

TSMAF *news*

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TORONTO SUMMER MUSIC ACADEMY AND FESTIVAL • AGNES GROSSMANN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

A few words from Agnes Grossmann

PHOTO: SHELAGH HOWARD



Dear Friends,

Thank you all for making our 2008 season an outstanding success. This fall although I have been conducting performances often in Japan and Taiwan, plans for the 2009 season are well under way, and I am excited to announce that our Academy programs are set and we are accepting applications now.

The 2009 Festival program will be available on April 1 but we have included highlights to tempt you in this newsletter.

I express my sincere gratitude to all of you who stepped forward to help with our year

end challenge. This was spearheaded by one of our most generous patrons who matched gifts up to a total of \$25,000. It was very gratifying to experience your confidence in Toronto Summer Music and feel your great support for my programming and the Festival events now and in the future. I cannot thank you enough for helping us to move ahead with your gift.

I wish each and every one of you a wonderful holiday season and send you my very best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Agnes Grossmann

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

*2009 Academy Program
July 20 – August 16, 2009*

Just released! Our 2009 Academy will take place from July 20 – August 16, 2009. The program promises to be just as exciting as last year, featuring some of the finest and most prestigious artist-pedagogues from around the world, coaching and leading workshops and master classes for emerging artists at the threshold of their careers.

This year, we offer these programs:

- master classes for instrumentalists and chamber ensembles,
- string quartet workshop,
- Opera Studio,
- composition workshop led by Christos Hatzis, with participating composers' works performed by Toronto's own Penderecki String Quartet, and
- a NEW woodwinds program with renowned clarinetist Karl Leister and flute virtuoso Patrick Gallois.

Emerging Artists from the Academy will perform in free concerts held twice weekly.

The 2009 Opera Studio will present one of Johann Strauss's most delightful operettas, *A Night in Venice* (original Berlin/Vienna version). This will be a North American premiere under the musical direction of Artistic Director Agnes Grossmann and accompanied by the National Academy Orchestra. Operetta, being an important part of opera repertoire, is one of the most challenging genres for singers as it requires skills in singing, dancing and declamation of text, hence a high level of refined and inspired acting. *A Night in Venice*, in keeping with 2009's theme "Eternal Stars",

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Thank You to All who Participated in the Year-end Challenge!

To all of you who participated in our August fundraising challenge – THANK YOU!

One of our most loyal supporters initiated the challenge, pledging to donate up to \$25,000 to match each dollar raised between August 12 and September 30. With your help, we raised \$41,500 which was matched by the \$25,000 for a total of \$66,500. You gave us the final push to end the year on positive financial footing.

Thank you to all of you who participated!

GREAT SUMMER MUSIC COMING SOON!

 TORONTO
SUMMER MUSIC
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AGNES GROSSMANN



Chamber Music Workshop for Advanced Amateur/Semi-Professional Musicians August 10-16

Are you an avid musician who wants to kick it up a notch and receive master classes and coaching sessions from professional musicians in a one week intensive program targeted towards advanced amateurs and semi professionals?

Well, what are you waiting for? Dust off your instrument and fill out an application form!

This year's faculty features members of the Gryphon Trio (Annalee

Patipatanakoon, violin; Roman Borys, cello; Jamie Parker, piano), Susan Hoepfner, flute; and Midori Koga, piano.

Performance opportunities will include daily master classes and concerts on Friday and Saturday evenings. For more information or to download an application form visit www.torontosummertime.com or call our office at 647-430-5699.

Sneak a Peek at the 2009 Festival line-up July 21 – August 16

Our artistic director, Agnes Grossmann, has planned another stimulating season of programming for 2009 featuring both local and international artists. This year's festival theme ETERNAL STARS, a celebratory commemoration marking anniversaries of the great star composers Purcell, Handel, Haydn, Mendelssohn and Martinu, will feature some new and returning artists from around the world.

Festival Highlights

TUESDAY, JULY 21 AT 8:00PM

Festival opening concert at the CARLU

Canadian James Ehnes and Jon Kimura Parker will give their debut performance together

AUGUST 13-16

Johann Strauss' operetta *A Night in Venice*

Musical Direction by Agnes Grossmann

There will be chamber concerts and recitals on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from July 21-August 12 and the opera will run from August 14-16 with alternating casts. Stay tuned for more details. The complete Festival program will be announced on April 1, 2009.

2009 ACADEMY FACULTY

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is frequently performed in the opera houses of Europe.

Make plans to audit the Academy master classes.* Classes will be open to auditors on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:30am-12:30pm.

APPLY NOW!

www.torontosummertime.com

July 20 – 25

André Laplante, *piano*
Menahem Pressler, *piano*
Mayumi Seiler, *violin*
André Roy, *viola*
Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, *violoncello*

July 27 – August 1

André Laplante, *piano*
Anton Kuerti, *piano*
Mayumi Seiler, *violin*
André Roy, *viola*
Janos Starker, *violoncello*
Karl Leister, *clarinet*
Leipzig String Quartet
Penderecki String Quartet
Christos Hatzis, *composition*

August 3 – 8

Marietta Orlov, *piano*
Ian Swensen, *violin*
Terence Helmer, *viola*
Antonio Lysy, *violoncello*
Patrick Gallois, *flute*

August 10 – 15

Lee Kum Sing, *piano*
Ian Swensen, *violin*
Terence Helmer, *viola*
Denis Brott, *violoncello*

All of the Faculty teach both solo instrumentalists and pre-formed chamber music groups.



A chat with Earl Barnsley, patron and volunteer



Toronto Summer Music is fortunate to have the support of many arts lovers as patrons and as volunteers. Wanting to know more about what makes people want to support the arts, we spoke with one of our most dedicated supporters.

Tell us about yourself and your background.

I have always been a great supporter of the arts in general but especially enjoy opera, chamber music and the ballet. I suppose this stems from my appreciation of the arts from an early age. I remember attending my first opera at the age of 12 when the Canadian Opera Company was in its infancy. Since retirement I have been involved in numerous musical organizations in

various capacities. These include: Past President and current Board member of the Off Centre Music Salon, past member of the Exultate Chamber Choir and current Chair of the Toronto Masque Theatre.

What motivates you to support the arts including Toronto Summer Music?

My profound belief in the arts and its role in lifting the spirit in today's society has led me to become involved on various boards and volunteer committees. In addition to the arts organizations mentioned above, my wife and I also support the National Ballet School and the Opera Program at the University of Toronto. It seemed natural for us to support the

Toronto Summer Music Academy and Festival in its inaugural year after a chat with the Chair, Jane Smith. I have an enormous appreciation and gratitude for all involved in helping develop young artists whose artistic gifts enrich us all. People like Agnes Grossmann, the TSM Faculty members, Board of Directors, staff and volunteers deserve our support.

I believe that though there are too few of us committed to supporting the arts and we all must continue to do what we can despite the current economic difficulties. The future of our young artists and the development of their unique gifts which serve to uplift the human spirit in a troubled world depend upon those of us who care.



WE'VE MOVED!

On December 1, we relocated our office to a new location with bigger and brighter facilities. After five years of generous support from Emmanuel College at Victoria University, we outgrew our small space. Thank you to Paul Gooch, David Keeling, Peter Wyatt, the wonderful people in the mailroom: Joe, Ed, and Radica for all of their support in helping us establish the Toronto Summer Music Academy and Festival.

New address:

720 Bathurst Street, Suite 501
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2R4
(one block south of Bloor, between
Harbord and Bloor, TTC station: Bathurst)

New phone: 647-430-5699
E-mail remains the same.

Make a note of our new address and phone number and pop in to say hello if you're in the neighbourhood!

Where Are They Now?

An interview with Erica Iris Huang, mezzo-soprano

Canadian-born Chinese, Erica Iris Huang graduated from the Opera Diploma program under the tutelage of mezzo-soprano Kimberly Barber at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, where she also obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance under the pedagogue of Victor Martens. She made her 2004 operatic debut as Tituba in Robert Ward's *The Crucible* and performed the roles of Britten's *Mrs. Herring*, Purcell's *Dido*, excerpts of Stravinsky's *Baba the Turk*, Mozart's *Dorabella*, Massenet's *Charlotte*, Bizet's *Carmen*, and Rossini's *Isabella* with Opera Laurier.

Many of you will remember with enthusiasm, one of our two Composers in our production of *Ariadne auf Naxos* last summer – Erica Iris Huang. Erica was amazing in this role and we all enjoyed working with her and listening to her wonderful voice.

“My experience at Toronto Summer Music represented the pinnacle of my career to date. It was an excellent way to introduce myself in the Toronto opera scene. I came from six years of study in Waterloo which was a great experience. It's a small community and so



Interview with Erica Iris Huang continued from pg 3...

coming to Toronto was a really important decision I made. My teacher, Kimberly Barber pushed me to prepare for the (Ariadne) audition and it really took a lot of work.”

“I am so thankful to Agnes Grossmann and all of the opera production staff. It was an excellent role for me and I was pleased to add it to my repertoire. The production was of the highest calibre and very professional which added to the experience. Within the first couple days of preparation for *Ariadne auf Naxos* with Maestro Grossmann and the ensemble cast, I knew I had made the right decision about taking on this demanding role and that this was where I was meant to be. Hans Kluge sponsored my performances and I am grateful for his support in order to make this opportunity possible.”

Since her time at Toronto Summer Music, Erica has been busy with her studies at the University of Toronto Opera School where she

studies with Mary Morrison. She performed as Fidalma in Domenico Cimarosa’s *Il matrimonio segreto* in the fall and said that the audience was very receptive having recognized her from her role as the Composer in *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

We reached Erica a few days ago while she was in New York. Erica was invited to accompany the Canadian Opera Company Operatour to New York City (from December 7-11). The tour was organized and conducted by Dr. David Stanley-Porter. Her trip was generously sponsored by Richard Holbrook. Having Erica on the tour not only provided an artist’s insight to the Operatour patrons but allowed Erica an invaluable opportunity to see the Metropolitan Opera productions and to meet singers and colleagues in the New York area.

It was her first time at the MET Opera and she was able to see three consecutive performances of Massenet’s *Thaïs*, Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* and Tchaikovsky’s *The Queen of Spades*. “The highlight for me was seeing the radiant Renée Fleming on opening night as *Thaïs*. The icing on the cake was the rare opportunity to meet Ms. Fleming (after a surprise announcement that she would greet patrons at the newly renovated MET opera store) and to tell her about what I have done (including the role of Composer in *Ariadne*)

and to share my plans for my future.” Erica says that Ms. Fleming was incredible, very approachable, receptive and down-to-earth.

Also in New York, Erica has been making contact with other singers, vocal coaches and teachers. Her goal, after her current studies in the Opera Diploma program at the University of Toronto are complete, is to study in New York at the Manhattan School or at Juilliard.

“The whole experience in New York City has been phenomenal and I am grateful to Dr. Stanley-Porter, and Mr. Holbrook for this grand opportunity. It has reaffirmed my goal to pursue opera as a performer and become a singer on the world stage.

Coming up...hear and see Erica in the role of Concepción in Ravel’s *L’heure espagnole* with the Opera School at the University of Toronto. “It is a one-act opera, described as a comédie musicale. The role of Concepción is very challenging and difficult to conquer in the sense of portraying a sensual character without being too risqué and singing with eloquence that appropriately suits Ravel’s style of French sensibility and charm.” Performance dates are March 5 - 7, 2009 at 7:30PM in the MacMillan Theatre.

Good luck to you Erica – we all wish you the best as you embark on your career!



PHOTO: SHELAGH HOWARD

Thank You to our Festival Pass Holders!

To all of you who support Toronto Summer Music by purchasing a Festival pass – THANK YOU! Over 130 of you bought passes this year and indulged in some of the best chamber music in the world at the Festival. This was a great way to show your support and to let us know that you love our Festival! Make plans now to buy a pass for yourself and bring a friend in 2009!

Remember the dates: July 21 to August 16.

Only you can keep the music playing!

As we grow, we have been fortunate to have people like you joining us to support the Academy and Festival programs.

We are grateful for the support of our patrons, foundations, corporations and government agencies as their endorsement confirms our growing status as one of North America’s important summer festivals. Individual donors account for the largest percentage of our revenue.

You have guaranteed the success of past seasons with your gift.

If you can make a donation now to help keep our plans in motion for the summer, you could make a real difference.

Giving is easy! Give your gift in monthly or quarterly installments. Give a donation in honour of a friend, for their birthday, anniversary or other special occasion.

Call us: 647-430-5699, give online: www.torontosummertime.com or send your gift in the mail to 720 Bathurst Street, Suite 501, Toronto M5S 2R4.

contact us

Artistic Director
Administrative Director
Marketing and Festival Coordinator

Agnes Grossmann agnesgrossmann@torontosummertime.com
Cecelia Paolucci cpaolucci@torontosummertime.com
Myron Kozak mkozak@torontosummertime.com

Toronto Summer Music office
720 Bathurst Street, Suite 501
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2R4
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