



FESTIVAL  
MUSIQUE DE CHAMBRE  
MONTRÉAL

Communiqué  
For immediate release

## The Montreal Chamber Music Festival celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Let us play and celebrate !

*On the occasion of the centenary of American composer Samuel Barber the Montreal Chamber Music Festival is proud to present the first public performance since its premiere in 1928 of a Recently discovered movement of Barber's Violin Sonata in F Minor.*

*The entire work was lost for more than 80 years.*

*This last movement is all that has been found. What a discovery!*

**May 6 to 29, 2010**

**St. James Church**

**463 Sainte-Catherine Street West, Montreal**

**Métro Place-des-Arts**

[www.festivalmontreal.org](http://www.festivalmontreal.org)

Renseignements: 514 489.7444

Information: 514 489.7444

**Montreal, March 16, 2010.** – Let us play and celebrate! In the presence of many established artists, **Denis Brott**, Founder and Artistic Director of the **Montreal Chamber Music Festival**, unveiled details of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season which will be held from **Thursday, May 6 to Saturday, May 29, 2010** at St. James Church, 463 Sainte-Catherine Street West, at the western entrance to the new “Quartier des spectacles” in Montreal.

To celebrate this 15<sup>th</sup> Edition, the Festival has prepared a sumptuous, diversified and attractive program presenting many local and international artists. Since its inception, the Festival has made a point of encouraging deserving apprentice artists by incorporating a young "rising star" within a group of seasoned professionals – this is one of the Festival's trademarks.

The Festival will also mark the anniversaries of such great composers as **Frédéric Chopin**, **Robert Schumann** and **Samuel Barber** by presenting some of their works in performance throughout the Festival.

May 25<sup>th</sup> – expect the unexpected! The Montreal Chamber Music Festival is proud to present the first public performance since 1928 of the last movement of Samuel Barber's Sonata in F Minor as performed by two brilliant American artists, violinist **Rachel Barton Pine** and pianist **Lara Downes**. This Sonata was first performed by the 18 year old Samuel Barber in a concert of new compositions by students of Rosario Scalero at Philadelphia's Curtis Institute on December 10<sup>th</sup> 1928. Since that time the work was lost and thought destroyed. In 2006, a holograph of the third movement was discovered in the estate of the late Westchester artist Tom Bostell, who had been a boarder in the Barber home and may have been given the manuscript by Mrs. Barber. In 1929 the Sonata won the 1929 Bearn's Prize. The recently discovered third movement remains unpublished and not available to the general public. **Rachel Barton Pine**, **Lara Downes** perform the third movement of Samuel Barber's Sonata in F Minor on May 25<sup>th</sup> – an evening not to be missed!

Fifteenth anniversary celebrations open the Festival on Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup> with a concert featuring young Canadian virtuoso pianist **Jan Lisiecki** in his first ever chamber music performance in Montreal. Pianist **André Laplante** and the well known **Alcan Quartet**, celebrate the Quartet's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a performance of Brahms' great Piano Quintet in f minor, Opus 34.

To mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Robert Schumann's** birth, the Festival is presenting three concerts from May 11<sup>th</sup>, May 13<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup> entitled **Simply Schumann**. This triptych of thematic evenings devoted to “*The Piano*”, “*The Violin*” and “*The Colours of His Palette*” features pianists **Anton Kuerti** and **Ignat Solzhenitsyn** (son of Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn), violinist **Ilya Kaler**, violist **Marcus Thompson** and cellist **Denis Brott**. The public is invited to pre-concert talks at 7 p.m. with musicologist **Richard Turp**. Admission to the talks is included in the price of the tickets.

For the first time in its history, the Montreal Chamber Music Festival will have a resident string quartet in 2010. The **Afiara String Quartet**, Canada's top young internationally acclaimed chamber music ensemble, will give hour long, intermission free performances, on the three consecutive Wednesdays of the Festival May 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Festival Director and former cellist in the Orford Quartet, Canada's premiere string quartet, will animate the performances through live program notes and anecdotes. The Afiara Quartet will perform the entire repertoire they plan to present as contestants in the upcoming Banff International String Quartet Competition 2010 in August. The Afiara Quartet will also host a series of master classes at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal.

Well known Montreal harpsichordist **Luc Beauséjour** and Festival favorite violinist **Rachel Barton Pine** will unite their talents presenting the complete violin and keyboard sonatas of Johann Sebastian Bach. Rachel Barton Pine is the only American and youngest person ever to have won the gold medal at the J.S. Bach International Violin Competition in Leipzig (1992).

The Festival will also celebrate Mother's Day by presenting Camille Saint-Saëns' ever-popular *Carnival of the Animals* complete with narration by Jean Marchand and Franz Schubert's beloved Piano Quintet, *The Trout* with one of Canada's greatest pianists, Anton Kuerti. The Festival will also pay homage to **Alexander Brott** through a performance of *Critic's Corner*, a media caricature for string quartet and percussion! This program is ideal way to celebrate Mother's Day as a family outing. Admission is free for children under 12 when accompanied by an adult.

Quebec's own superstar, coloratura soprano, **Natalie Choquette** presents her *Tour du monde* concert, the only Montreal stop of this show in 2010. She will charm the public with melodies from around the world. A sweet evening for the ears and heart!

The Seventh Art has a special place in this 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition with the presentation of films featuring Buster Keaton and Beethoven on May 20<sup>th</sup>! Excerpts from *In Search Of Beethoven*, a film based on the life of Beethoven, and Buster Keaton's full-length silent movie feature "*Sherlock Jr.*", with an original score by American pianist **Stephen Prutsman** are featured. The program also includes a whimsical homage to Frédéric Chopin entitled *Chopin Freddie* also written by **Stephen Prutsman**. This is **Prutsman's** first ever Montreal appearance. Also on-stage that evening will be the **Afiara String Quartet**, pianist **Kevin Loucks**, violinist **Iryna Krechkovsky** and cellist **Adrian Fung**.

### **TD Jazz & Jeans**

This series features four Friday evenings of pure, great jazz performed by exquisite musicians:

- **May 7<sup>th</sup>**: A double bill night opens with Canadian Juno Award nominee jazz pianist **Chris Donnelly** in his Montreal debut. The **Oliver Jones Trio** with Oliver Jones, on piano, **Éric Lagacé**, on bass and **Jim Doxas** on drums give a 75 minute command performance. An evening not to be missed.
- **May 14<sup>th</sup>**: Another double bill opens with the brilliant young **Taurey Butler Trio**, warming up St. James Church with traditional jazz. A family reunion with **Karen Young, Coral Egan, Doug Young, Isabelle Young** and **Norman Lachapelle**, will pay vibrant tribute to Lambert, Hendricks and Ross in a special event created just for the Festival! Do not miss this!
- **May 21<sup>st</sup>**: A night with jazz legend Kurt Elling, 2010 Grammy Award winner for Best Vocal Jazz Album in his only Montreal appearance in 2010. This promises to be an unforgettable evening replete with great charm and finesse. A rendez vous not to be missed by any serious lover of jazz.
- **May 28<sup>th</sup>**: **SAX IN THE CITY!** An eclectic tribute to jazz giants Charlie Parker and John Coltrane featuring Montreal's finest saxophonists: **Jean-Pierre Zanella, Rémi Bolduc, John Roney, André Leroux** and **Chet Doxas**. WOW!

The 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the Montreal Chamber Music Festival ends on May 29<sup>th</sup> with what has now become a tradition; a six-hour marathon of the greatest chamber music from 6 p.m. until midnight. This year the Festival celebrates the majesty and romance of Johannes Brahms. Celebrated artists performing in this marathon include: pianists **David Jalbert, Francis Perron** and **Kevin Loucks**, clarinetist **James Campbell**, violinist **Rachel Barton Pine**, the **Afiara Quartet** and French horn player **Louis-Philippe Marsolais** and more. A vocal quartet comprised of soprano **Anne Saint-Denis**, mezzo-soprano **Mireille Lebel**, tenor **Jacques-Olivier Chartier**, and bass baritone **Alexandre Sylvestre** join pianists **Francis Perron** and **David Jalbert** to close the evening with the magnificent and rarely performed *Liebesliederwalzer*.

Classical, jazz, Montreal premieres, discoveries and popular favorites, the Montreal Chamber Music Festival offers you 18 evenings of musical enchantment, a veritable feast of music during the month of May.

The TD Bank is proud to support the Montreal Chamber Music Festival and recognizes the importance of supporting the cultural sector. The Festival wishes to thank Madame **Sylvie Demers**, Regional Vice President and Market Leader Eastern Canada, Private Client Services TD Waterhouse.

Madame Demers will be the Honorary President of the Festival's Gala Gastronomic and Silent Auction, which takes place April 15<sup>th</sup> at the Omni Mont Royal Hotel.

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