

White Rock Concerts Presents

The Kodály String Quartet



Friday, October 19, 2007

A TALE OF MUCH SURPRISE....

Welcome to our opening concert for this gala 2007-08 season. There's excitement in the air for several reasons.

Firstly, as you see elsewhere in the programme White Rock Concerts has been nominated for "Presenter of the Year" by CAPACOA [Association of Canadian Arts Presenting]. The vote will be taken on November 5 at the annual conference in Ottawa which our President Rick Gambrel and I will be attending. We hope to give you good news at our next concert, although even if we are not voted "presenters of the year" the nomination in itself is a signal recognition

Secondly, you'll find a CBC ballot enclosed with the programme, and you are invited to join with Canadians across the country to help select the programme for the January 4 concert with Alain Trudel and the CBC Orchestra. The concert is being repeated at the Chan Centre on Sunday Jan. 6 and broadcast later nationally.

You can enter by handing in the form at the desk at tonight's concert or by mailing the form to the CBC at the address listed, or by accessing www.cbc.ca/orchestra [click on "baroque by request tab" and vote!]

Thirdly, as you see, we are fortunate to have an added concert on the series this season - the VANCOUVER CHAMBER CHOIR, which appears for us on March 14, 2008.

But as so often happens, there is a tale behind this news, indeed, a tale of much and many surprises! It began in the middle of a quiet summer, when Denise Ball of the CBC phoned about our original November date for the Orchestra with Alain Trudel. "Is there a problem?" I asked. "Well, not exactly a problem, the date is firm.....but....." It turned out that the "BUT" was indeed a problem. M. Trudel was bringing an orchestra of 49 players, and could not change the repertoire to play with a smaller group. Apart from the cost, we simply could never fit 49 players, including harp, and a full percussion section on our stage at the church.

As to a different programme, neither conductor or players had extra time in that week, quite apart from the huge cost of rehearsing new material!

Clearly, we had to find another date for the orchestra. The only one that worked for everyone was Friday, January 4, so this year we are having a concert right after New Year...a grand way, we all thought, to celebrate the start of 2008! But we now had a gap in our series on November 16!

We felt that it was important to retain all the originally announced concert dates, so as not to inconvenience subscribers who had already made plans for specific days during the season.

Fortunately, Daniel Bolshoy - our guitar soloist - was perfectly amenable to changing his date from March to that November 16 slot. And since he was appearing the very next day with the Kamloops Symphony Orchestra, we were able to negotiate with Kamloops to bring the core players to White Rock to accompany Mr. Bolshoy.

But the dominos kept falling. November was now taken care of but instead, we found ourselves with a gap in March. And that was where good luck was with us. I had heard that the Vancouver Chamber Choir was on tour in major Eastern centres in early March, and a call to Violet Goosens who sings and manages the choir produced the fortuitous news that their return was scheduled for March 12. They would take March 13 to rest up, do their laundry and banking and whatever else happens at the end of a tour, and they would be with us, with pleasure, on exactly the date we needed..

There we were, with all our dates retained AND a bonus seventh event, plus an orchestra to accompany our guitar soloist! All as a result of that fateful call from the CBC!

Now, sit back, enjoy this year's series. We are already hard at work planning for 2008-09 and even beyond. You should all take pride in knowing that the nomination as "presenter of the year" is most of all a glowing tribute to you - our ever loyal audience.

Sincerely,

George Zukerman, O.C. O.B.C.
Artistic Director

KODÁLY STRING QUARTET

Attila Falvay, *violin* János Fejérvári, *viola*
Erika Tóth, *violin* György Éder, *violoncello*

Programme

Quartet in F major, Op. 18, No. 1

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
(1770-1827)

Allegro con brio
Adagio affettuoso ed appassionato
Scherzo: Allegro molto
Allegro

Quartet in a minor, Op. 41, No. 1

ROBERT SCHUMANN
(1810-1856)

Introduzione: Andante espressivo—Allegro
Scherzo: Presto
Adagio
Presto

—*Intermission*—

Intermezzo for String Trio [c.1905]

ZOLTÁN KODÁLY
(1882-1967)

Quartet in g minor, Op. 10 [1893]

CLAUDE DEBUSSY
(1862-1918)

Animé et très décidé
Assez vif et bien rythmé
Andantino, doucement expressif
Très modéré; Très mouvementé et avec passion

Naxos Recordings

www.kodalyquartet.com

Exclusive Management for the **KODÁLY STRING QUARTET:**

RAYMOND WEISS ARTIST MANAGEMENT, INC.
889 9th Avenue, Suite One, New York, NY 10019-1781
Phone: (212) 581-8478 E-mail: rwam@rwam.cnc.net
website: rwam.cnc.net

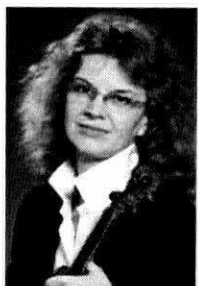
KODÁLY QUARTET

The Kodály Quartet, formed in Budapest in 1966, has continued to exemplify the greatest standards of the rich Hungarian musical tradition which it has carried on with such extraordinary distinction through the world during over four decades of international appearances. International critics have been lavish with remarkable acclaim for the Kodály Quartet's numerous (over 50) recordings, including the monumental undertaking of the complete cycles of Haydn, Beethoven and Schubert for Naxos.

Their recording of Haydn' Op.64. was named Classic CD Magazine's BEST CHAMBER MUSIC RELEASE OF 1993, and Vol. VI. of the Beethoven was BBC Music Magazine's "Pick of the Month" giving it five stars for both performance and sound, calling it an "extraordinary achievement". Octets of Bruch and Mendelssohn received a "10 out of 10" rating for both artistic and recording quality from ClassicsToday.com

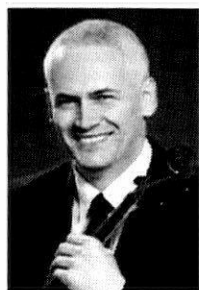
Members of the Kodály Quartet, include Attila Falvai (violin) Erika Tóth (violin) János Fejérvári (viola) and György Éder (cello)

Attila Falvai was admitted to the Ferenc Liszt Academy at the age of sixteen. In 1979 he was awarded the Second Prize at the Szigeti International Violin Competition. The following year he won the First Prize of the Hubay Competition. He completed a post graduate course conducted by Prof. Josef Sívó at the Academy of Music, Vienna. Falvai joined the Kodály String Quartet in 1980. He is the longest standing member of the current Kodály Quartet.



Erika Toth received her Degree from the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. She also studied at the Yale Summer School (US), the Banff Centre (Canada) and at the University of Wisconsin (US). In 1978 she joined the Eder String Quartet with whom she performed intensely worldwide until 1986. They recorded the complete Bartók String Quartets.

János Fejérvári (viola) completed violin and viola studies at the Ferenc Liszt Academy in Budapest. Between 1981 and 1985 he played at the Budapest Opera as the leader of the viola section. He is a founding member of the Budapest String Chamber Orchestra playing the first viola there for many years. He also works as a viola and chamber music professor at the Béla Bartók Conservatory in Budapest.



György Éder also studied at the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music. After completing his degree further studies led him to USA and Canada (Yale University, 1978, the Banff Center School of Fine Arts, 1983, University of Wisconsin, 1984-85). He was principal cellist of the Budapest Symphony Orchestra. With the Eder quartet he toured in almost every European country, the USA, Australia and New Zealand.

Programme Notes

Ludwig Van Beethoven , String Quartet in F major, Op 18, No. 1

Beethoven wrote string quartets at three distinctly separate times of his life. The first group of six quartets [Opus 18] were written before 1800, and although they still reflect the strong influences of Haydn and Mozart, it is clear that Beethoven had already begun to mark his departure from the Classical Style.

The work we hear tonight is the first of that group of early quartets. It is interesting to note that Beethoven's sketches show that he composed the second movement with the intention of depicting the tomb scene from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Robert Schumann, String Quartet in a minor, Op 41

Schumann's interest in quartet composition was ignited by intense study of the quartets of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. Surprisingly, though, his three quartets resemble those of Mendelssohn more than those of his stated models, and in the end it was to Mendelssohn that the works were dedicated.

Schumann composed the three Quartets, Op. 41, in a very short span of time in 1849. The first, he began on June 4; the second, on June 11, and the third between July 8 and 11. The parts were published in 1843 by the famous German publishing house of Breitkopf & Härtel.

Schumann had attempted some string quartets in 1838 and 1839, but he abandoned them, perhaps because a chamber music idiom without the piano was foreign to him. Even ten years later, in the Op. 41 String Quartets, many melodic passages are pianistic in nature, and we find extended, segments that resemble blocked chords for the piano as transferred to strings.

Zoltan Kodály, Intermezzo for String Trio

Among Hungary's leading 20th century composers, Zoltán Kodály was also distinguished as an ethno musicologist, educator, linguist and philosopher. The Kodály Quartet was named after him, when it was first founded in 1966 [one year before the composer's death].

Kodály's father was stationmaster at a small Northern town, and keen amateur musician, so his son learned to play the violin as a child. He also sang in a cathedral choir and wrote music, despite having little formal musical education. In 1900, Kodály entered the University of Budapest primarily to study modern languages, But he also embarked on music study at the Franz Liszt Academy, and later in Paris where he fell under the profound influence of Debussy.

Kodály was one of the first composers to undertake the serious study of Hungarian folk music, and like his compatriot, Béla Bartók he visited many remote villages to collect songs recording them on wax phonograph cylinders. Kodály and Bartók became lifelong friends and champions of each other's music.

The intermezzo was written in 1905, while deeply immersed in the folk music traditions of his country. The short work reflects a fascinating blend of folk material with late-romantic, impressionistic and early 20th century "modern" styles.

Programme Notes, continued

Claude Debussy, String Quartet, Opus 10 in g minor

Claude Debussy only wrote one String Quartet, which was premiered in 1893 by the famous Ysaÿe Quartet.

The work is much influenced by César Franck, who was Debussy's principal teacher at the Paris Conservatory. But other influences are also at work - Wagner, Lizst, Borodin and even Tschai-kovsky as well as the exotic sounds of Gamelin music from Indonesia.

In 1884 Debussy was awarded a coveted Prix de Rome for a Cantata *L'enfant prodigue*, but despite this early acclaim he often found himself depressed and unable to compose. Much of what he created between 1884 and 1892 was dismissed by critics as "bizarre".

But he persevered and combined his many musical influences with an intense interest in the poetry of Baudelaire and Verlaine. Utilizing old church modes, as well as the daring whole tone scale, he emerged with a fresh musical language, loosely termed "Impressionism" and he dazzled Parisian audiences in 1892 with *L'après-midi d'un faune*. The quartet followed the year after. It is in four movements, built in a cyclical structure. Each of the sections is connected to the others by similar thematic material.

WHITE ROCK CONCERTS NOMINATED "PRESENTER OF THE YEAR"

White Rock Concerts which celebrated its fiftieth anniversary season in 2007-2008 has been nominated for the prestigious "Presenter of the Year Award" by the Canadian Association of Arts Presenters [CAPACOA].

The awards will be handed out at CAPACOA's annual Ottawa conference in early November. CAPACOA is a national Arts Service advocacy agency with over 200 members across Canada including theatres, artists, volunteer concert societies, symphony orchestras, managements and government agencies.

The citation in the nomination states "this award recognizes excellence and achievement by a volunteer or professional organization in programming and professionalism, or contribution to community life and/or the touring sector."

Tenor Ben Heppner who appeared for White Rock Concerts last January,

was instrumental in the nomination and wrote in his letter of support:

"I sang for White Rock Concerts in January of this year and was wonderfully impressed with the organization and enthusiasm of their sold-out memberships series. But what was equally significant was the fact that while White Rock Concerts was presenting a major concert for its own audience, they were also instrumental in helping smaller communities in rural BC to schedule performances as part of a province-wide tour. None of this would have come about without White Rock Concerts' original initiative."

White Rock Concerts has been a member of CAPACOA since its inception in 1968. Artistic Director, George Zukerman has been a Board member.

A Message from the President

Welcome to our 51st season of excellence. Like George, I, too, am proud to report our nomination for Canadian "Presenter of the Year".

This was supported by a wonderful letter from the great Ben Heppner. One might say that the praise of such an artist and such a great person is reward enough, but if selected, we will be happy to bring the award to White Rock!

As a part of our journey to the CAPACOA conference in Ottawa in November, George and I will be telling all those (and there are many) who are lamenting the premature "death" of classical music, - (they always moan that "no one will go and hear it") - that good music is alive and thriving in White Rock, for the last 50 years and for at least 50 years to come.

Your Executive Board sees its duty not only to bring a wonderful series to this community, but at the same time to show other communities that, if done right, good music can flourish in these changing times.. Thank you, to our subscribers, for fulfilling the most important role of all - that of the audience - in this noble 21st century endeavour.

Rick Gambrel
President

WHITE ROCK CONCERTS SOCIETY

*c/o Community Arts Council,
#90 - 1959 - 152nd St.,
White Rock, B.C. V4A 9E3*

Board of Directors, 2007 - 2008

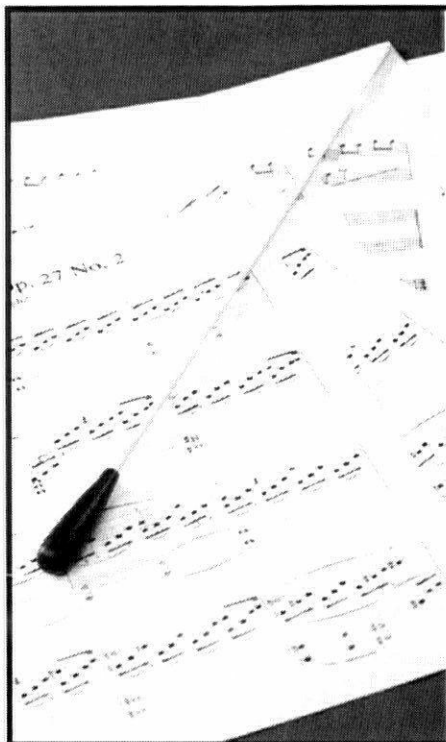
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We are always happy to hear from you!

Contact:

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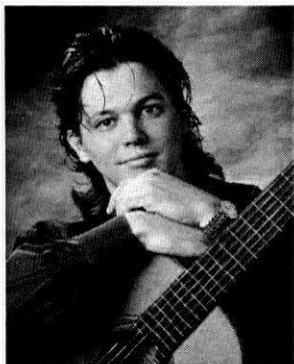


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At Coast Capital Savings, we're here to help. Every year, we help the communities we live and work in with donations of money, time and resources. We do this not just because we believe in being good corporate citizens, but also because we believe in simply being good citizens.



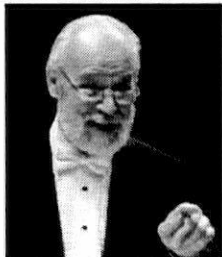
How can we help you?™



Our Next Concert

Daniel Bolshoy, guitar

*accompanied by members of the
Kamloops Symphony Orchestra
conducted by **Bruce Dunn***



Friday, November 16, 2007