



MUSIC IN THE AFTERNOON

Women's Musical Club of Toronto

NEWS & NOTES

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ANOTHER CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD!

By *Annette Sanger*

We are very excited to announce that the process of selecting the 2018 Career Development Award (CDA) winner is underway: ten candidates have been chosen and they have recently submitted audio and written materials to our jury of five eminent musicians, teachers and music producers. The prize is \$20,000 plus a concert in the WMCT's 2019-20 season. The official announcement of the winner will be at the March 8, 2018 *Music in the Afternoon* concert. For details of the candidates and jurors please go to our website at <https://www.wmct.on.ca/awards/career-development-award/>

The CDA is a joint project of the WMCT and the CBC, funded by the WMCT Foundation. Since its inauguration over thirty years ago, the list of prizewinners includes some of Canada's finest classical musicians, ranging from James Ehnes in 1992 to our most recent awardee, Charles Richard-Hamelin. Financial support is so important in the early stages of a performer's career, and feedback from our past winners confirms that this prize was pivotal in helping them establish their careers.

Shannon Mercer, soprano, 2006 CDA winner, has a busy schedule performing



Shannon Mercer
(Photo: Helen Tansey)



Yegor Dyachkov
(Photo: Pierre-Yves Gagnon)

all over Canada and the USA in concerts, operas and oratorios with repertoire ranging from Bach and Handel to new music.

Yegor Dyachkov, cellist, the 2000 CDA winner, is a Professor at McGill University, an enthralling recitalist, chamber musician and concerto soloist and strong proponent of new

music. Some readers may remember his return to the *Music in the Afternoon* concert stage in March 2014 when he gave a truly remarkable and inspiring recital of music by Beethoven, Britten, Shostakovich and Hatzis (WMCT Commission).

Annette Sanger is the Chair of the Career Development Award Committee

RECENT WMCT CONTEST WINNERS

Early Bird Draw
(Free WMCT Subscription)
Lynn Pearson

Bring-A-Friend Draw
(Complimentary ticket to Zodiac Trio)
Lynne Cockburn

Amadeus Choir Draw
(Free Full Concert Series Tickets)
Evangeline Cheng

RAVE REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS: LARA ST. JOHN

Our first concert of the season received a glowing review from the Ludwig Van website (formerly Musical Toronto). Here are just a couple of excerpts from: “*Scrutiny: Lara St. John and Matt Herskowitz Give Dazzling WMCT Season Opener*” by Joseph So.

“The 120th (how’s that for longevity) Season of the Women’s Musical Club of Toronto opened in grand style on October 5, with a recital given by two virtuosi extraordinaire...”

“The theatre was gratifyingly full, underscoring the fiercely loyal following of the WMCT members”.

If you’d like to read more, please visit www.ludwig-van.com/toronto/2017/10/08/scrutiny-lara-st-john-and-matt-herskowitz-give-dazzling-wmct-season-opener/

FROM THE WMCT PRESIDENT

By Diane Martello

Since 1898 the WMCT has been a community of friends who love chamber music. Working together as volunteers we produce concerts and support young Canadian musicians through scholarships, awards and complimentary *Music in the Afternoon* tickets for high school and university students. Many of our performers are outstanding Canadian musicians, but over the years we have reached beyond our borders to host performances by musicians from 37 countries, including the USA, Jamaica, Argentina, Germany, Romania, Greece, Israel, Vietnam, Australia and India!

We began our 120th Season five-concert series with virtuoso Canadian violinist Lara St John. For our final May concert, “CELLODRAMA!”, we will welcome eight great cellists from across Canada and their special guest, soprano Sarah Slean. November, March and April concerts feature the Zodiac Trio from



Lara St. John & Matt Herskowitz in concert
October 5, 2017 (Photo: James Kippen)

the USA, The Elias String Quartet from Great Britain, and, making her Toronto debut, soprano Sylvia Schwartz from Spain.

So be a friend: tell your friends about the WMCT. Invite them to *Music in the Afternoon*; volunteer (call Shannon at 416

923-7052). Or, if you haven’t done so yet, join our community of friends by purchasing a three-concert series subscription to *Music in the Afternoon*.

Diane Martello is the President of the WMCT and Chair of the Marketing & Membership Committee.

VOLUNTEERS HONOURED AT AGM ON SEPTEMBER 28

By Kathleen McMorrow

The WMCT had the best Annual Meeting in town!

Half an hour of positive reports from the treasurer and president, then a mini-recital by scholarship and fellowship winners, a free lunch, and a floral “Thank you” to volunteers who plan and staff *Music in the Afternoon*, serve on awards, finance, and fundraising committees, and document the history of the WMCT. For more photos, taken at the Women’s Art Association, see the WMCT Facebook page.

Kathleen McMorrow is the Vice-President of the WMCT.



Our indispensable volunteers being honoured at the AGM on September 28, 2017
(Photo: James Kippen)

NOT ON HOLD...

By Bonnie O'Dacre

After 15 years chairing the WMCT's telephone committee, Marlene Preiss is hanging up, saying her final "goodbye" and declaring her volunteer days over...well mostly. "You're going to have to put up with me for a while yet," she says, "it'll take some time to rid my head of WMCT thoughts." And some of those involve the whole idea of volunteering - and Marlene's willing to share.



President Diane Martello & Marlene Preiss at WMCT AGM, September 28, 2017 (Photo: James Kippen)

When she retired in 2000 after years of teaching high school and working in the Canadian banking sector, Marlene was reluctant to jump into more work. "I wanted some freedom and time to travel, and I was very leery of the whole idea of volunteering". It was

the engagement and commitment of genial people, the other WMCT volunteers, that drew her in.

Now, 15 years later she reflects: "People come to this organization with fully developed resumes and skills that are applicable to what we do and they are willing to share those skills. They aren't concerned with advancement so the atmosphere is collegial, yet focused on the job. I've never known a more supportive working group. We are blessed with that." Marlene's colleagues see the other side of the story. One dubbed her "our secret weapon" for her ability to connect with people over the phone. President Diane Martello says: "over many years she has generously contributed her vast business experience, logical thinking and wonderful telephone manner. She connected with hundreds of members and wrote detailed reports that helped us understand our membership and plan accordingly, but more than this, Marlene is a friend who remains part of our

chamber music community."

In addition to chairing the telephone committee, Marlene worked on the Membership and Marketing, Advertising sub committee and was a member of the Board. Her affable voice reminding members to sign up or renew their subscriptions brought one member to reconsider her choice for email: "Does that mean Marlene isn't going to call any more? I'd rather talk to her."

And yes we will continue to call.

So after sounding like a recruitment ad for the WMCT why is she leaving? "It's just a good time", she says. "it's time for me to enjoy the music."

Bonnie O'Dacre is a long-term member of the WMCT Board and the Marketing & Membership committee. She is also head of the WMCT's media relations.

BACK TO SCHOOL

The WMCT was delighted to welcome not one, but two school groups to our season-opening concert. Secondary students from King Academy and Agincourt Collegiate had a chance to meet the artists after the concert, and as always, students were able to attend free-of-charge.



Lara St. John & Matt Herskowitz with students from King Academy October 5, 2017 (Photo: James Kippen)

WE'VE MOVED!

Our new address is:
59 Adelaide Street E, Suite 500
Toronto, ON, M5C 1K6

WINNING AWARDS

by *Bonnie O'Dacre*



THE WMCT AND WMCT FOUNDATION 2017-2018 RECORD OF AWARDS

The Annual General Meeting is a great time to catch up with the WMCT's scholarship and fellowship recipients. In spite of classes, work, practice and life in general, these young performers take time to play the concert following the formal meeting. Four of the five 2017/18 recipients created great music this year and then had a few minutes to discuss their take on awards.

It's not just the money, but that's good too.

"Artists have always required mentorship and support", says Emily Eng, viola, (Toronto Summer Music Festival Academy Fellowship). "We need the encouragement to keep developing".



Emily Eng, September 28, 2017
(Photo: James Kippen)

Vivian Chen, piano, (Centennial Scholarship) was delighted with the performance opportunity. "Really I would have done it without the award," she says. The opportunity to play and the opportunity to meet people at events like this is wonderful. She adds that there is a responsibility attached to winning. "It pushes me to do better, to live up to the expectations".

Militza Boljevic, soprano, (110th Anniversary Scholarship) puts it all very simply. "It's feeling that you're part of a community."



(L to R) Vivian Chen, Militza Boljevic and guest
September 28, 2017 (Photo: James Kippen)

Womens Musical Club of Toronto
& WMCT Foundation
Centennial Scholarship – \$10,000
(Faculty of Music, University of Toronto)

2017-2018 Recipient: Vivian Chen, piano

Women's Musical Club of Toronto
& WMCT Foundation
Graduate Fellowship – interest on \$50,000 endowment
(Faculty of Music, University of Toronto)

2017-2018 Recipient: Chieh-Ying Lu, oboe

Women's Musical Club of Toronto
& WMCT Foundation
110th Anniversary Scholarship – \$10,000
(The Glenn Gould School, RCM)

2017-2018 Recipient: Militza Boljevic, soprano

Women's Musical Club of Toronto
& WMCT Foundation
Academy Fellowship – \$3,000
(Toronto Summer Music Festival)

2017-2018 Recipient: Emily Eng, viola

Women's Musical Club of Toronto
& WMCT Foundation
Award – \$5,000
(National Youth Orchestra of Canada)

2017-2018 Recipient: Madeleine Zarry, violin