

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

MUSIC

White Rock Concerts wins turn at CBC Radio 2 mic

by Alex Browne

Arts Reporter

One of the Semiahmoo Peninsula's thriving cultural landmarks has gained the ear of CBC Radio 2.

White Rock Concerts April 2 presentation of *The Winds of the CBC Radio Orchestra*, under direction of Montreal conductor Alain Trudel, will be recorded for later broadcast on the national network.

The concert, finale of the subscription series' season at White Rock Baptist Church, will present the great wind chamber music literature of Mozart and Richard Strauss.

Ironically Strauss, who died in 1949, and whose career touched both the 19th and 20th centuries, had once rejected a request to broadcast one of the works selected for the concert.

Sonatina No. 2 for 16 winds (*From A Happy Workshop*) was written at the end of World War II, when Strauss was living in self-imposed exile at Garmisch in the Bavarian mountains.

It has been surmised the subtitle is a reference to relief at the end of the war. But when the director of the Dresden State Theatre wrote to Strauss to request a radio broadcast of the sonatina, Strauss turned him down.

"I have not heard it myself, so cannot judge whether it would not make a bad impression in the inadequate reproduction of a broadcast," he wrote.

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George Zukerman
Artistic director

However, as series artistic director George Zukerman points out, the passage of 50 years has greatly improved radio techniques.

"There is little doubt Strauss would have been overwhelmingly satisfied with the broadcast sound," he said.

The selection of the concert by CBC Radio 2 is a great suc-

cess d'estime, White Rock Concerts president Rick Gambrel said.

"We are very proud to be able to collaborate with the CBC on this," he said.

"Our program is recognized across the land as one of the major subscription series in Canada, and we are honoured the CBC wants to broadcast our closing concert on its national network."

Zukerman, an internationally noted bassoonist, confessed the upcoming concert is something of a "wind-player's revenge".

Trudel, too, is a solo wind player—described as the "Heifetz of the trombone" by the Paris publication *Le Monde de la Musique*—and, in preparing a concert for the series they felt that, while string groups have always been at the forefront of chamber music, the realm of wind chamber music had been disproportionately neglected.

Hence the appearance of the *Winds of the CBC Radio Orchestra*; 17 members of the Vancouver-based ensemble, the last surviving radio orchestra in North America, celebrating its 65th year.