



JAMES EHNES

VIOLIN, VIOLA

ANDREW RUSSO

PIANO

MARCH 27, 2009



James Ehnes

GRAMMY, GRAMOPHONE and JUNO award-winning violinist James Ehnes is considered one of classical music's biggest names on the world stage. He has performed as a soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician in over 20 countries on five continents and has worked with many of the world's most renowned orchestras and conductors.

His 2008-09 season includes engagements with virtually every major European orchestra and with many in Asia and Australasia, as well as numerous performances at home with the symphony orchestras across Canada, from Vancouver to Nova Scotia.

James Ehnes' extensive discography of over 20 recordings includes repertoire ranging from Bach violin sonatas to John Adams' Road Movies.

Born in Brandon, Manitoba in 1976, James began violin studies at the age of four, and at nine became a protégé of the noted Canadian violinist Francis Chaplin. He continued his studies with Sally Thomas at The Juilliard School, winning the Peter Mennin Prize for Outstanding Achievement and Leadership in Music upon his graduation in 1997.

James Ehnes plays the "Ex Marsick" Stradivarius of 1715 and gratefully acknowledges its extended loan from the Fulton Collection



Andrew Russo

Grammy-nominated American pianist Andrew Russo is a musical interpreter of uncommon vitality. A versatile artist both on and off the stage, Russo has made a name for himself through his work with many of today's leading composers in the United States and Europe. His career has unfolded around the globe, with appearances in major centres from Paris to Tokyo.

A prolific recording artist, Russo's contemporary American composers series with Black Box included a GRAMMY Award nominated disc of music by John Corigliano.

Andrew Russo currently lives near Syracuse, N.Y. with his photographer-wife Natalia and son Andrei, where he is the artist-in-residence at Le Moyne College. He is honoured to be a Yamaha artist.

Ludwig van Beethoven

(1770-1827)

Sonata for Violin and Piano, in E flat major, Op. 12, no. 3

Allegro con spirito

Adagio con molta espressione

Rondo - Allegro molto

John Coolidge Adams

(1947 -)

Road Movies [1995]

Relaxed Groove

Meditative

40 percent swing

Intermission

Johannes Brahms

(1833-1897)

Sonata for Viola and Piano in f minor, Op. 120, no. 1

Allegro appassionato

Andante un poco Adagio

Allegretto grazioso

Vivace

Paul Schoenfield

(1947 -)

Four Souvenirs for Violin and Piano

Samba

Tango

Tin Pan Alley

Square Dance

Management: Walter Homburger, Toronto

Ludwig van Beethoven

Sonata for violin and piano, Op. 12 no. 3 in Eb Major

This violin sonata, dedicated to Salieri, was written in 1797-98, early among the 10 that Beethoven would create in his lifetime. Despite the seemingly conventional framework, he already displayed radical innovations. In the finale, he abandons traditional contrast between sections, and introduces a single rhythmic motive, best described (without musical notation) as "here we go". It changes into a fugue with final entries packed so closely that each player has only time for "here we" before the other interrupts.

Johannes Brahms

Sonata for viola and piano, Op. 120 no. 1 in f minor

Towards the end of his life Brahms wrote two sonatas for the clarinet, which he promptly transcribed for his favourite instrument, the viola. Only the opening movement of tonight's sonata is in its designated key. By the second section, which is both tender and dreamy, Brahms has jumped to a completely unrelated and much brighter tonality. While the remaining two movements are in more familiar territory, the work never returns to the original f minor.

Sadly, after these two clarinet/viola works, Brahms only completed four songs (Opus 121) and a set of organ pieces (Opus 122) before his death in 1897 at the age of 64.

John Adams

Road Movies

One of America's most admired and respected composers, John Adams is a musician of enormous range and technical command. His works, both operatic and symphonic, stand out among contemporary classical compositions for their depth of expression, brilliance of sound, and the profoundly humanist nature of their themes. His works include the opera *Nixon in China*, which will be performed by Vancouver Opera during the forthcoming Cultural Olympiad.

Road Movies, written in 1995, is one of Adams' few chamber music works and the only one for violin and piano. The title suggests a visual journey, perhaps even images from adventurous travel on the open road. One might even imagine a sort of musical equivalent to Kerouac's *On the Road*.

We begin in Movement I with the sort of relaxed groove that evokes a pleasure ride, travelling at a pace that allows one to enjoy the beauty of the surroundings one is passing through. What could this terrain be? The ups and downs of the music suggest hills, and the spiky chords call up craggy rock formations, perhaps the foothills of Mr. Adams' beloved Sierras.

By contrast, Movement II gives us not the impression of travel, but that of looking around in one isolated location. This is music of open space and desolation. Back to the road with the pedal to the metal, Movement III is a rollicking thrust down a bumpy, country freeway. Elements of ragtime and hoedown permeate this frenetic toccata — a reckless joyride.

Paul Schoenfield

Four Souvenirs

Paul Schoenfield, a man whose music is widely performed and continues to draw an ever-expanding group of devoted fans, is among those rare composers whose work combines exuberance and seriousness, familiarity and originality. His work is inspired by the whole range of musical experience: popular styles both American and foreign, vernacular and folk traditions, and the "normal" historical traditions of cultivated music making, often with sly twists.

Four Souvenirs was written in 1989 for the Russian-born violinist Lev Polyakin, associate concertmaster of the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra. Throughout all his years of classical training and professional playing, Polyakin sustained an abiding love of jazz, inspired and influenced by Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Erroll Garner, Stephane Grappelli and the Beatles. In 1989 he heard an excerpt of Paul Schoenfield's trumpet concerto, "Vaudeville", and immediately asked the composer if he would arrange it for violin and piano. This became the Tin Pan Alley movement in the Souvenir Suite. He then added three other movements from original material — a slick toe-tapping Samba, a "Kreisler-ian" Tango and an unbridled Square Dance. Says James Ehnes: "The fresh and direct nature of this music causes the listener to imagine their own vivid choreography. Therefore I resist contributing additional descriptive elaboration."

message from the president

It seems that every year I stand before you and say "this season is our best yet." Although I have been known to engage in a bit of artistic licence from time to time (and, at other times, in a lot of artistic licence), I will say it again at the start of next season (if I forget, please remind me).

I will say it because it will be and has been true every year that I have attended this series, first as a member, then as a board member and then as President. Next year will be the best season ever, with an array of artists rivaling those presented by the Paris Opera House, the Barbican in London and Lincoln Center in New York. In fact, Russell Braun has appeared at Lincoln Center, the Tokyo Quartet and Dame Evelyn Glennie have played the Barbican and the Vienna Choir Boys performed at the inaugural concert at Lincoln Center under the baton of Leonard Bernstein. Indeed, both Avon Yu and Arion have performed to enthusiastic reviews in Paris.

How do we keep topping ourselves every year? Firstly, we have a wonderful Board and Artistic Director, full of energy, imagination and enthusiasm. Secondly, and most of all, we have a wonderful audience, without whose devotion and, may I say, good taste we would not be able to do bring this glorious music to White Rock.

With such a wonderful season to come, it is no wonder then that we have another 250 wonderful people of good taste now on our waiting list, ready to snatch up any unrenewed subscriptions.

Please renew with our volunteers tonight or at our last concert in April.

I would love to see you all back next year. If that happened, it truly would be the best season ever.

— Rick Gambrel

welcome to the 2009 - 2010 season!

Time to renew! We invite all current subscribers to renew their memberships at this concert and at the April 17 concert by pianist, Angela Cheng. Brochures and renewal forms are available tonight. It's an exciting six concert series you will not want to miss.

Sept. 18, 2009 MANITOBA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
with soloist, Dame Evelyn Glennie

Oct. 23, 2009 ARION, Québec early music ensemble

Nov. 20, 2009 RUSSELL BRAUN, baritone

Jan. 29, 2010 TOKYO STRING QUARTET

Feb. 26, 2010 VIENNA CHOIR BOYS

Mar. 19, 2010 AVAN YU, pianist



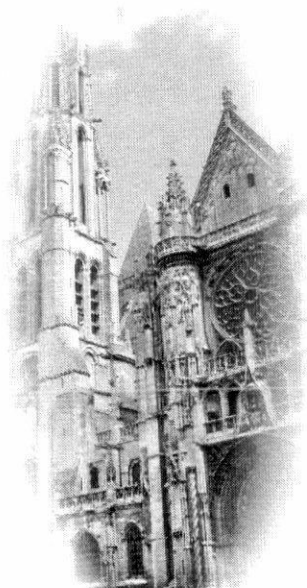
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Our Next Concert
Angela Cheng, piano
Friday, April 17, 2009