



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***Escher String Quartet will open 2018 Toronto Summer Music Festival July 12
As Borodin Quartet cancels due to illness***

TORONTO...Jonathan Crow, Artistic Director of Toronto Summer Music, announced today that the Borodin Quartet has had to cancel their appearance at the 2018 Toronto Summer Music Festival on July 12 and 13 because of the illness of one of their members.

Making their Toronto debut, TSM is delighted to confirm that the **Escher String Quartet** will now open the 2018 Toronto Summer Music Festival on July 12 at Koerner Hall. The concert repertoire is very similar to the originally announced programme and includes Schumann's String Quartet No. 1, Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 9 in E-flat major, Op.117, and Tchaikovsky's String Quartet No.1 in D Major, Op. 11.

The Escher String Quartet has received acclaim for its expressive, nuanced performances that combine unusual textural clarity with a rich, blended sound. In 2017, *The Strad* praised them for "...a level of individual technical precision and a collective musical purpose that is endlessly compelling...Sheer brilliance." A former BBC New Generation Artist, the quartet has performed at the BBC Proms and is a regular guest at Wigmore Hall. In their hometown of New York City, the ensemble serves as Season Artists of The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

For the **Mother Russia** program on July 13th at 7:30 p.m. at Walter Hall, Russian pianist **Lukas Geniušas** – a major prize winner at the prestigious Tchaikovsky and Chopin Competitions – will perform with members of the **Escher String Quartet** and violinist **Jonathan Crow** in a program of treasures from the Russian tradition. The evening includes Sergei Rachmaninoff's late-Romantic style 13 Preludes (1910) and Sergei Prokofiev's Sonata No. 7 in B flat Major, Op. 83, a bravura work composed during the Second World War whose blistering virtuoso finale never fails to bring an audience to its feet. The recital concludes with one of Dmitri Shostakovich's best-known chamber works, the grand Piano Quintet in G minor, Op. 57, which the composer wrote and premiered in 1940.

All tickets for July 12 and July 13 concerts will be honoured. Ticket holders are advised to contact the RCM Box Office with any other questions at 416-408-0208.

About the 2018 Toronto Summer Music Festival

From July 12 to August 4, the Toronto Summer Music Festival brings outstanding classical music experiences to the city with a program featuring renowned Canadian and international artists in 26 mainstage concerts at Koerner Hall, Walter Hall, the Church of the Redeemer and Lula Lounge, plus free and pay what you can concerts, guest lectures and master classes. The 2018 Festival theme, ***Reflections of Wartime***, commemorates the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War and will feature performances by pianist **Julius Drake**, tenor **Ben Heppner** and

the **Toronto Mass Choir**, pianist **Angela Cheng**, and **Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal**. For information on all 2018 Toronto Summer Music Festival activities call 647-408-0208 or visit www.torontosummermusic.com .

Toronto Summer Music gratefully acknowledges support of Canadian Heritage, The Government of Ontario, The Ontario Arts Council, Ontario Arts Foundation, Toronto Arts Council, Metcalf Foundation, The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, Sheffield Moving and Storage, TD Financial, Deloitte, Jones Collombin Investment Counsel Inc., BMO Financial Group, RBC Emerging Artists Project, CIBC, PricewaterhouseCoopers, First National Financial LP, Power Corporation of Canada, Barclays, OLG, Business for the Arts, B Espresso Bar, Remenyi House of Music, TELUS Centre for Performing and Learning, University of Toronto Faculty of Music, The Bentway, Fort York, Classical 96.3 FM, Toronto Life, The Wholenote, and the InterContinental Toronto Yorkville.

Thank you to our 2018 Collaborative Artistic Partners: Loose Tea Music Theatre and National Youth Orchestra of Canada.

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