

Dear Listeners,

Welcome to Moon Hunter! It is a thrill for Virtuosi to present the enchanting solo work of Wu Fei. Her exceptional skills as an instrumentalist, vocalist and composer are beautifully animated by the clarity and creativity of her artistic voice.

This evening marks several firsts for Virtuosi as we explore our next chapter as an independent arts organization: our first booking at the Winnipeg Art Gallery, our first collaboration with the Winnipeg New Music Festival to present a solo recital by a festival artist, our first event on a Thursday rather than a weekend, and our first program without an emerging musician opening the concert as part of our Young Artist Program! We will return to weekend dates and the YAP as usual at our next concert by Jonathon Adams on March 2nd, here at the WAG.

Tonight's program eloquently expresses Virtuosi's organizational 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, our generous sponsors and donors, the Winnipeg Art Gallery, the Winnipeg New Music Festival, and to you for being here!

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

Enjoy the show!

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

Under the Distinguished Patronage of: Her Honour the Honourable Anita Neville, P.C., M.P.

Board of Directors

Paul R.J. McCulloch
President

Mark Witiuk
Treasurer

Chris Byman
Secretary

Sydney Clarke
Katherine Mayba
R.L. (Rocky) Pollack
Theresa Thordarson
Marcello Venditti
Caitlin Broms-Jacobs

Administration

Jennifer Thiessen
Artistic Director

Heather Lewis,
Executive Director

Emily Meadows
Concert Coordinator

Radio Sponsor

Winnipeg's Classic 107

Volunteers

Daryl Brooks
Myrna Mitchell
Gail Singer

Kim Pelletier
Jestine Arciaga
Mary Horodyski

Founding Artistic Director

Harry Strub

Founding Directors

Victor M. Batzel*
Harry Strub
J.F. Reeh Taylor*

**Deceased*

Virtuosi Concerts acknowledges that we meet and work on Treaty 1 Land, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples and the homeland of the Métis Nation. We are grateful for their stewardship of this land and their hospitality which allows us to live, work, and find recreation here.

Privacy Policy:

Virtuosi Concerts does not trade, rent, sell or disclose our mailing lists or personal information used to keep you informed of VCI events and fundraising opportunities in support of Virtuosi Concerts. If at any time, you wish to be removed from our list, simply contact us at 204.786.9000 or virtuosi.concerts@gmail.com

Virtuosi Concerts

P.O. Box 2982 Station Main, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 4B5
204.786.9000 | virtuosi.concerts@gmail.com | www.virtuosiconcerts.ca

A Message from our Board President

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

Today, we are delighted to present Chinese guzheng virtuoso, composer and vocalist, Wu Fei. Born in Beijing, Fei began her studies at Beijing's China Conservatory of Music, and holds a Masters' degree in Composition from Mills College in Oakland, California. Her chosen instrument, the guzheng, is a twenty-one-string Chinese zither with more than two thousand years of history.

Fei currently lives in Nashville, Tennessee, where she continues her work as a composer, improviser, and internationally-acclaimed artist, with performances in venues as varied as the Forbidden City Concert Hall and Paris Fashion Week. Virtuosi is excited to feature Fei in a solo recital in the same week as her collaboration with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra as part of the 2024 Winnipeg New Music Festival.

In tonight's intimate concert, Fei will perform a spellbinding array of works for voice and guzheng. Fei's programme includes traditional melodies, folk songs, and Chinese opera, alongside her own innovative compositions and improvisations.

Virtuosi Concerts deeply appreciates the unwavering support and patronage of our wonderful audience, our funding organizations, and individual donors. We particularly acknowledge the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, whose longstanding partnership with Virtuosi 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 creative vision. 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*



WU FEI:

*guzheng virtuoso,
vocalist, composer*



Virtuosi Concerts wishes to thank:

MANITOBA
ARTS COUNCIL



CONSEIL DES ARTS
DU MANITOBA



WINNIPEG'S
CLASSIC 107



WINNIPEG
ARTS COUNCIL



De Nardi
Passion for food & wine



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG



alt HOTEL
BY LE GERMAIN

MOON HUNTER

WU FEI, guzheng & voice

Fisherman's Song	Traditional
Busy Weaving/Little Open Hand	Traditional
Wusuli Boat Song	Traditional
Ignorance is Bliss	Traditional
Little Tree	Wu Fei
Avarguli	Traditional
Moon Hunter	Wu Fei
Summer Palace	Wu Fei
Dongting Lake Song	Traditional
Tongue Twister (Improvised Song)	Wu Fei
Garden Dreams	Wu Fei
Mulan Song	Yu Opera
Ping Tan	Wu Fei
Himalayan Spring	Traditional

Performer Biography

WU FEI: guzheng virtuoso, vocalist, composer



Wu Fei is a classically trained composer, singer, and master of the guzheng, the 21-string Chinese zither. She has performed around the world at venues including the Forbidden City, New York's MoMA, Paris' Quai Branly Museum, the North Sea Jazz Festival, Vossa Jazz, the Europalia Festival, and the Big Ears Festival in Tennessee.

She plays in the guzheng's vernacular — a musical language at least 2,500 years old — mixing Western classical and Chinese traditions with a

contemporary, idiosyncratic sound. Wu composes for choir, string quartet, chamber ensemble, Balinese gamelan and orchestra. Her chamber orchestral work “Hello Gold Mountain,” inspired by the stories of Jewish refugees who fled to Shanghai from Europe in World War II, earned a MAP Fund award.

Wu has collaborated with artists from different disciplines and genres, including the Philadelphia Orchestra; Grammy-winning musicians Béla Fleck, Abigail Washburn, and Jeff Coffin; oud master Shanir Blumenkranz; composers John Zorn and Fred Frith; and Emmy-winning director Pierce Freelon. She has released two solo recordings and two collaborative albums — with classical guitarist Gyan Riley, and with singer-songwriter Abigail Washburn.

Wu studied at the China Conservatory of Music and Mills College. A native of Beijing, she currently lives in Nashville.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2
7:30 PM

Muriel Richardson Auditorium,
Winnipeg Art Gallery



*With sick and
famish'd eyes*

JONATHON ADAMS, *baritone*; & COLLABORATORS

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*



Virtuosi Concerts Ensemble of Friends

We make beautiful music — together!

Gifts received from January 1, 2023 to January 1, 2024

2023-2024 Concert Sponsors

Margaret Kellerman McCulloch and Paul R.J. McCulloch and the Asper Family Foundation

Virtuosi Suite (\$1,000 and Over)

Margaret Kellerman McCulloch and
Paul R.J. McCulloch

Val Thompson

Artistic Director's Circle (\$500—\$999)

Murray & Grace Evans

Brenda Morlock

Heather Lewis

Rocky Pollack

Rose Cello Scholarship Fund

On Stage (\$250—\$500)

Jennifer Thiessen

Caitlin Broms-Jacob

Darlene Frederickson

Katherine Mayba

The Green Room (\$100—\$249)

Karin Woods

Brenda Batzel

Ron Lambert

Anonymous

Page Turner (\$10—\$99)

Holly Penner & Diane Silverthorne

Monique Thompson

Geoff Kitt

Jamie McLennan

Coralie Bryant

Janice Freeman

Marlene Crielaard

Debra Fehr

Joe Michalchyshyn

*Special thanks to our Ensemble of Friends
A beautiful bunch!*



GLENLEA
GREENHOUSES

Virtuosi's

PLANT FUNDRAISER

Place orders until April 15

Shop early for best selection!



Scan this QR code or visit:

<https://virtuosiconcerts.ca/fundraising>