
CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES #3
BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY



Featuring the Sudbury Symphony String Quartet,
February 10th 2024 7:30 pm
Grande salle de la Place des Arts' du Grand Sudbury
27, rue Larch, Sudbury, ON, Canada



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Program

Oskar Morawetz (Bohemian-Canadian) - String Quartet No. 2

Antonin Dvorak - String Quartet No.12 "American"

The concert features the Sudbury Symphony String Quartet performing the works of two Bohemian (Czech) composers that journeyed across the Atlantic. Antonin Dvorak's spirited "American" string quartet is a masterpiece of the string quartet genre that features the music he heard in his travels across the United States, from bird songs to spirituals. After the Nazi invasion of the Sudetenland in 1938, Oskar Morawetz applied for a Canadian visa, and made his way to Toronto. He taught at the Royal Conservatory of Music, performed as a piano virtuoso, and became one of the most performed Canadian composers. Of his five works for string quartet, the most played is the intense String Quartet No. 2, which demonstrates Morawetz's contrapuntal skill as well as his fondness for experimental colours.

Performers

Beth Ilana Schneider-Gould – Violin

Beth made her soloist debut at the age of 16 with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. The Los Angeles Times described her as a “prodigious talent, poised, introspective and very impressive.” She has performed throughout the Americas and Europe as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral player and performs on 15 recordings, two receiving Grammy Contentions.

As an avid chamber musician and member of Duo46, she is an advocate of music by living composers and has commissioned with her spouse, guitarist Dr. Matt Gould over 100 pieces. Duo46's performances are characterized by a deep musical understanding and a commitment to new music. Their eclectic repertoire reflects their passion for exploring new sounds and styles. Formerly a member of the San Antonio Symphony and assistant professor at Eastern Mediterranean University in Cyprus, Schneider-Gould's technical excellence, musicality, and innovative programming have earned her critical acclaim. Her recordings have been praised for their artistry and their ability to capture her unique sound and energy. Whether performing on stage, recording in the studio, or teaching the next generation of musicians, Beth continues to push the boundaries of classical music and inspire audiences with her artistry, passion, and dedication to new music. And although she has received many awards and honours, Beth considers her children

Sophia and Max to be her finest achievement to date.

Melissa Schaak – Violin

Melissa was born in Sudbury and is a former student of Mary Kozak. A violin performance graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University, Melissa obtained a specialization in chamber music under the Penderecki String Quartet. She pursued her post graduate studies at the Conservatory of Amsterdam. Inspired by classical crossover styles, Melissa toured with The Exclusive Strings for six years. She has shared the stage with renowned artists such as the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Josh Groban, Michael Bublé, Disturbed, Johnny Logan, Night of the Proms Orchestra and Chaka Khan. Melissa has played for audiences from Asia to the Middle East, Australia, Europe, South America and Canada. Highlighted performances include playing with the band Evanescence (Amsterdam/Dusseldorf), the PubG Global Invitational gaming championship's opening ceremonies (Berlin), and Lollapalooza Festival with Perry Farrell. While in Sudbury, Melissa enjoys playing for the Sudbury, Timmins and North Bay Symphony Orchestras. Her upcoming projects include a classical crossover band, 2V+.

Geoff McCausland – Viola

Geoff (B.Mus McGill, ARCT Royal Conservatory of Music, Pro.Dir) is a musician of diverse experience and training. Growing up in Saint John, New Brunswick he was trained in the Classical tradition, which he continued at McGill University as well as through intensive training programs including the Domaine Forget Summer Institute, the Orford Arts Centre Summer Academy, and the St. Lawrence String Quartet Chamber Music Seminar at Stanford University.

Geoff is a passionate teacher, has led violin and viola sections of symphonies across Northern Ontario, and for ten years was a member of the Juno and Felix-nominated Silver Birch String Quartet. With the quartet he recorded two albums, commissioned new works from Canadian composers, and performed alongside such notable artists as Peter Longworth, Simon Fryer, Joel Sachs, Erika Raum, Tanya Tagaq, Serena Ryder, and the Penderecki String Quartet.

In 2013 Geoff joined the Sudbury-based bluegrass band Murder Murder - exploring the art of improvisation, composition and arrangement of Bluegrass and Americana music. They released three full-length albums which see regular airplay internationally, performed live on BBC Radio, and toured across thirteen countries. He has also shared the stage/recorded with other artists including Iskwe, Nick Sherman, Anne Murray, Pistol George Warren, Barry Miles, McLean, Jennifer Holub, and Carden Cove.

Dr. Dobrochna Zubek – Cello

Polish born cellist Dr. Dobrochna Zubek has established herself as a versatile artist dedicated to a wide-ranging musical repertoire and committed to exploring boundaries between artistic disciplines in her own words: “The bridge between the arts found in interdisciplinary performances fascinates me. Through improvisation, I find that I can make a strong connection and create a dynamic and integrative performance.” A soloist, chamber musician, orchestral cellist, and educator whose evolving and multi-faceted career has taken her to a number of cities in Europe, Asia, and North America. Over the years she has collaborated with a variety of artists such as Peter Gabriel, José Carreras, Shauna Rolston, and Gioconda Barbuto.

Zubek has held an orchestra position with the Orquesta Sinfonica del Estado de Mexico (2009-2012) and on festival stages, she has participated as a soloist at Geneé International Ballet Competition, (2019) Banff Center for Arts and Creativity (2019) and Ottawa Chamberfest (2016) to mention the most recent. She has given a series of masterclasses in Poland, Canada, the USA, and China. Some of them as a part of the University of Toronto’s Faculty of New Music Festival held in Chinese Universities in Guiyang, Chengdu, and Hong Kong.

Zubek made her New York debut at La MAMA experimental theatre, an off-Broadway, with an all-female production of *This is Why We Live* for cello and two actors where she was described as a virtuoso cellist and her playing as soulful and wonderful. As a member of Thin Edge New Music Collective, she has made a mark as a vibrant artist premiering new works in the Canadian new music scene. In a recent performance of the premier of *The Pomegranate*, a chamber opera written by cellist Kye Marshall, where Zubek was featured as a solo cellist.

As a recording artist, Zubek’s repertoire includes *Mexico-Voyage* followed by the Juno-nominated CD recording of *Hymns of Heavens and Earth* composed by Peter-Anthony Togni. Recent commissions and dedications include works by Lucia Álvarez, Norbert Palej, Andrzej Zubek, Parisa Sabet, and Gregory Newsome.

Zubek’s awards include, among others, first place in the Peggy Friedman Gordon Music Competition, (2002), the Sidney Liebermann Competition, (2004), and the 2007 Alexandria Symphony Orchestra Competition in the United States.

Zubek was offered a full scholarship to pursue her cello performance studies at Baltimore’s Towson University, obtaining her B.A. and M.A. with Professor Cecylia Barczyk. This was followed by her studies with Professor Barbara Marcinkowska at the Conservatoire de Versailles in France where she received the Prix de Perfectionnement. In 2016, Zubek completed her Doctor of Musical Arts in Cello Performance at the University of Toronto, studying with Professor Shauna Rolston. Her doctoral thesis is one of the first researched and documented works on contemporary Mexican music for solo cello. From 2012 she was a teaching assistant for Professor Shauna Rolston, (recipient of the Yo-Yo Ma fellowship) and a sessional instructor of cello until 2017.

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