



ARC ENSEMBLE

ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL CONSERVATORY

Simon Wynberg, GUITAR
Joaquin Valdepeñas, CLARINET
Benjamin Bowman, VIOLIN
Steven Dann, VIOLA
See-Doo Park, VIOLONCELLO

FRIDAY MARCH 28, 2014

About the Artists



Photograph by Nicola Betts

The Grammy-nominated **ARC Ensemble** (Artists of The Royal Conservatory) has rapidly become one of Canada's pre-eminent cultural ambassadors. Its members are senior faculty members with distinguished individual careers. The ARC Ensemble has performed in major venues throughout North America and Europe and its recordings and concerts are broadcast around the world. Highlights of the 2013/2014 season include concerts in London, Amsterdam, New York and at Ontario's Stratford Festival, as well as the release of the ensemble's fourth CD (on Chandos). For its first tour of Western Canada the ARC Ensemble program features musical rarities by Paganini, Beethoven, Bernhard Henrik Crusell and a specially commissioned work for the ensemble by Benjamin Bowman. Their White Rock engagement is part of an extensive B.C. tour.

"Passion, polish and vitality" *The New York Times*

"Sets the skin rippling at every turn..." *The Strad*

Simon Wynberg enjoys a diverse career as a guitarist, chamber musician and artistic director. He has programmed chamber-music festivals in Scotland and the Caribbean and was artistic director of Music at Speedside and the Guelph Spring Festival in Canada from 1994 to 2002. As one of the guitar's foremost scholars he has edited over 60 volumes of hitherto unknown guitar music and his many recordings have received glowing reviews and awards, including a Gramophone Critics' Choice, and a Diapason Award. As Artistic Director of the ARC Ensemble, he is the curator of the ensemble's numerous world-wide projects, including the current "Music in Exile" series.

Violinist-composer **Benjamin Bowman** is one of Canada's most dynamic and versatile musicians. Associate concertmaster of the Canadian Opera Orchestra he has recorded for radio broadcast in Canada with the CBC, in the USA, the UK, Poland, Hungary, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Denmark and Korea. His discography includes recent solo and chamber-music releases on the Sony Masterworks/RCA Red Seal, ATMA Classique, and Innova labels. Most recently, Benjamin Bowman was featured on the 2013 Juno-winning album 'Levant'.

About the Artists

The National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, the Tonhalle Orchestra in Zurich, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam, the Vancouver Symphony and the Toronto Symphony are just a few of the world's great orchestras with which **Steven Dann** has been the principal viola. Equally active in chamber music, he has been a member of the Smithsonian Chamber Players in Washington D.C. and the Axelrod String Quartet; and has recorded for Sony, Naxos, CBC Records, Marquis Classics, and Centrediscs, among others. Mr. Dann plays a viola of Joseph Gagliano, circa 1780.

Joaquin Valdepeñas, principal clarinetist of the Toronto Symphony, is considered one of the most distinguished clarinetists of his generation. Mr. Valdepeñas has made over three dozen recordings including Mozart's *Concerto for Clarinet* with the English Chamber Orchestra. As soloist and chamber musician, he has performed with Kathleen Battle, Isabel Bayrakdarian, Joshua Bell, Yo Yo Ma, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, John O'Connor and Pinchas Zukerman and has collaborated with the Emerson, Muir, Takacs, St. Lawrence and Zemlinsky Quartets.

The newest member of the ARC Ensemble is cellist **Se-Doo Park**. A recently appointed member of the Royal Conservatory faculty, Ms. Park is now appearing regularly in chamber concerts with leading Royal Conservatory faculty-artists and has participated in major international Festivals including Ravinia, Sarasota, Aspen, Banff, Meadowmount, Centre d'arts Orford and Le Domaine Forget. Winner of the 2012 Canada Council Musical Instrument Bank competition, she plays on the 1824 McConnell Nicolaus Gagliano violoncello.



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BERNHARD HENRIK CRUSELL [1775 - 1838]

Quartet for Clarinet & Strings #2 in C minor, Op. 4

Allegro molto agitato

Menuetto - Trio

Pastorale: Un poco allegretto

Rondo: Allegro

Joaquin Valdepeñas - clarinet, Benjamin Bowman - violin,
Steven Dann - viola, Se-Doo Park - cello

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN [1770 - 1827]

Serenade in D major Op. 8

ARR. WENZESLAUS MATIEGKA [1773 - 1830]

Marcia: Allegro non molto - Adagio

Menuetto: Allegretto

Adagio

Polonaise: Allegretto

Theme & Variations: Andante quasi allegretto

Benjamin Bowman - violin, Steven Dann - viola, Simon Wynberg - guitar

~INTERMISSION~

REBECCA CLARKE [1886 - 1979]

Prelude, Allegro and Pastorale for viola and clarinet

Joaquin Valdepeñas - clarinet, Steven Dann - viola

NICCOLÒ PAGANINI [1782 - 1840]
Guitar Quartet no. 15 in A minor, MS 42

Maestoso

Minuetto a canone: Andantino

Recitativo: Andante sostenuto con sentimento

Adagio cantabile

Rondo: Allegretto

Benjamin Bowman - violin, Steve Dann - viola,
Se-Doo Park - cello, Simon Wynberg - guitar

BENJAMIN BOWMAN [B. 1979]
Quintet

Benjamin Bowman - violin, Steven Dann - viola,
Se-Doo Park - cello, Joaquin Valdepeñas - clarinet,
Simon Wynberg - guitar



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Programme Notes

Quartet for Clarinet and Strings No. 2 in C minor, Op 4

A composer and admired literary translator, the Finnish-born Bernhard Henrik Crusell spent most of his highly productive life in Sweden. He composed songs, an opera *Lilla slavinnan* (The Little Slave Girl) as well as many delightful works for the clarinet. The C minor Quartet charmingly displays the clarinet's resources and Crusell's melodic gifts.

Serenade in D Major Op. 8

Very shortly after its publication in 1797, Ludwig van Beethoven's Serenade in D major (after beginning life as a string trio) began to be adapted for various groups of instruments, as was the custom of the day. It was available in versions for piano four hands, for harp and piano, for flute and piano, for violin, cello and piano and even for full orchestra. This version (by the Bohemian guitarist and composer Wenzeslaus Matiegka) is scored for violin, viola and guitar - a musically effective combination.

Prelude, Allegro and Pastorale for viola and clarinet

Composed in 1941 this work was premiered by the Int. Society for Contemporary Music, in Berkeley, CA. Although Rebecca Clarke enjoyed youthful success as a violist, she was never able to exploit her gifts as a composer. However, the last 20 years have seen a renewal of interest in publishing, performing and recording her music and many works have found a permanent place in the viola repertoire.

Guitar Quartet No. 15 in A minor, MS 42

As well as being an extraordinary and revolutionary violinist, Niccolò Paganini was also a virtuoso guitarist and violist. His charming chamber works were most likely composed for his own use and enjoyment. In its humour, passion and lyricism, the quartet has the feel of a miniature-opera, rather than a quartet, with the viola generally assuming an heroic dramatic role.

Quintet for violin, viola, cello, clarinet and guitar

While an ensemble of clarinet, string trio and guitar offers all sorts of repertoire opportunities, there is no appropriate and original piece that employs all of these instruments. Benjamin Bowman, a talented composer as well as a distinguished violinist, agreed to write a "pièce d'occasion" that could close the ensemble's program on its 2014 B.C. tour. A much-travelled musician, Mr Bowman has absorbed and integrated a wide variety of musical traditions and is as comfortable in the world of classical music as he is in the popular realm, something clearly evidenced in this evening's piece.

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