

Dear Listeners,

Welcome!

This evening we embark on a journey, led by the curation and craft of the extraordinary baritone Jonathon Adams and their exceptional collaborators Rebecca Hass, Jory Vinikour, and Felix Deak. It is an honour to feature the sounds of these fantastic artists in Winnipeg, and to present Jonathon's program of depth and beauty which ties historical musics and personal poetry into a fabric of imperative current relevance.

A special welcome to The Triad! Violinist Bella-Sophia Rogers, violist Mikayla Sawatsky, and cellist Sophie Caron are participating in our Young Artist Program as a pre-formed trio and we are thrilled to support their musicality and teamwork.

Tonight's concert eloquently expresses Virtuosi's values "... that music is a universal form of human communication; that the interaction between performing artist and audience is indispensable to the mind and spirit; that the transformative power of live performance can embrace and unite individuals, communities, and cultures thereby strengthening art and enriching society."

Many thanks to our Executive Director Heather Lewis and her concert production team, our committed Board of Directors, Gail Asper and the Canada Council for the Arts for their support of this concert, WAG-Qaumajuj for this beautiful space, and to you for being here!

With a fresh perspective, Virtuosi Concerts continues our tradition of presenting unforgettable musical experiences for curious listeners.

Enjoy!

Sincerely,



Jennifer Thiessen
*Artistic Director,
Virtuosi Concerts*



Concert Etiquette

Good Scents Policy

Due to the allergic sensitivities of some of our performers and patrons, we ask you to refrain from using perfumes, colognes, hairsprays or other fragrances when planning to attend Virtuosi Concerts performances.

Electronics

Please turn off your cell phone. No recording or photography permitted during the performance.

Candies

Please unwrap lozenges before the music begins. If you are concerned about a persistent cough, please see us at the Patron Services table and we will try to accommodate a seat closer to the exit.

A little late?

Please wait at the rear of the Hall. Latecomers will be seated at a suitable interval.

Virtuosi Concerts

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We acknowledge the place in which we gather is on Treaty 1 territory, the homeland of the Red River Métis, and the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininiwak, and Dakota Oyate peoples and our water originates in Shoal Lake 40 First Nation Territory.

Virtuosi Concerts acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to moving forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

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Virtuosi Concerts

P.O. Box 2982 Station Main, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 4B5
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A Message from our Board President

Welcome to tonight's Virtuosi concert, the fifth in our 2023-2024 season!

This evening, Virtuosi is honoured to present a program curated and led by Cree-Métis baritone Jonathon Adams. An acclaimed and innovative performer, Jonathon has recently appeared as featured soloist with the New York Philharmonic, Tafelmusik, and San Francisco Symphony. In 2023, they shared the stage with Dead of Winter at the Winnipeg Baroque Festival.

Jonathon is joined tonight by an exceptional group of collaborators: Jody Vinikour, harpsichord; Felix Deak, viola da gamba; and Rebecca Hass, recitations. Together, these outstanding artists bring to us an inspired program interweaving traditional Indigenous music, historical and contemporary texts, baroque pieces by 17th-century English composer Henry Purcell, and Jonathon's own, richly-nuanced poetry. We are grateful to Jonathon and their colleagues for sharing their vision and creativity with our Winnipeg audience.

Virtuosi Concerts deeply appreciates the unwavering support and patronage of our wonderful audience, our funding organizations, and individual donors. We particularly acknowledge the Asper Family Foundation, Canada Council for the Arts, and Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, whose generous support made this concert possible. We thank our Artistic Director Jennifer Thiessen, Executive Director Heather Lewis, and our Board of Directors for their hard work and leadership. Their commitment to excellence has resulted in an outstanding programme we will enjoy today. Thank you for attending tonight's event, and we look forward to seeing you throughout the season!

Paul R.J. McCulloch

Paul R.J. McCulloch
*Board President,
Virtuosi Concerts*



With sick and famish'd eyes



JONATHON ADAMS,
baritone



JORY VINIKOUR,
harpsichord



REBECCA HASS,
recitations



FELIX DEÁK,
viola da gamba

Virtuosi Concerts wishes to thank:

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VIRTUOSI CONCERTS YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM

THE TRIAD:

BELLA-SOPHIA ROGERS, violin, MIKAYLA SAWATZKY, viola
SOPHIE CARON, cello

Serenade in D Major, Op. 8

Ludwig van Beethoven

IV. Allegretto alla polacca

(1770–1827)

with sick and famish'd eyes

JONATHON ADAMS, baritone, JORY VINIKOUR, harpsichord

FELIX DEÁK, viola da gamba & REBECCA HASS, recitations

◁▷▷ (story)

'Chant Cri'

Traditional

'Tis nature's voice

Henry Purcell
(c. 1659-1695)

◁▷▷

Sweeter than Roses

Henry Purcell

◁▷▷

Come all ye songsters of the sky

Henry Purcell

The Fatal Hour

Henry Purcell

◁▷▷

From rosy bow'rs

Henry Purcell

INTERMISSION

Under this stone

Henry Purcell

◁▷▷

O solitude

Henry Purcell

From silent shades (Bess of Bedlam)

Henry Purcell

◁▷▷

With sick and famish'd eyes

Henry Purcell

An Evening Hymn

Henry Purcell

◁▷▷

Chaconne from *The Fairy Queen*

Henry Purcell

Nisakihaw (Love Song)

Sherryl Sewepagaham

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Performer Biographies



JONATHON ADAMS, BARITONE

Born in amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton, AB), Jonathon Adams is a Cree-Métis, Two-Spirit baritone. As a soloist, they have appeared under Masaaki Suzuki, Laurence Equilbey, Philippe Herreweghe, Catalina Vicens, Laurence Cummings, and with the New York Philharmonic, the National Symphony, the San Francisco Symphony, the Toronto Symphony, and St. Louis Symphony Orchestras.

They are a frequent guest artist with Tafelmusik, the Ricercar Consort, TENET, the Washington Bach Consort, il Gardellino, B'Rock Orchestra, the Toronto Consort, and the Pacific Baroque Orchestra, among others. They were featured in the acclaimed 2019 revival of Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's *MEA CULPA* at Opera-Ballet Vlaanderen, and in Against the Grain Theatre's 2021 film *MESSIAH/COMPLEX*. Recent career highlights include the co-creation of *Wreckonciliation* with Marion Newman and Yvette Nolan for Amplified Opera, the première of four new songs for lute and voice by Métis composer Jesse Plessis for Cecilia Concerts in Halifax, and contributing to Cree composer and flutist Jessica McMann's 2023 album *Prairie Dusk*. The inaugural artist-in-residence at Early Music Vancouver in 2021, Jonathon was also named 'Indigenous artist-in-residence' by the University of Toronto's historical performance department in 2022. In 2023 they led a workshop and performance of Métis music during the Rethinking Place conference at Bard College with Rebecca Hass. In 2024/25 Jonathon looks forward to exciting new collaborations with the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestre Métropolitain, the Juilliard School, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Jonathon has given lectures and masterclasses at The Juilliard School, UBC, UofM, Festival Montréal Baroque, and they direct an annual course for emerging artists in Lunenburg, NS. Jonathon studied singing at the Royal Academy of Music, the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, and privately with Nancy Argenta, Emma Kirkby, and Rosemary Joshua.



*JORY VINIKOUR,
HARPSICHORD*

Jory Vinikour is recognized as one of the outstanding harpsichordists of his generation. Born in Chicago, he came to Paris on a Fulbright scholarship to study with Huguette Dreyfus and Kenneth Gilbert. First Prizes in the International Harpsichord Competitions of Warsaw (1993) and the

Prague Spring Festival (1994) brought him to the public's attention, and he has since appeared in festivals and concert series, and as soloist with major orchestras, throughout much of the world. He has appeared as conductor/harpsichordist with the Juilliard415 Baroque orchestra at Carnegie Hall, as well as with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Korea Chamber Orchestra, etc. He has collaborated with many of the most prominent singers of today, notably Swedish mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter, Rolando Villazon. His solo recordings have been widely praised in the international press. His recording of the complete works of Jean-Philippe Rameau (*Sono Luminus*, 2012) was nominated for a Grammy in the field of Best Classical Solo Instrumental Recording.



*FELIX DEÁK,
VIOLA DA GAMBA*

Toronto born baroque cellist and gambist Felix Deák was a founding member of Toronto's I FURIOSI Baroque Ensemble. He showcases his career as a freelance musician with orchestras and chamber ensembles. For 20 years he performed and toured regularly with Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, and now currently with Montreal-based viol consort Les Voix Humaines, and L'Haromine des Saisons. Felix instructs private students and orchestral classes in and around Toronto.

Photo: Matthew Marigold



*REBECCA HASS,
RECITATIONS*

Rebecca Hass (Nitaawe giizhigok) is a performer, arts administrator, writer and creative living coach who has been a grateful visitor on Lekwungen territory since 2005. She is a citizen of the Métis Nation of British Columbia and is also of mixed European descent.

Currently the Director of Engagement Programs and Partnerships for Pacific Opera, she is the winner of the 2022 Nada Ristich Change Maker Ruby from Opera Canada and received the 2021 Creative Builder Award and Arts and the 2019 Cultural Leadership award from the City of Victoria.

A graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University with an Honours Bachelor in Music and Voice Performance, she has enjoyed an over 30-year career as a mezzo-soprano performing across Canada with almost every opera company and orchestra as a soloist and lead performer. She has also created several cabarets, one woman shows, and toured them to various communities (Wine, Women and Song, Wanna Sing a Showtune) and appeared in the Toronto production of *The Phantom of the Opera* as a swing.

A radio broadcaster and documentary maker for CBC, Rebecca has been heard on *The Current*, *Tapestry*, *The Doc Project* (“Culture in a Card” traced Rebecca’s journey to reconnecting with her Métis ancestry) and guest hosted for several years for the national broadcasts of *Saturday Afternoon at the Opera* and *In Concert*. She is the creator, host and producer of the podcast *What’s Up with Opera*, which examines the world of opera through a contemporary lens.

Rebecca continues her own artistic practice and most recently, she has been sharing a work in development called *Manaadjia* — which means to conserve our people for a long time. A song and storytelling work, *Manaadjia* hopes to inspire the next generation of storytellers and singers through traditional teachings.

Virtuosi Young Artists



THE TRIAD:

*BELLA-SOPHIA ROGERS, VIOLIN
MIKAYLA SAWATZKY, VIOLA
SOPHIE CARON, CELLO*

The Triad was formed under the guidance of Laurel Howard in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Its three members met for the first time in the Winnipeg Youth Concert Orchestra conducted by Andrea Bell. Over the past two years, they have performed at the Winnipeg Music Festival and were the recipients of the Morna-June Morrow Scholarship at the Provincial Music and Arts Festival two years in a row.

The Triad performed for the University of Manitoba Women's Club after Sophie, their cellist, won the WYCO's concerto competition, and was invited to perform for them again during the Christmas season of 2022.

The Triad's violinist Bella Rogers, 16, has been playing violin for eleven years and began studying with WSO Concertmaster Gwen Hoebig in July of 2022. She has held positions of leadership in all three Winnipeg Youth Orchestras over the past several years.

The Triad's violist, Mikayla Sawatzky, 17, has been playing viola since the age of 9, after switching over from violin which she studied since the age of 3. She is studying with the acting principal violist in the WSO, Élise Lavallée. Mikayla has held the leadership role of principal violist for the past 3 years in the Winnipeg Youth Symphony Orchestra. She continues to perform in several other chamber ensembles while accompanying various choral ensembles and more.

The Triad's cellist Sophie Caron, 15, started playing cello with Desiree Abbey at the age of four years old and is now studying with Dr. Minna Rose Chung, the professor of cello performance at the University of Manitoba, and has weekly coaching with Bery Filsaime. Sophie has held the position of principal cellist in the WYCO and is now performing with the Winnipeg Youth Symphony Orchestra alongside Bella and Mikayla.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024 • 2:30 PM
St. Andrew's River Heights United Church

Café Music

BOREALIS PIANO TRIO: OLEG POKHANOVSKI, *violin*;
MINNA ROSE CHUNG, *cello*; JUDITH KEHLER SIEBERT, *piano*



SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024 • 2:30 PM
Muriel Richardson Auditorium,
Winnipeg Art Gallery



Romantic Fantasy

CLAIRE HUANGCI, *piano*

Virtuosi Concerts Ensemble of Friends

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A beautiful bunch!*



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