber music partners have included talents such as pianist James Parker and cellist Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi. He is frequently heard on CBC Radio and in the fall of 1997 was featured soloist at a concert held in the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, as a tribute to Karol Szymanowski. Pursuing his interest in Baroque performance practice, Kaplanek has also worked with the Custodian of Period Instruments at the Smithsonian Museum, Jaap Schroeder.

Jerzy is presently an associate professor at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, where he teaches violin and chamber music. He plays a copy of the "Kreisler", Joseph Guarnerius del Gesù 1733, made by Luiz B. Bellini (New York, 1997).



Cellist **Paul Pulford** performed a recital with Ken Gee in Guelph Musicfest 2008. He has been an active soloist and chamber musician since his debut recital in Winnipeg in 1967. Since then, Paul has performed many of the great works for cello and orchestra with ensembles as diverse as the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Banff Festival Orchestra, Symphony Nova Scotia, Toronto Chamber Players, and Irish Radio Orchestra.

Paul's CD of the Complete Works for Cello and Fortepiano by Beethoven with pianist Boyd McDonald (EBS Germany) received rave reviews in a number of publications, including CONTINUO Magazine, which remarked, "In what is certainly the major period instrument

release of Beethoven chamber music in many a year, Pulford and McDonald have completely blown the competition out of the water—there is simply no need to consider any other version, despite the many big-name cellists who have recorded this music.”

Until recently a member of the Penderecki String Quartet, with which he toured worldwide and recorded 21 Paul Mr. Pulford also maintains an active interest in New Music.

He is a founding member of the Blue Rider Ensemble, which has recorded a CD featuring Pierrot Lunaire by Schoenberg, and The Cinnamon Peeler, a new work by American composer Donald Crockett, based on poetry by Michael Ondaatje.

Paul is committed to sharing the experience of classical music with younger musicians. He teaches cello at Wilfrid Laurier University where he coordinates the Orchestral Program and the innovative Chamber Music Program. He plays a cello by the French maker August Bernardel from 1847.



Pianist Ken Gee studied piano with Edna Smith, Reginald Bedford and Boris Berlin, and performed in many master classes. A winner of many performance scholarships, Ken is an experienced recitalist, concerto soloist, accompanist, and chamber music player. He has a Music B.A. from McMaster University, where he was awarded the McMaster Medal for the Creative and Performing Arts. Ken was music critic for the Hamilton Spectator, manager for chamber music series and Ensemble Sir Ernest MacMillan, co-director of the Hamilton Kiwanis Music Festival, and a teacher at McMaster University, Sheridan College and Mohawk College.

Ken’s other life is in Macintosh-based design work and music production. He developed classical piano music software for PG Music Inc., Victoria, and makes music and music text books for Frederick Harris Music Ltd., the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, and Kjos Music in San Diego. He is the accompanist for Guelph Youth Singers, Suzuki String School of Guelph, and Suzuki summer Institutes in Waterloo and Montreal, and has also been a piano adjudicator, private teacher and music ensemble coach.

He introduced Guelph Musicfest in May 2007. In 2008, he was the recipient of a City of Guelph Mayor’s Award.

Ken lives in Guelph with his violinist wife, Paule Barsalou (director of the Suzuki String School of Guelph).

PROGRAM

HAYDN: Trio in D major (Hungarian Rondo)

BLOCH: Nocturnes

MENDELSSOHN: Trio in D minor

SERIES & SINGLE TICKETS are available online, mail or phone order.

For tickets and information: visit www.guelphmusicfest.ca or phone **519-993-7591**.

The Recital Hall of the **Guelph Youth Music Centre** is Guelph’s musical gem—an intimate space, seating only 180, and specifically designed for chamber music and recitals. The wonderful acoustics are perfect for recitals and chamber music.

The GYMC is located downtown at 75 Cardigan Street.

Since Guelph Musicfest 2007, the **stage lighting has been upgraded**, so everyone will now enjoy a “brighter” musical experience.

For more information about the Guelph Youth Music Centre: visit www.gymc.ca

CONCERT SIX (ARTIST SERIES)

Guelph Musicfest is pleased to present the award-winning **Cecilia String Quartet** from San Diego, California. Its series finale performance on **Friday, May 22 at 8 pm** will not only feature Mendelssohn's String Quartet in F minor, op. 80, but also "The Canadian" Quartet by American composer Liam Wade, composed for the Cecilia String Quartet.



The Cecilia String Quartet is made up of Sarah Nematallah (violin), Min-Jeong Koh (violin), Catlin Boyle (viola) and Rebecca Wenham (cello)

Praised for their 'extraordinary commitment and maturity' (Montreal Gazette) and 'talent, passion and mastery' (Jacques Robert, JR Multimedia), the Cecilia String Quartet is one of Canada's most exciting emerging ensembles today. First Prize and Melpomene Prize winner of the 2008 Rutenberg Chamber

Music Festival, Second Prize winners of the 2008 Osaka International Chamber Music Competition, and winners of the 2007 Galaxie Rising Stars Award in Canada, they are currently recipients of the Joseph Fisch and Joyce Axelrod String Quartet residency at San Diego State University in association with the La Jolla Music Society. Most recently, the quartet has won First Prize and the Melpomene Prize at the Rutenberg Competition. They are also pursuing Artist Diplomas at the Schulich School of Music at McGill University, under the guidance of Andre Roy.

Since their inception in 2004, the quartet has held residencies at Laurier University, The Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, and at the University of Toronto where the quartet was formed. Their debut performance at the Arts and Letters Club in Toronto was met with high praise, and their first season culminated in the receipt of the Felix Galimir Award for Chamber Music Excellence after only 6 months as a quartet. Subsequently, they participated in the Juilliard String Quartet Seminar in New York, the Stanford Chamber Music Seminar in California, and the Schleswig-Holstein Chamber Music Festival in Germany. One of two quartets invited to attend the 2006 Deer Valley Music Festival's Emerging Quartets and Composers Program in Utah, the CSQ worked extensively with the Muir Quartet and Joan Tower to premiere Belinda Reynolds' "Static Motion," a work commissioned for the CSQ by the festival. In summer 2007, the CSQ were fellows at the Aspen Music Festival and School in the prestigious Advanced String Quartet Studies Program.

The CSQ has performed across North America on series such as the Barrie Colours of Music Festival, the Toronto Music Garden, the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Music Society, Chamber Music Hamilton, the Northern Lights Music Festival in Ajijic, Mexico, and the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival. They also recently toured Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia with Jeunesses Musicales Canada on their Desjardins Concert Series. This past summer the CSQ were Shouse Artists at the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival in Michigan and the Resident String Quartet at the Austin Chamber Music Festival in Texas. Upcoming highlights include a debut performance for the La Jolla Music Society in California and the third of a three-concert appearance on Music Toronto's Discovery Series.

The Cecilia String Quartet takes its name from St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music. They have worked with members of the Juilliard, Emerson, Tokyo, Takacs, St. Lawrence, Ying, American, Penderecki, and Orford Quartets. Members of the CSQ have attended the University of Toronto, the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music, the HARID Conservatory of Music, the New England Conservatory, the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, and the Hochschule fur Musik und Theatre Munchen in Munich, Germany. Min-Jeong Koh plays on a violin made by Samuel Zygmuntovich, on loan from the Banff Centre and would like to thank them for their generosity and support.

PROGRAM

THEODORE DUBOIS: String Quartet No. 1*

* This string quartet was written in the late romantic period by Dubois, a french composer mostly know for his keyboard and operatic works. It was recently discovered in the home of his great grandson and we will be recording it, along with his second string quartet, in August.

LIAM WADE: String Quartet No. 2 "The Canadian"

MENDELSSOHN: String Quartet No. 6 in F minor, op. 80

Guelph Musicfest

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SEASON THREE — 2009 Calendar of Events

1

STAGE TWO: Sunday, May 10, 2009 at 3 pm (matinee)

Recital Hall, Guelph Youth Music Centre

TACTUS VOCAL ENSEMBLE... Shakespeare's Music: Rhyme & Reason

with guests **Terry McKenna** (lute) & **Shannon Purves-Smith** (recorders & viol)

2

ARTIST SERIES: Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 8 pm (evening)

Recital Hall, Guelph Youth Music Centre

RECITAL: Valerie Tryon (piano)

MENDELSSOHN: Andante and Rondo Capriccioso; Variations Serieuse; Three Songs without Words

DEBUSSY: Arabesque no. 1; Clair de Lune

RAVEL: Jeux d'eau; Alborada del Grazioso

POULENC: 3 pièces pour piano (Pastorale, Hymne, Toccata)

CHOPIN: Fantaisie, op. 49; Nocturne in C minor

SCHULZ-EVLER: Arabesques on a theme of the Blue Danube

3

ARTIST SERIES: Friday, May 15, 2009 at 8 pm (evening)

Recital Hall, Guelph Youth Music Centre

RECITAL: Marion Samuel-Stevens (soprano) & **William Shookhoff** (piano)

HAYDN: English Songs

MENDELSSOHN: Songs

CANTELOUBE: Songs of the Auvergne

BERG: Sieben Fruhe Lieder

HEGGIE: Paper Wings

PLUS... Fun Stuff!

4

STAGE TWO: Sunday, May 17, 2009 at 3 pm (matinee)

Recital Hall, Guelph Youth Music Centre

Slide by Slide... Spirited to the Bone!

John Monkhouse, Dave Davidson, Jim Edwards & Susan Follows (trombones)

5

ARTIST SERIES: Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 8 pm (evening)

Recital Hall, Guelph Youth Music Centre

FESTIVAL TRIO

Jerzy Kaplanek (violin), **Paul Pulford** (cello) & **Ken Gee** (piano)

HAYDN: Trio in D major (Hungarian Rondo)

BLOCH: Nocturnes

MENDELSSOHN: Trio in D minor

6

ARTIST SERIES: Friday, May 22, 2009 at 8 pm (evening)

Recital Hall, Guelph Youth Music Centre

CECILIA STRING QUARTET

Sarah Nematallah & Min-Jeong Koh (violins), **Catlin Boyle** (viola) & **Rebecca Wenham** (cello)

THEODORE DUBOIS: String Quartet No. 1*

* This string quartet was written in the late romantic period by Dubois, a french composer mostly know for his keyboard and operatic works.

It was recently discovered in the home of his great grandson and we will be recording it, along with his second string quartet, in August.

LIAM WADE: String Quartet No. 2 "The Canadian"

MENDELSSOHN: String Quartet No. 6 in F minor, op. 80

Guelph Musicfest

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TICKET INFORMATION — 2009

ARTIST Series (all four 8 pm evening performances)

includes Valerie Tryon (May 14) | Marion Samuel-Stevens & William Shookhoff (May 15)
Festival Trio (May 21) | Cecilia String Quartet (May 22)

ALL FOUR CONCERTS for only \$100 (adult), \$95 (senior), \$70 (student)

SINGLE TICKETS: \$30 (adult), \$28 (senior), \$20 (student)

SINGLE TICKET GROUP RATE

Buy **10 or more tickets to the same concert and get a 10% discount** (order by phone **519-993-7591** or online)

ARTIST PICK-3 Series (three 8 pm evening performances)

includes your choice of any three concerts from: Valerie Tryon (May 14)
Marion Samuel-Stevens & William Shookhoff (May 15) | Festival Trio (May 21) | Cecilia String Quartet (May 22)

THREE CONCERTS for only \$80 (adult), \$75 (senior), \$55 (student)

STAGE TWO Series (two Sunday matinee performances)

includes Tactus (May 10) | Slide by Slide (May 17)

BOTH CONCERTS for only \$45 (adult), \$36 (senior or student)

SINGLE TICKETS: Adult \$25 (adult), \$20 (senior or student)

SUPER Series (four 8 pm evening AND two Sunday matinee performances)

includes THE WORKS! Tactus (May 10) | Valerie Tryon (May 14)
Marion Samuel-Stevens & William Shookhoff (May 15) | Slide by Slide (May 17) | Festival Trio (May 21)
Cecilia String Quartet (May 22)

ALL SIX CONCERTS for only \$130 (adult), \$126 (senior), \$100 (student)

INTRODUCING... SUPPORTER Series (8 pm evening AND Sunday matinee performances)

includes THE WORKS! Tactus (May 10) | Valerie Tryon (May 14)
Marion Samuel-Stevens & William Shookhoff (May 15) | Slide by Slide (May 17) | Festival Trio (May 21)
Cecilia String Quartet (May 22)

Many people have asked if they could **support Guelph Musicfest with a donation**. This **NEW** subscription series is designed for supporters.

Pricing is based on regular single ticket prices. AND if you cannot attend all the concerts, your unused tickets will be **GIVEN** to a financially-challenged student or senior—a double benefit!

Your name will also be listed in the printed programme as a **Supporter** of Guelph Musicfest!

ALL SIX CONCERTS for \$170

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PLEASE NOTE: there will be a \$2 service charge per order

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Available at **The Bookshelf** and the **Guelph Youth Music Centre office** beginning in April.

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