

# **White Rock Concerts Presents**

**VLADIMIR OVCHINNIKOV**



*Friday, April 4, 2008*

## Message from the President

The dumbing down of the CBC continues. "Classical" music is being eviscerated from the Radio Two schedule to no more than a few hours a day on weekdays when many are unable to listen in any event, as they are at work.

This is not exclusively old music. This is not boring music. This is not music from far away. This is often exciting new music. This is music that stirs the soul and soothes a broken heart. This is music composed by and performed by talented young Canadians from all over the country. And the coup de gras has been dealt to perhaps the most important orchestra in the country - the CBC Radio Orchestra.

Important? Yes! The orchestra was formed 70 years ago this year by legendary figure John Avison. It has spawned the careers of countless young musicians who have and will go on to great things, like a young bassoonist who joined the orchestra in 1953 and played with them for 15 years (our own renowned George Zukerman). It has had, as its goal, to commission dozens of new Canadian works each season - far more than any other orchestra in the country. And, along with the Romantic and Classical and Baroque, it has presented countless wonderful new and challenging works to an audience [younger every year] which continues to hunger for more of the same.

The cancelling of the orchestra is symptomatic of the steady downward slide of CBC Radio 2 programming. The CBC tells us that it is a money issue, but nothing could be further from the truth. Such treasures as the CBC Radio Orchestra speak to something far greater - the nourishment of the human soul fed by great art. Should this orchestra die, surely a child somewhere will never be inspired, by listening to a great violinist like Andrew Dawes or James Ehnes, to pick up a violin and bring joy to thousands. And if this orchestra dies, a young Canadian composer will toil in obscurity, never to be commissioned to compose that great symphony.

We must not let the orchestra die without a fight, and fight we will. You can do your part by signing the petition in the lobby tonight, which we hope to add to others being sought across the country. Don't forget, White Rock Concerts has a special interest in this. We introduced the Orchestra to their current conductor, Alain Trudel through our Winter Winds concert some years ago. and then, of course, we had the pleasure of bringing them with Alain early this season. Some things are worth fighting for and this is one of them.

In George's message you will find a list of the key people to whom we should be protesting. The more letters, the more chance there is that the reckless course upon which the CBC seems to be embarking can be reversed.

*"Lack of culture means what it has always meant: ignoble civilization  
and therefore imminent downfall."*

*(Frank Lloyd Wright US architect (1869 - 1959))*

Rick Gambrel  
President, White Rock Concerts



## White Rock Concerts, proud recipient



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### Vladimir Ovchinnikov, Biography

In 2005, Vladimir Ovchinnikov received Russia's highest artistic award, the title of National Artist of Russia, awarded by Russian president, Vladimir Putin. The only pianist ever to win the top prizes at both the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow (1982) and the Leeds International Piano Competition (1987), Mr. Ovchinnikov is also a laureate of the Concours International de Montréal (1980). His success in Leeds established his international career, beginning with a triumphant debut performance in London in the presence of The Queen.

Mr. Ovchinnikov's concerto appearances include the Chicago Symphony, Montreal Symphony, all the major London orchestras, Bournemouth Symphony, Hague Residentie Orkest, Hallé Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and the Zurich Tonhalle, among others, as well as all of the leading Russian orchestras. He has toured France, the Netherlands and North and South America with the Russian State Symphony Orchestra.

Vladimir Ovchinnikov has collaborated with many renowned conductors, among them Vladimir Ashkenazy, Matthias Bamert, James Conlon, Alexander Dmitriev, Vladimir Fedoseyev, Valery Gergiev, Mariss Jansons, Neeme Järvi, Yakov Kreizberg, Libor Pesek, Valery Poliansky, Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, Thomas Sanderling, Maxim Shostakovich, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski and Sir Georg Solti. He has appeared in most of the world's prestigious venues: Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Vienna Musikverein, Théâtre de Champs-Élysées, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, the Great Hall of Moscow's Conservatory, and the Great Hall of the St. Petersburg Philharmonic.

Among Mr. Ovchinnikov's recordings are compilations of Liszt, Prokofiev and Rachmaninov for EMI Classics; Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition and the Shostakovich First Piano Concerto for Collins Classics; and Rachmaninov's Etudes-Tableaux Op. 33 and Op. 39 for Olympia.

A graduate of the Moscow Conservatory where he studied with Alexey Nasedkin, Vladimir Ovchinnikov is resident professor of piano at the Moscow Conservatory and guest professor of piano at Sakuyo University in Japan.

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*Ovchinnikov is an immaculate performer with impeccable taste and a sense of deep repose, even when confronted by the most extravagant technical demands.* INDEPENDENT (London)

*To perform Liszt is to be a player who is not only fearless but also temperamentally matched with the composer. Ovchinnikov is both.... Spellbound to the last chord, I yearned to walk out into the calm of the summer night with his poetry ringing in my ears."* HERALD SUN (Melbourne)

## Programme

**Franz Peter Schubert** [1797-1828] Sonata in A Major, D. 664  
*Allegro Moderato - Andante - Allegro*

**Alexander Nikolaievitch Scriabin** [1872-1915] Sonata No. 5, Op. 53

**Sergei Vassilievitch Rachmaninov** [1873-1944] Four pieces from Moments Musicaux, Op. 16  
*No. 1 in B-flat minor - No. 2 in E-flat minor - No. 3 in B-minor - No. 4 in E-minor*

## Intermission

**Nikolai Gregorovitch Rubinstein** [1835-1881] Mazurka in F-major, Op. 11  
Polka in E-flat major, Op. 15  
Tarantella in G-minor, Op. 14

**Sergei Sergeivitch Prokofiev** [1891-1953] Three Pieces from the Ballet, *Cinderella*  
*Valse Lente - Cinderella and the Prince - Cinderella's Departure from the Ball*

**Peter Ilyitch Tschaikovsky** [1840-1893] Waltz of the Flowers from the *Nutcracker* ballet  
*[Arranged by Percy Aldrich Grainger [1882-1961]]*

*Mr. Ovchinnikov appears courtesy of Schmidt Artists, 59 E 54th St., New York City, 10022.*

## Programme Notes:

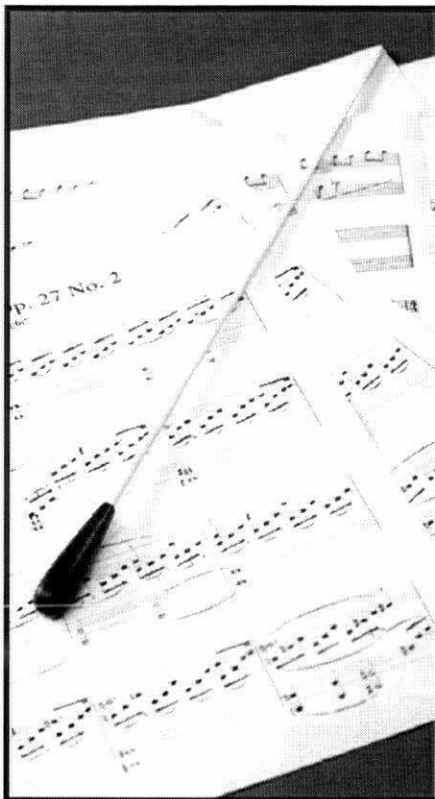
Welcome to the wonderful world of Patronymic names! Anyone who has read a Tolstoy novel will know that it is a matter of deep Russian tradition that villains and Heroes alike are addressed by their first and patronymic name.....never "good morning, Alexy..." but rather always " good morning Alexy Gregorevitch" - The patronymic was always the father's Christian name with the addition of "itch" for "son of" and "ova" for "daughter of." Surnames did not become universal in Russia until the early 18th century so, by the use of the Christian name and the patronymic, you immediately knew the name of the person's father. From there it was never too far to a lengthy paragraph describing the family tree, twisting back through generations of landed gentry or serfdom as the case may be. Yes, even serfs had patronymic names. Patronymics were part of each family's history, and in turn a reflection of the history of early Russia.

In checking out the names of the composers on tonight's programme, all was going splendidly until I reach Nikolai Rubinstein.....what ? - no patronymic, no father? no tradition to uphold in fond memory of the past generation? Fortunately there was a simple solution to the oversight that had apparently left poor Nikolai denuded [at least nominally] of a parent's name. He was a brother of the equally distinguished pianist and composer Anton Rubinstein....and Anton is very definitely Anton Gregorovitch. Since one must assume they enjoyed the same father, that in turn provided Nikolai with a valid patronymic. Phew!

Franz Schubert and Percy Grainger [the only two non-Russians on the programme] also had middle names, albeit these bore no particular link to their family backgrounds. None the less, I was relieved to have provided Franz Schubert with a middle name - Peter; and Mr. Grainger with the thoroughly British middle name of Aldrich. Enough on names.

*Nicolai Gregorovich Rubinstein* is in no way related to Artur Rubinstein, the great 20th century virtuoso pianist. But he was also a fine pianist and composer. A member of a distinguished family of pianist-composers, he and his brother Anton Gregorovich were widely celebrated during their lifetimes. Nicolai Gregorovich was Director of the Moscow Conservatory while Tchaikovsky was a student there. Curiously, he is best remembered for two famous links to Tchaikovsky. The first link occurred after his death. Tchaikovsky dedicated his most moving and passionate work - his Piano Trio, to Rubinstein's memory. The second link occurred while Tchaikovsky was still a conservatory student, and had just completed his first [and ultimately most famous] piano concerto. He brought the work to Rubinstein for a critique, and Nikolai Gregorvitch ruthlessly tore it to pieces, in effect telling Peter Ilyitch to go home and re-write the piece. Tchaikovsky refused. The two men didn't speak to each other for years, and the concerto was premiered elsewhere, to great critical acclaim. Then suddenly eight years later, Nikolai Gregorovitch, started playing the concerto exactly as it had been brought to him in the first place, and for the remaining years of his life he became one of its most ardent exponents. Nobody has ever been able to explain the sudden change of heart, but obviously Tchaikovsky forgave his distinguished professor sufficiently to result in the heart-felt dedication on the front page of his well-loved Trio.

*Alexander Nikolayevich Scriabin* was another important Russian composer and pianist of the late 19th early 20th century. He developed a highly lyrical and idiosyncratic tonal language, driven by a poetic, philosophical and aesthetic vision that bordered on the mystical. He is considered a primary figure in the world of musical symbolism, and had a great influence on composers such as Olivier Messiaen, Sergei Prokofiev and Igor Stravinsky. Ironically, Scriabin was reported to have disliked most of their music! Throughout the 20th century Scriabin has remained a consistent favourite among pianists, despite amazing technical difficulties and complex notation. Listeners generally adopt intense feelings about Alexander Nikolayevich. An early 20th century music compatriot wrote "No composer has had more scorn heaped on him or greater love bestowed". Take your choice.



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*We are always happy  
to hear from you!*

**Contact:**

rickgambrel@hotmail.com  
or  
gzuk@telus.net

## Message from the Artistic Director

The entire music scene in Canada was sent into a state of shock with the announcement last week that the CBC is discontinuing the legendary CBC Vancouver Orchestra. We were indeed lucky to have been able to engage them for last January's concert.

Elsewhere in this programme, you will see Rick Gambrel's comments [which I heartily endorse] I wish I could say that the destruction of the orchestra was a mindless isolated act. In fact it seems to be part of a pattern of deliberate downgrading of classical music throughout Radio 2 programming.

There is a petition circulating in the lobby. In addition, here are the key people to whom your comments could be sent. If you feel truly concerned, please write a real letter.

Hubert T. Lacroix, Pres. CBC  
P.O. Box 3220, Station C,  
Ottawa, Ont., K1Y 1E4,  
ht.lacroix@cbc.ca

Mark Steinmetz, Head of Music  
CBC P.O. Box 500, Station "A"  
Toronto, Ont.M5W 1E6  
mark\_steinmetz@cbc.ca

Russ Hiebert, MP  
#106a - 2429 152nd St.  
Surrey, BC V4P 1N4  
info@russhiebert.ca

The Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa K1A 0A2  
pm@pm.gc.ca

Jennifer McGuire  
Executive Director of CBC English Radio  
P.O. Box 500, Station "A"  
Toronto, Ont. M5W 1E6  
jennifer\_mcguire@cbc.ca

The Honourable Josée Verner  
Minister of Canadian Heritage,  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
www.canadianheritage.gc.ca .

Look around you at tonight's audience. Then try to reconcile what you see with the widely advertised claim that classical music is no longer of interest to Canadian music lovers and CBC 2 listeners.

Now turning to much happier news. We have already renewed more than 375 memberships for next year, and at tonight's concert we are confidently aiming for the 80% renewal mark.

Since I will have the honour and pleasure of opening the season in October, I will leave it to others to tell you all about next year's line-up. In any case, The 08-09 flyer was circulated at the last concert and is reprinted on the back page of tonight's programme.

Please renew if you have not already done so. I look forward to seeing you at that opening concert. I will be on stage for the evening, but in spirit, I'll be greeting you in the lobby out front, as you arrive for the opening of an exciting 08-09 season.

Sincerely,

George Zukerman, O.C., O.B.C.

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has moved from WHITE ROCK CENTRE  
to OCEAN PARK [next door to the Hong Kong Bank]

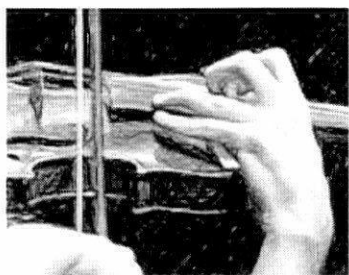
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# Here's what's coming for next season



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① Friday, October 3, 2008

### *Bassoon as You're Ready*

A 60-year retrospective concert featuring our Artistic Director: GEORGE ZUKERMAN

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Orchestra conducted by Les Dala,  
Narrated by Ron Halder

Music of Bach, Mozart and Villa Lobos, and featuring a world premiere performance of a newly-commissioned Sonata by Mathieu Lussier.



④ Friday, February 27, 2009

### *Chanticleer*

Directed by Joseph Jennings

Internationally renowned as "an orchestra of voices," Chanticleer was founded in 1978. Now in their 31st season, Chanticleer reigns among the world's leading male choruses, with a seamless blend of 12 male voices, ranging from countertenor to bass.

Their forthcoming season includes appearances at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, the John F. Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C., New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and White Rock Concerts.



② Friday, November 7, 2008

### *St. Petersburg String Quartet*

One of the world's great string quartets, the St. Petersburg Quartet appears annually on major chamber music programs across Canada, the US, Europe, Japan and Australia.

Its ascendancy has seen the quartet build its worldwide reputation, including a Grammy nomination, "Best Record" honours in both Stereo Review and Gramophone Magazines, and the Chamber Music America Prize for Best CD of 2001. From 1999 to 2003 the quartet held the respected position of Quartet-in-Residence at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.



⑤ Friday, March 27, 2009

### *James Ehnes Violinist*

Canadian virtuoso and 2008 Grammy award winner James Ehnes has established a pre-eminent reputation among today's leading concert violinists.

His peripatetic schedule takes him each year to all the world's great recital halls and with every major orchestra and conductor on the concert stage today. With James Ehnes, it is not necessary to list all the countries or even cities in which he has played: save paper and list those where he has not appeared.



③ Friday, January 16, 2009

### *Canadian Brass*

A national musical icon, Canadian Brass, now in their 35th season, has made the brass quintet an exciting vehicle for serious concert music. They have more than 60 CDs to their credit, which include works of Bach, Purcell, Vivaldi, Gabrieli, Pachelbel, Beethoven and Wagner.

Canadian Brass has created its own musical world by transcribing, arranging and commissioning more than 200 compositions. The "fabulous five" spend most of their time on tour, and have performed with most of the major symphony orchestras in Canada, the US, Europe and Japan.



⑥ Friday, April 17, 2009

### *Angela Cheng Pianist*

Angela Cheng appeared for us with the Vogler String Quartet several seasons ago. This year we bring her back for a full solo recital.

Ms. Cheng has appeared as soloist with virtually every orchestra in Canada, as well as many in the US and abroad. Gold Medal winner at the Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Masters Competition as well as the first Canadian to win the prestigious Montreal International Piano Competition, Cheng also received the 1991 Medal of Excellence at the Mozarteum in Salzburg.



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