

CCO's 31st Season at a Glance

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Saturday, December 6, 2014, 7:30pm
Saint Luke's United Church, Toronto, Canada

Symphony No. 5 in E minor
by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Jupiter from The Planets
by Gustav Holst

Waltz from Serenade for Strings in E major
by Antonín Dvořák

Fantasy on Ukrainian Christmas Carols
by Victor Mishalow (commissioned by CCO)

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Saturday, March 7, 2015, 7:30pm
Saint Luke's United Church, Toronto, Canada

Variations on La Follia di Spagna
by Antonio Salieri

Triple Oboe Concerto
by Theodor von Schacht
Oboes: Hubert Brard,
Scott Duffus, and Sharon Khoo

Concertino 'Bayda'
by Kost Miaskov

Bandura: Boris Ostapienko
Symphony No. 4 in B-flat major
by Ludwig van Beethoven

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Saturday, May 30, 2015, 7:30pm
Saint Luke's United Church, Toronto, Canada

The Abduction from the Seraglio (Excerpts)
by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Piano Concerto No. 19 in F major, K. 459
by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Piano: Nathan Kolla

Coronation Mass, K. 317
by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
featuring the Cantabile Chamber Singers
New Canadian composition
by CCO Concertmaster
Emma Vachon-Tweney

Message from the Music Director

Welcome to our 31st Season!

But first, I would like to thank all the musicians and volunteers for a great 30th season at CCO.

Some new things happened last season, namely our collaboration with the Shevchenko ensemble of Toronto in a 200th birthday bash for the great Ukrainian poet and humanitarian Taras Shevchenko. The evening was alive with music mostly new to the ears of our audience, and we performed Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 2, the Ukrainian. The stage was graced for the first time by a bandura soloist, Toronto's own Victor Mishalow, who performed a traditional solo, playing and singing, as well as a concerto for the instrument by Kost Miaskov. The choral selections for the concert were all so very interesting, and we even performed the finale of a 19th century Ukrainian Opera, The Cossack Beyond the Danube.



We were also pleased to play the Haydn trumpet concerto with John Liddle, as well as the Manfredini double trumpet concert featuring our own David Beattie and guest Joe Krommenhoek. And, of course, a huge milestone took place as CCO took part officially in WorldPride 2014 in June! Our performance of Beethoven's 2nd brought us one Symphony away from the complete Beethoven cycle, and the Sound of Music left our audience singing in the aisles on the evening of Nuit Rose! Yes, we played until midnight.

The evening of our third concert was also a dedication to our beloved 25+ year Concertmaster Paul Willis. Paul passed away shortly after this concert. On November 8, we will have a very special evening dedicated to the memory of Paul. Anyone who knew or wants to honour Paul, please come to the event, which will feature a small concert.

Now is our 31st anniversary, a season of diversity in music: from another Tchaikovsky Symphony, No. 5 this time, to the... well, I can't say enough about it, grand Coronation Mass by Mozart. Tchaikovsky 5 is indeed a fierce and fiery work, which we will complement with Holst's Jupiter, a work many of CCO's players have been asking for for years. We are equally pleased to have commissioned the great Toronto-based bandurist with whom we collaborated last season, Victor Mishalow, to compose a Fantasy on Ukrainian Christmas Carols. And... the great moment comes in March when CCO completes the Beethoven Symphony cycle with his Symphony No. 4.

The Coronation Mass is an amazing creation of Mozart's, and this masterpiece will feature a brand new partnership - the Cantabile Chamber Singers of Toronto. Dr. Nathan Kolla will also join us in a piece beloved to him, Mozart's most graceful Piano Concerto No. 19.

CCO is your Community Orchestra and we welcome new players to our family. I encourage you or your friends to inquire about joining us in any capacity, whether it be player or volunteer. As well, there are a couple of openings on our board of directors. We all have a passionate commitment to making music, so come help us with whatever talent or simply time that you have, whether a ticket taker or a fundraiser or a supporter on the board. We need your enriching.

What a great season this is! Come join us and help us celebrate great music!

Taras Kowalczuk
Music Director

Counterpoint Community Orchestra is an incorporated nonprofit organization in the province of Ontario, Canada

Established 1984, Counterpoint was the world's first lesbian/gay/gay-positive orchestra. Counterpoint now has a 31-year tradition of orchestral performances in the downtown Toronto community.

The Counterpoint Community Orchestra Newsletter is published 3 times per year (Fall, Winter and Spring).

Counterpoint Community Orchestra
552 Church Street, Box 41
Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 2E3
Telephone: 416 926 9806
email: info@ccorchestra.org
www.ccorchestra.org

Editor: Dylan MacNeil, Violin II
Webmaster: Philip Hoyt, Violin I
*Poster for December 6 Concert, shown on Page 4,
designed by Philip Hoyt, Violin I*

Connect with Counterpoint:

Website: www.ccorchestra.org
email: info@ccorchestra.org



CounterpointCommunityOrchestra



CounterpointCCO

Please consider making a donation to support Counterpoint!

Your contributions, both large and small, will ensure that we can continue to bring great music to the community. Donations can be made at the concert, cheques sent by mail, or online through our website powered by Canada Helps. Thank you for your support!

www.ccorchestra.org/support.php

Contact:
Contributions@ccorchestra.org
or 416-902-7532



Photo by William McQueen

In Memoriam

There is an empty seat at rehearsals these days as Counterpoint Community Orchestra starts its 31st season. The orchestra is missing one of its long-standing members, former Concertmaster and former CCO Chair, Paul Willis.

For 28 years, Paul brought passion, respect and talent to the group. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and succumbed to his illness on July 21, ending a life of giving to the community and to his loving partner, Alex.

Paul was CCO's biggest advocate and gathered immense community support with his friendly and persuasive manner. On June 7, Paul was invited on stage by our music director Terry Kowalczyk to honour his contributions at the 30th Anniversary concert. It meant a lot to Paul to live to see CCO

turn 30 and take part in WorldPride 2014 in Toronto. Paul left Counterpoint a generous bequest to hire a young person to fill the concertmaster chair for many years to come.

Paul studied violin and graduated from the University of Western Ontario's music program. He went on to law school and ran a successful law practice with his legal assistant Deborah Visconti for 25 years.

Paul was a proud gay man and helped to build Toronto's LGBTQ community in the 1980s. He was a member of "The Body Politic" collective that regularly published a newspaper that united LGBTQ people and helped them stand up for equal rights. His commitment and contributions resonated with the LGBTQ community.

Paul joined Counterpoint soon after it was founded as a safe space for gay musicians in 1984, having set aside his violin for a short time. It was a powerful experience for Paul and he thrived in a community of acceptance.

"In the early years of Counterpoint, he participated in our first executive committee and instilled the openness and love of our community in the Counterpoint constitution. During one season when we didn't have a conductor, he even conducted the season from the Concertmaster's chair, which he occupied for many years," said Bill McQueen, one of CCO's founding members.

Paul rallied community support for CCO for many years and served on CCO's first orchestra board in 2005. As CCO's chair from 2007 to 2009, Paul helped build the orchestra into a strong community organization and set the stage for current chair, Lana Chou Hoyt.

"I saw Paul's passion and drive while he built Counterpoint from the ground up. Paul's leadership helped pave the way for Counterpoint for many years to come. Building a community group takes teamwork. Paul Willis was certainly the glue that kept the team together for close to 30 years," she said.

Paul is also fondly remembered for his open and cheerful personality. "Many members of the orchestra and the audience find our early memories of this orchestra are inextricably linked to Paul, who graced the first chair not only with his playing, but also his unrelenting smile and gracious manner," said CCO member David Beattie.

As a great example of Paul's giving spirit, he donated his violin to his alma mater, the University of Western Ontario Faculty of Music, so that its melody, and indirectly Paul's musical spirit, will live on.

Trish Tervit, Violin II
Lana Chou Hoyt, Flute
Bill McQueen, Clarinet





Victor Mishalow returns to Counterpoint

Counterpoint is excited to be playing a new, commissioned work in our upcoming December concert by bandurist and composer Victor Mishalow, whom you will remember from our Taras Shevchenko & Ukrainian-themed concert in March 2014.

As an academic, teacher and performer, Victor is an internationally acclaimed exponent of the ancient sixty-five stringed bandura, the voice and soul of Ukraine. His reputation extends far beyond Australia to the United States, Canada, and the coun-

tries of the former Soviet Union. He has achieved acclaim for his classical and folk concerts. He has published over seventy articles and publications, has written music for four documentary films, and has a string of recordings to his name, including "Bandura Magic" and "Bandura Christmas Magic." In 1999, he was awarded the title "Merited Artist of Ukraine" by President Kuchma. Victor has played at venues as far apart as Carnegie Hall and the Sydney Opera House, the Los Angeles Olympics, and a Royal Command Performance in the Netherlands. Currently resident in Toronto, Canada, he is the founder and leader of Canadian Bandurist Capella.

Interview with Chris Yoshida, CCO Principal Violin II by Dylan MacNeil

Dylan: How were you first introduced to music? Where did you study?

Chris: I grew up in Windsor, Ontario. My mom started me on violin when I was 7 years old (the Suzuki method). I participated in many youth orchestras as a child. I played in the Windsor Community Youth Orchestra (we went to Banff, Alberta for a festival of youth orchestras when I was ten, and Boris Brott was a guest conductor), as well as the Detroit Civic Youth orchestra. I attended the Congress of Strings, a summer music program, in Detroit, where Günther Herbig guest conducted, and the Interlochen summer music camp in Michigan. My teachers were from the Windsor and Detroit Symphony orchestras.

Dylan: Did you continue with music in your postsecondary education?

Chris: I did my undergraduate in music education at the University of Windsor. I used to play weddings with a violin partner, and various quartets in Windsor. I also played electric violin in two bands in Windsor for nine years (We Wish We Knew and Luxury Christ). I also played some percussion in the University of Windsor Wind Ensemble, was concertmaster for the Windsor Community Orchestra while attending university, played in pit orchestras for various musicals in Windsor (Old Man River), and even played violin in the streets of Barcelona, Madrid, and Valencia for 3 months.

Dylan: How did you end up in Toronto after all this time in Windsor?

Chris: I did teacher's college in Windsor and was certified to teach elementary. After obtaining additional qualifications in Primary Vocal Music in Toronto, I moved here and was hired by the Toronto District School Board to teach

rotary music... although I ended up not liking it and became a regular classroom teacher for grades K-6. I used to help David Spek (music itinerant) out with the string program at our school (H.A. Halbert Jr. P.S.), and later found out that he was a member of the orchestra.

Dylan: What drew you to CCO?

Chris: I found out about this orchestra through my cousin when I first came to Toronto. Karen Aitken (cellist) used to work with my cousin, and she introduced me to CCO 13 years ago.

Dylan: What are your responsibilities as principal second violin?

Chris: I work together with the Concertmaster/mistress to coordinate bowings, lead my section by passing on musical ideas from the conductor, and work with Ron Mitchell to set up and tear down the stage for all rehearsals and concerts.

Dylan: Who are your favourite composers?

Chris: Brahms, Bach, Dvořák, Beethoven, and Tchaikovsky.

Dylan: Are there any pieces you hope the CCO will play some day?

Chris: Henryk Górecki's Symphony No. 3, and any orchestral arrangements of works by Erik Satie.

Dylan: Are your children musical?

Chris: Yes. They are learning one-handed piano (popular Japanese children's songs), and violin (starting the Suzuki method). They are both 8 years old (twins), and I'd like them to be able to play an instrument, though not necessarily the violin. They enjoy singing and dancing as well; they've already performed in a children's musical.

Dylan: What are your hopes for the upcoming orchestra season?

Chris: That we can rally enough strings together to put on full-sounding programs that dazzle and celebrate our 31 years.

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Seeking board members and volunteers for committees and concert help

Volunteers really make a difference in the day-to-day operations of our orchestra fun! Everyone has a unique skill to offer, and Counterpoint thrives on community support. Your contributions will help pave the way to the orchestra's success as we delve into our fourth decade!

Contact:

Getinvolved@ccorchestra.org
or 416-902-7532

Counterpoint Community Orchestra Tickets

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Saturday December 6, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.
Saint Luke's United Church
353 Sherbourne Street at Carlton

Please Note: 7:30pm start time

\$18 Advance; \$20 at Door
\$15 Student with ID, \$10 Youth (12 & under)

Season Ticket (3 concerts): \$50

Group Ticket Deals: Group of 5 for \$75
(Group of 6+ \$15/Ticket)

Ticket Inquiries: 416-902-7532
tickets@ccorchestra.org

Tickets Available At:

Glad Day Bookshop: 598A Yonge St
(416) 961-4161 (cash only)

The 519 Church St. Community Centre
(416) 392-6874 (cash/debit/credit)

Counterpoint Community Orchestra is actively seeking New Musicians!

Come out to one of our Monday night rehearsals (8-10pm at The 519 Church Street Community Centre) and try us out, especially if you play a string instrument, French horn, or trombone.

All are welcome!



Taras Kowalczyk, Music Director
Toronto's LGBTTIQQ2SA Orchestra

5

Saturday, Dec 6, 2014, 7:30pm, Saint Luke's United Church
Southeast corner of Carlton and Sherbourne, Toronto

Tchaikovsky - Symphony No. 5
Holst - Jupiter from The Planets
Dvořák - Waltz from Serenade for Strings
Mishalow - Fantasy on Ukrainian Christmas
Carols

Advance tickets: \$18; Door: \$20;
Students \$15; Kids 12 and under \$10;
Season tickets: \$50; Groups of 5: \$75;
Group of 6+: \$15 per ticket

Cash only door

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