

TSMAFnews

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



PHOTO: PETER ALBERT

Menahem Pressler & Friends concert, July 23 2009.

Talking with cellist **ANTONIO LYSY**



Do you view yourself foremost as a teacher or performer?

When I taught at McGill, I was invited to play a full concert program every year for CBC radio. I had to learn a completely new

program every year, and I saw this as a way to really work on pieces that I would teach. I think you can be motivated to perform for fame or money, which is one thing, but I think you can also be motivated by a desire to become a better teacher. If you want to teach students of all levels, you need to have had all kinds of experiences – playing with an orchestra, for instance. And the more you push yourself as a performer, the more you will be able to offer your students. For these programs, I would really have to pull the pieces apart, figure out how they worked, and this was great for my teaching, and in a sense made me fall in love with the music again. So performance can really fuel teaching, and vice versa.

Have you found an equilibrium between teaching and performing?

For me, the balance is about 50-50. That doesn't mean I have to teach and perform every day. It comes in cycles, but both have to be there. I find that if I don't perform, I enjoy teaching a lot less, and conversely my teaching benefits immensely when I put in the time to work on the 'cello. The motivation for having those performance experiences always comes from wanting to share them with young musicians.

Antonio Lysy was violoncello coach at the Academy from July 27 – August 9.

A message from Artistic Director Agnes Grossmann



Dear Friends of Toronto Summer Music,

As the 2009 Toronto Summer Music Academy and Festival reaches its end this year, I wanted to remind you of our culminating event

entitled Opera Extravaganza. This captivating performance is a veritable feast of operatic delights and features a program of arias and ensembles from the music of Strauss, Rossini, Verdi and many others. Star alumni of Toronto Summer Music's Opera Studio will perform with the National Academy Orchestra, under my direction at the MacMillan Theatre, August 13 at 7:30pm. Only a limited amount of balcony seats are available for this performance so be sure to act fast before they sell out! Tickets are available at www.torontosummermusic.com or by calling 416-597-7840.

In conjunction with the Opera Extravaganza, opera specialist Iain Scott will give a FREE pre-performance talk at 6:15pm providing insight into the excerpts performed during the Opera Extravaganza. Don't miss this excellent opportunity to get all the facts about opera!

As I look back at the last four weeks, I am once again astounded by the resounding success of this year's Festival. Eight of our twelve Festival performances were sold out, our ticket sales have increased by 20% since 2008 and reception all around has been unanimous with praise. What a great way to end the summer!

I want to thank you all again for your support and I hope to see you again next year from July 20 – August 15.

With warm regards,

Agnes Grossmann

*“A virtual oasis in the musical desert of the Toronto summer”
—The Globe and Mail*

 TORONTO
SUMMER MUSIC
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AGNES GROSSMANN

A few words with flutist ESTHER CHOI



Tell me about your musical upbringing.

I was born in Tokyo, but I also studied in Korea as a child. I first started playing the piano, but I really wanted to learn another instrument and my mother had a flute in the basement. It could have been anything else, really – even a harmonica! – but it happened to be the flute. I've been juggling both until two years ago, when I decided to give up piano lessons to focus on the flute.

How has being proficient in two different instruments affected you as a musician?

I think that the more instruments you can play, the deeper understanding of music you will have. A flutist will know a composer's flute repertoire, but if you can play piano

you will also have a good understanding of the piano repertoire, and so on. The result is that you don't think of music primarily from a flutist's perspective, but rather as a musician.

What does your future in music look like?

I feel like there's still so much to learn, and so much more to do! For now, I am a flutist, but in the end I think I want to be a composer. I enjoy being creative; in my free time, I like to paint and write, and also cook. I like to have creative outlets, and that is where I think my relationship with music will end up.

Esther Choi studied at the Academy with Patrick Gallois.



top: Blake Pouliot; below: Victor Fournelle-Blain

PHOTOS: DEVONNE SITZER; PETER ALBERT



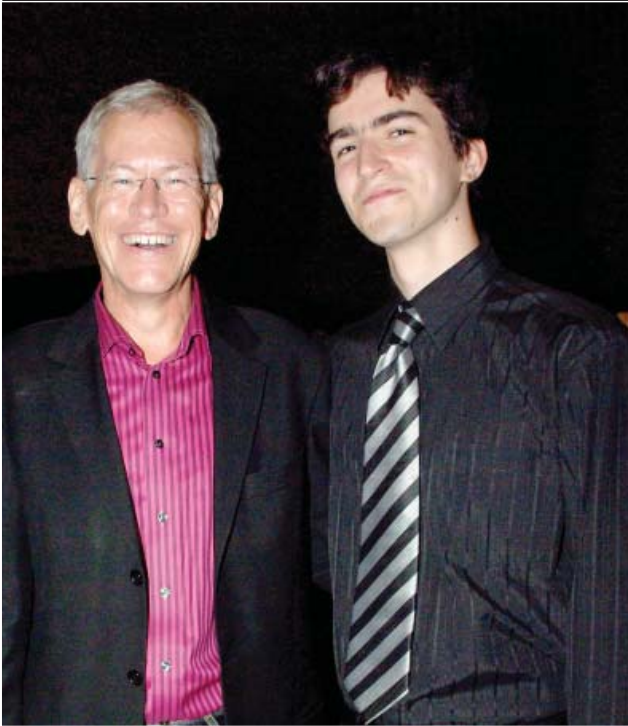
EMERGING ARTISTS

free!

Friday, August 14 at 7:30pm
Walter Hall

Featuring emerging artists at the threshold of their professional careers. These exceptional musicians are working with our Festival performers in master classes given through our Toronto Summer Music Academy. In experiencing the talent and musical prowess of these young artists, you will get a glimpse into what the next generation of musicians has to offer the world of music.

2009 Toronto Summer Music Academy and Festival photos



PHOTOS: DEVONNE SITZER

clockwise from top left: Don Melady and Hubert Tanguay-Labrosse; James Ehnes with Festival patron; Menahem Pressler and Agnes Grossmann; Patrick Gallois and Hannah Rahimi; Lee Kum Sing

this week *Toronto Summer Music Welcomes...*



Denis Brott, violoncello
Mauricio Fuks, violin
Agnes Grossmann, conductor
James Parker, piano
Lee Kum Sing, piano

ACADEMY STUDENTS

PIANO

Claudia Chan, Toronto, Canada
Megan Chang, North York, Canada
Po-Chuan Chiang, Taiping City, Taiwan
Ai-Ying Chiu, Boston, USA
Rosy Ge, Edmonton, Canada
Leonard Gilbert, Markham, Canada
Augustine Mayuga Gonzales, Saskatoon, Canada
Daniel Jepson, Boston, USA
Eric Jo, Toronto, Canada
Minjoo Jo, Toronto, Canada
Diana Kim, East Amherst, USA
Grace Kim, Etobicoke, Canada

Charles Lin, Toronto, Canada
Christopher Miranda, Mississauga, Canada
Yuxi Qin, St-Amable, Canada
Andrew Quiring, Toronto, Canada
Eka Shanshiashvili, Toronto, Canada
Sonya Sweeney, Mount Lehman, Canada
Yuki Tampo-Hinton, Victoria, Canada
Haewoon Yang, Kanata, Canada
Adam Zukiewicz, Toronto, Canada

VIOLIN

Clara Chartré, Montréal, Canada
Victor Fournelle-Blain, Montréal, Canada
Diego Gabete, Zaragoza, Spain
Eun Jo, Toronto, Canada
Bénédicte Lauzière, Quebec, Canada
Luri Lee, Toronto, Canada
Hanna Matthijse, Toronto, Canada
Ema Nikolovska, Mississauga, Canada
Amir Safavi, Toronto, Canada
Heesun Shin, North Bergen, USA

VIOLONCELLO

Hok Chun Chan, Kornhill, Quarry Bay, China
HeeYeon Kim, Waterloo, Canada
Bryan Lu, Mississauga, Canada
Juan Mateo-Revilla, Valladolid, Spain
Erika Nielsen, Toronto, Canada
Yoanna Prodanova, Montréal, Canada

CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

Melissa Schaak, Dowling, Canada
Cheryl Duvall, Toronto, Canada
Joseph Deller, Dearborn, USA
Natalka Podstawka, Toronto, Canada

JOIN US NEXT SUMMER!

JULY 20 – AUGUST 15, 2010

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