

VIRTUOSi
CONCERTS

chamber music up close and personal

EST. 1991

Letter from the Directors

Dear Listeners,

You are invited to a refreshing season of inspiring encounters with unforgettable music! The seven concerts of our 2024–25 season are grounded in distinct landscapes, cities, and communities, and the music that comes from them.

Each program reflects a unique perspective, from the Looking Glass Ensemble's imaginative pairing of music and movement to Rachel Barton Pine's exploration of dance forms in American classical music. The Stenhammar Quartet takes a snapshot of three European cities circa 1900 while Prairie Sons pay homage to their cherished home. Luke Welch presents the exquisite early 20th century piano works of two British and Canadian composers of African descent, and Constantinople draws the season's journey to a close with a beautiful bridge for diverse traditions to meet.

Our Roots & Branches Mentorship Concert Project returns in January featuring three bright musicians on the brink of their performance careers alongside professional players, and participants in our Young Artist Program will perform at the opening of every season concert.

Virtuosi believes in the power of collaboration to foster the vibrant cultural life of our city. We are pleased to partner with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, GroundSwell, Prairie Debut, the Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg, and the Millennium Library to present both local and international artists. Many thanks to the sponsors and donors who make all of our activities possible.

Everyone is welcome at Virtuosi. Accessible ticketing options are available so please contact us if cost is prohibitive or for other questions about access. Subscribing to the season means saving on the price of each ticket and becoming a member of Virtuosi's community. We believe chamber music is the music of friends! Invite your favourite people to subscribe as well, and you can plan on enjoying many beautiful moments together.

With a fresh perspective, Virtuosi Concerts continues our tradition of presenting up-close-and-personal musical experiences for all curious listeners.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Thiessen
Artistic Director

Heather Lewis
Executive Director

Everything Is Green

SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 29
2:30 PM

Westworth United Church

Looking Glass Ensemble:
Shannon Litzenberger,
choreography/dance;
Christine Carter, *clarinet*;
Vernon Regehr, *cello*;
Gregory Oh, *piano*;

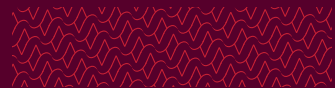
Our season opens with a breath of fresh air from the interdisciplinary Looking Glass Ensemble. Founded by clarinetist Christine Carter and dancer/choreographer Shannon Litzenberger in collaboration with trailblazing pianist Gregory Oh and acclaimed Winnipeg-born cellist Vernon Regehr, this innovative performance collective from St. John's and Toronto melds music and movement, presenting classical chamber music for clarinet, cello, and piano in combination with contemporary dance. The refreshing program they bring to Winnipeg pairs newly imagined creations including Randy Woolf's breathtaking Everything is Green and Vivian Fung's whimsical Billy Collins Suite with Arvo Pärt's exquisite classic Spiegel im Spiegel and Ludwig van Beethoven's quintessential Trio in Bb Major for clarinet, cello, and piano.



Stockholm, Paris, Prague: 1900

SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 3, 2024
2:30 PM

**Winnipeg Art Gallery,
Muriel Richardson
Auditorium**
Stenhammar Quartet



The prominent Stenhammar String Quartet of Sweden has more than two decades of world tours and over forty recordings to their name. The program they have created for Virtuosi is a snapshot of the state of the string quartet at the turn of the last century in the hands of three master composers from across Europe. Germaine Tailleferre, a member of the famed Parisian composer's collective Les Six, wrote her only string quartet early in her career in 1919. By contrast, Czech giant Bedřich Smetana produced his second string quartet near the end of his life in 1883, one of only four chamber works in an otherwise operatic catalogue. At the heart of this program lies Swedish pianist-composer Wilhelm Stenhammar's String Quartet No. 3, completed in 1900. This concert is presented in partnership with GroundSwell.



A Love Letter to the Prairies

SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 17
3:00 PM
**Winnipeg Art Gallery,
Muriel Richardson
Auditorium**

Prairie Sons:
David Liam Roberts, *cello*;
Godwin Friesen, *piano*



Two rising stars from Manitoba and Saskatchewan return from their studies abroad to perform for their home audiences. Cellist David Liam Roberts and pianist Godwin Friesen, both included on CBC's lists of Hot 30 Classical Musicians Under 30, met at the Royal Conservatory's Glenn Gould School of Music and recognized a kindred spirit in each other. As Prairie Sons, they embody the expansive, nuanced perspective of their home landscapes in this program which includes Francis Poulenc's and Sergei Rachmaninov's sonatas for cello and piano, a new work composed by Godwin, and a special prairie connection via the duo's take on the music of Joni Mitchell. This concert is presented in partnership with Prairie Debut and the Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg.

Roots & Branches Mentorship Concert Project

SUNDAY,
JANUARY 12, 2025
2:30 PM

**St. Andrew's
River Heights
United Church**

Miona Milovanović, *violin*;
Christina Thanisch-Smith,
soprano;
Déverson Correia, *cello*
& Mentors

Virtuosi's third annual Mentorship Concert Project presents another fantastic chamber ensemble of professional and pre-professional musicians from our community playing side-by-side. This year, three emerging artists who are already beginning to shape their lives in music have been chosen through our Young Artist Program application process to curate, rehearse, and perform a full-length cohesive concert program of classical and contemporary works alongside mentor musicians. Keep your eye out for the announcement of the mentor musicians and details of the repertoire this autumn!



American Traditions

FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 28
7:30 PM

**Canadian Museum of
Human Rights, Garden
of Contemplation**

Rachel Barton Pine, *violin*



Heralded as a leading interpreter of the great classical masterworks as well as folk- and rock-influenced new music, American concert violinist Rachel Barton Pine thrills international audiences with her dazzling technique, lustrous tone, and emotional honesty. She has curated a solo program in celebration of the violin's American folk music roots, traversing the European dance music of early immigrants to its transformation into a unique style thanks to the influence of African-American music-making. We will journey from the dance forms of Johann Sebastian Bach's Partita No. 3 through Henri Vieuxtemps' jaunty Souvenir d'Amérique and music by contemporary fiddler-composers like Mark O'Connor, to important jazz- and hip-hop-influenced works by Noel da Costa,

Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson,
and Daniel Bernard
Roumain. This
concert is presented
in partnership
with the
Winnipeg
Symphony
Orchestra.

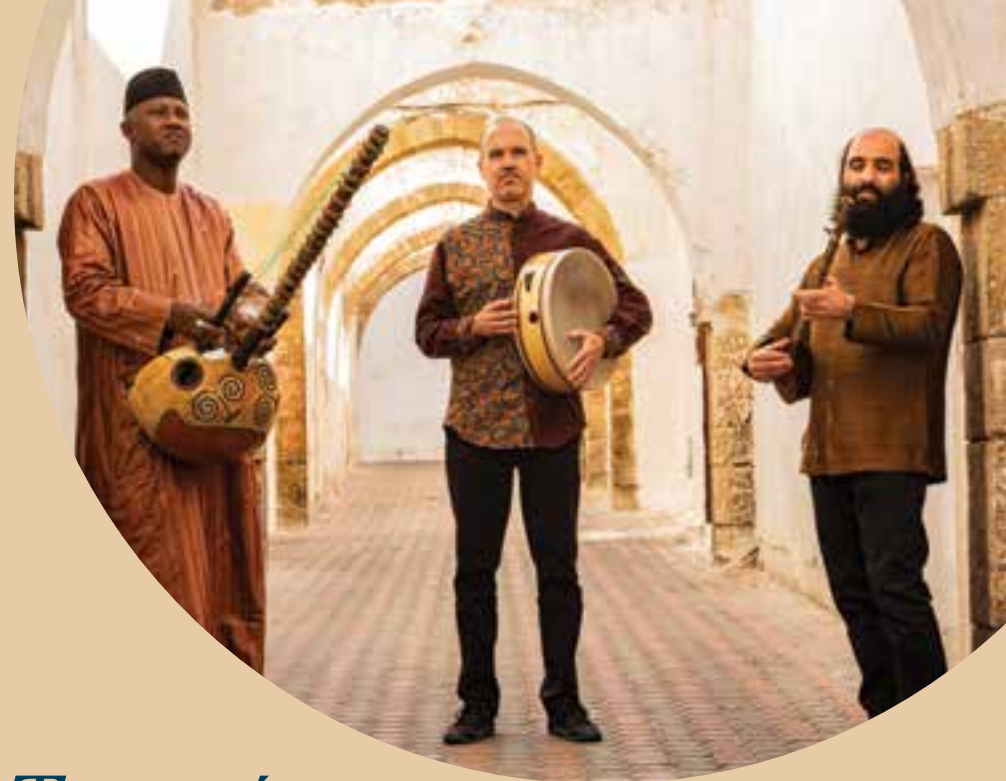


Northern Magnolias



SATURDAY
MARCH 29, 2025
7:30 PM
**St. Andrew's
River Heights
United Church**
Luke Welch, *piano*

Award-winning Torontonians pianist Luke Welch “...has a nice knack for a rather sparkling interpretation.” (American Record Guide) He has performed extensively as a soloist on international stages from Beethoven Haus in Bonn to the Four Seasons Centre in Toronto and as a collaborative pianist with Nederlands Dans Theater and the National Ballet of Canada. His Virtuosi recital celebrates the release of his new recording of works by Canadian composer R. Nathaniel Dett (1882–1943) and his critically acclaimed 2023 album of music by British composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875–1912). Come and discover such important and imaginative works as Coleridge-Taylor’s “Scenes from an Imaginary Ballet” and Dett’s “Magnolias Suite.” Luke is emerging as a sought-after soloist and a champion of music that must be heard!



Traversées

FRIDAY,
APRIL 25, 2025
7:30 PM
**Winnipeg Art Gallery,
Main Hall**
Constantinople:
Kiya Tabassian, *setar/voice*;
Ablaye Cissoko, *kora/voice*;
Patrick Graham, *percussion*

The Montreal-based ensemble Constantinople honours the rich musical traditions of the world by creating new music through unique encounters between cultures, periods, styles, and people. Traversées invites singer and kora-player Ablaye Cissoko of Senegal to join artistic director and Persian setar-player Kiya Tabassian and percussionist Patrick Graham to explore these crossing-places between time and tradition. As one of Constantinople’s most beloved collaborations, this project has been heard over a hundred times in festivals and halls around the world. In Kiya’s words, “This exceptional harmony that exists today between our music and ourselves has allowed us to create works inspired by our inner gardens and shared voyages, which we present to you with this concert.” It is our privilege to welcome these harmonious wordsmiths to Winnipeg.

Out Loud at the Library

PRESENTED BY VIRTUOSI CONCERTS & THE MILLENNIUM LIBRARY
Millennium Library, Carol Shields Auditorium

Out Loud at the Library (formerly Skywalk Concerts) is a free daytime concert series presented in collaboration with the Millennium Library. For our fall programming, we have partnered with the Winnipeg Arts Council's City of Song initiative to bring you four exciting vocal concerts!



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2024
2:00 PM

Chantons la résistance / Resistance in Song

Fire & Smoke: Claire Morrison & Daniel
Pélouquin-Hopfner



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024
2:00 PM

Isang Mundo, Isang Himig / One World, One Melody

Musica Singers



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2024
2:00 PM

Sing OUT!

Rainbow Harmony Project



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024
2:00 PM

Songs from Treaty 1

Dead of Winter with Keely McPeck,
soprano and Caleb Rondeau, baritone.

SAVE THE DATE for our Winter concerts—
details will be available on our website
virtuosiconcerts.ca/outloudatthelibrary

Saturday January 18, 2025 Saturday, February 8, 2025
Saturday, March 15, 2025 Saturday, April 5, 2025



CHOOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE

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All prices inclusive of GST.

7-concert adult membership	\$260 x _____ =	\$ _____
5-concert adult membership	\$210 x _____ =	\$ _____
7-concert under-30 membership	\$185 x _____ =	\$ _____
5-concert under-30 membership	\$155 x _____ =	\$ _____

5-concert members -select your concerts:

- ☐ September 29, 2024 ☐ November 3, 2024 ☐ November 17, 2024
☐ January 12, 2025 ☐ February 28, 2025 ☐ March 29, 2025
☐ April 25, 2025

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METHOD OF PAYMENT

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Help us reduce our costs: please consider making payment by cheque!

CONTACT VIRTUOSI CONCERTS

501-100 Arthur Street Tel 204-786-9000
Winnipeg MB R3B 1H3 virtuosiconcerts@gmail.com

Buy tickets at VirtuosiConcerts.ca

VIRTUOSi

CONCERTS

— CONNECT WITH THE MUSIC —

Virtuosi Concerts is thrilled to present 7 live in-person concerts for the 2024/2025 season, featuring outstanding classical artists from across Canada and around the world.

- Pick from 7 unforgettable season concerts
- Meet the artists at our pre-concert chats
- Celebrate our Young Artist Program participants at the opening of every concert
- Enjoy our free Saturday afternoon series at the Millennium Library

— MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS —

- Savings of up to 20% over casual tickets
- Bring a Friend! 7-Concert members receive 1 free admission to a concert of their choice
 - Free ticket exchanges
- Instalment payments available

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

