

Dear Listeners,

Welcome to Virtuosi's 2023-24 season!

What a brilliant way to enjoy this evening in October—listening to two exceptional musicians spin pure gold out of the vibrations of their instruments to bring incredible pieces of music to life before our eyes and ears.

Stéphane Tétreault has been widely acclaimed from a young age for his remarkable ability to summon a distinct and vibrant voice from the cello. He has evolved as a musician before the eyes of the public, carving his own unique voice through his thoughtful and expressive interpretations of the classical cello repertoire. Stéphane is a curator as well, creating concepts and programs for his work as a soloist and with his fascinating collaborative partnerships. Today, in tandem with the wonderful pianist Sandra Murray, we will hear his passionate and sensitive treatment of a series of vibrant works by composers who truly spoke, and continue to be heard, through the cello's voice.

Virtuosi's Young Artist Program continues this season with a plethora of spirited and talented emerging artists from right here in Winnipeg. I can't wait for you to hear each of them play at the opening of each concert. Tonight's concert will begin with a performance by pianist Yanzhi Zhang, who is studying at the Master's level with Dr. David Moroz at the University of Manitoba.

It's not too late to subscribe to five or seven concerts this season if you haven't already, and to become part of Virtuosi's community. Your participation in the season through subscriptions, ticket purchase, or donation is immensely appreciated as we embark on this next chapter together. Please also save the date for our December 10th fundraising concert with the incredible Winnipeg Boys' Choir and soprano Monica Huisman, followed by a celebratory reception.

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

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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.

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Virtuosi Concerts

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A Message from our Board President

Welcome to tonight's Virtuosi concert, the first in our exciting 2023-2024 season! Tonight, we are delighted to present the duo of Stéphane Tétreault, cello, and Sandra Murray, piano.

Stéphane Tétreault is one of Canada's most acclaimed young musicians, receiving the prestigious Virginia Parker Prize from the Canada Council for the Arts in 2019. He was named the first-ever Soloist-in-Residence of the Orchestre Métropolitain, and has performed with Jan Lisiecki and Marc-André Hamelin. Stéphane previously dazzled Manitoba audiences as featured soloist with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in November of 2019. Tonight, he will be playing on the famed 'Countess of Stainlein, Ex-Paganini' Stradivarius cello from 1707.

Quebec-based pianist Sandra Murray has worked with luminaries of the classical music world, including Emanuel Ax, Isaac Stern, and Yo-Yo Ma. She has studied at McGill University and Baltimore's esteemed Peabody Conservatory, and currently teaches at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal. Sandra has also performed alongside past Virtuosi artists Jonathan Crow, Andrew Wan, and the Saguenay Quartet.

Together, Stéphane and Sandra bring to us a program featuring well-loved works and hidden gems for cello and piano. Their chosen selections span the eighteenth through twentieth centuries, including pieces by Johann Sebastian Bach, Nadia Boulanger, Gaspar Cassadó, Manuel de Falla, Gabriel Fauré, Alexander Glazunov, Enrique Granados, Jules Massenet, Rodion Shchedrin, and Camille Saint-Saëns.

Virtuosi Concerts deeply appreciates the unwavering support and patronage of our wonderful audience, our funding organizations, and individual donors. We particularly acknowledge Prairie Debut, whose longstanding partnership with Virtuosi allows us to bring these exceptional musicians to our audiences.

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 program we will enjoy today.

Thank you for attending tonight's event, and we look forward to seeing you again throughout the season!

Paul R.J. McCulloch

Paul R.J. McCulloch
Board President,
Virtuosi Concerts





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DINUK WIJERATNE + SHAWN MATIVETSKY

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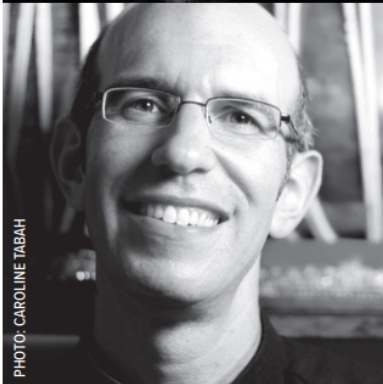


PHOTO: CAROLINE TABAH

1.00pm & 7.30pm, 25 October 2023
Crescent Arts Centre, 525 Wardlaw Ave
Tickets at theMCO.ca

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Virtuosi Concerts wishes to thank:



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YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM

Yanzhi Zhang, piano

Sonata No. 2 in B-flat Minor, op. 36
III. Allegro Molto

Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873–1943)

THE VOICE OF THE CELLO

Stéphane Tétreault, cello & Sandra Murray, piano

Cello Suite No. 1, BWV 1007
I. Prelude

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

Élégie for Cello and Piano, op. 24

Gabriel Fauré
(1845–1924)

Three Pieces for Cello and Piano

Nadia Boulanger
(1887–1979)

Romance, op. 51

Camille Saint-Saëns
(1835–1921)

Allegro Appassionato, op. 43

Camille Saint-Saëns

Méditation from Thaïs

Jules Massenet
(1842–1912)

Intermission

Requiebros

Gaspar Cassadó
(1897–1966)

Intermezzo from Goyescas

Enrique Granados
(1867–1916)

Lamento de Boabdil

Gaspar Cassadó

Sérénade Espagnole, op. 20, no. 2

Alexander Glazunov
(1865–1936)

Danse Rituelle du Feu from El amor brujo

Manuel de Falla
(1876–1946)

Chant du Ménestrel, op. 71

Alexander Glazunov

À La Manière d'Albéniz

Rodion Shchedrin
(b. 1932)

Performer Biography



STÉPHANE TÉTREULT, *CELLO*

Stéphane Tétreault is the recipient of the prestigious 2019 Virginia Parker Prize from the Canada Council for the Arts in recognition of his outstanding talent, musicianship, artistic excellence, and his valuable contribution to artistic life in Canada and abroad. He is laureate of the Prix Opus for “Performer of the Year” for the 2020-21 season, awarded by the Conseil québécois de la musique and accompanied by a Canada Council grant.

Chosen as the first ever Soloist-in-Residence of the Orchestre Métropolitain, Stéphane performed alongside Yannick Nézet-Séguin during the 2014-2015 season. In 2016, he made his solo debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Gstaad Menuhin Festival in Switzerland. The following year, Stéphane took part in the Orchestre Métropolitain’s first European tour, in concerts in Amsterdam, Cologne and Paris. In 2018, he made his debut with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Stéphane’s debut CD, recorded with the Quebec Symphony Orchestra and conductor Fabien Gabel, was selected as Editor’s Choice by Gramophone Magazine. A collaborative album featuring works by Haydn, Schubert and Brahms, created alongside pianist Marie-Ève Scarfone, received Gramophone Magazine’s Critic’s Choice 2016 and was recognized as one of the best albums of the year.

Stéphane was a student of the late cellist and conductor Yuli Turovsky for more than 10 years. He holds a master’s degree in Music Performance from the University of Montreal, and plays the 1707 Countess of Stainlein, Ex-Paganini Stradivarius cello, generously loaned to him by Mrs. Sophie Desmarais.

SANDRA MURRAY, PIANO



Pianist Sandra Murray has appeared with the Pro Musica and Debut series, the Orford Arts Centre, the Lachine Festival, and the Lanaudière International Festival. She is heard frequently on Radio-Canada and with several orchestras. As a chamber musician, Sandra has played with artists including Yossif Ivanov, Yeonathan Berick, Jonathan Crow, and the Alcan Quartet.

As a member of the Ouellet-Murray piano duo, she toured for the Jeunesses Musicales du Canada, performed at the Festival International de Duo-Piano du Québec, the Festival Orgue et couleurs de Montréal, the Festival de musique des Basses-Laurentides, as well as a “Jouer dans l’île” tour in Montreal. In the spring of 2001, the duo released their second album on the Riche Lieu label.

For several years, Sandra Murray has been invited to the Orford Arts Centre to support the classes of Janos Starker, Paul Katz, Robert Langevin, James Campbell, and Laurence Lesser. Thanks to grants from the Quebec Ministry of Culture, Sandra Murray took part in the first international chamber music meeting in Jerusalem, working with Emmanuel Axe, Yo-Yo Ma, Isaac Stern, and Yefim Bronfmann, before heading to Italy to deepen her vocal repertoire.

Sandra originally trained with Carlos Feliciati at the Chicoutimi Music Conservatory, where she obtained her piano and chamber music prizes. She studied with Julian Martin at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore before returning to Montreal to obtain a master’s degree from McGill University under the direction of Dale Bartlett. Sandra is currently a teacher-accompanist at the Montreal Conservatory of Music.

Virtuosi Young Artist



YANZHI ZHANG, PIANO

Born in Hefei China, pianist Yanzhi Zhang is a prizewinner in numerous local and provincial competitions. He earned his Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance (B.Mus.) from the Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music under the tutelage of Dr. David Moroz in 2020. Zhang has performed multiple solo recitals at the University of Manitoba throughout the course of his studies. Notable highlights include his graduate recital in 2019, as well as his 1st-year master’s recital in April of 2022.

YANZHI ZHANG, PIANO

An experienced performer in the Winnipeg Music Festival, Zhang made it to the finals of the Aikins Memorial Trophy in 2017 and 2020, which is the highest multi-disciplinary award for the most outstanding diploma-level instrumentalist. In 2022, he advanced to the final round of the U of M Concerto Competition and represented Winnipeg at the Associated Manitoba Arts Festival (AMAF) Provincial Finals where he received 3rd place.

Zhang is currently completing his Master of Music Degree (M.Mus.) in Piano Performance under the guidance of Dr. David Moroz, where he will be graduating this upcoming Spring.

Virtuosi Concerts Ensemble of Friends

We make beautiful music — together!

Gifts received from January 1, 2023 to September 30 2023

2023-2024 Concert Sponsors

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