

# JOHN O'CONOR

#### **PIANO**

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2014



## Classical Coffee Concerts

at the Surrey Arts Centre

#### 6 CONCERT PACKAGE FOR \$120!

Acclaimed pianist Sarah Hagen hosts and performs in this popular concert series! Enjoy tea, coffee and pastries at 9:30am, followed by a 75 minute concert at 10:30am. You'll feel like you are in her living room as she introduces the music, and shares her stories and musical insights. The musicians are usually available for a chat after the performance.

#### THURSDAYS (2014/2015)

OCTOBER 23 Guest: Krzysztof Kaczka, flute
NOVEMBER 20 Guest: Tawnya Popoff, viola
DECEMBER 4 Guest: Anne Grimm, soprano
JANUARY 15 Solo: Sarah Hagen, piano
FEBRUARY 26 Guest: Bergmann Piano Duo
APRIL 2 Guest: Nicholas Wright, violin

Tickets to individual concerts are \$27.50.



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### John O'Conor | Piano

"A pianist of unbounding sensitivity"

(Gramophone)

"He represents a vanishing tradition that favors inner expression and atmosphere over showmanship and bravura"

(Chicago Tribune)

"Impeccable technique and musicality
... it would be hard to imagine
better performances"

(Sunday Times - London)

"This artist has the kind of **flawless touch**that makes an audience gasp"
(Washington Post)

Since his unanimous 1st Prize at the International Beethoven Piano Competition in Vienna in 1973 the celebrated Irish pianist John O'Conor has been performing with the world's leading orchestras including the London Symphony, Royal Philharmonic, Czech Philharmonic, Vienna Symphony, l'Orchestre National de France, the NHK Orchestra in Japan and the Atlanta, Cleveland, San Francisco, Dallas, Montreal and Detroit Symphonies in North America.

He has appeared as soloist on most of the world's great concert stages including Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington, the Wigmore Hall and South Bank Centre in London, the Musikverein in Vienna, the Dvorak Hall in Prague and the Bunka Kaikan in Tokyo.

John O'Conor first gained widespread attention in North America in 1986 with the release of his first volume of Beethoven Sonatas on the Telarc label. CD Review described Mr. O'Conor's performances as "piano recording of the highest calibre and Beethoven playing at its best". Mr. O'Conor has made more than 20 recordings for

Telarc, including a complete set of Mozart Concertos with Sir Charles Mackerras and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the complete Piano Concertos of Beethoven with the London Symphony Orchestra.

John O'Conor is regarded as one of the most important piano teachers in the world today. While continuing to teach at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin, just this year, he has been appointed to the faculty of the Glenn Gould School at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. He is also Artist in Residence at Shenandoah Conservatory in Virginia and Visiting Professor at Showa University in Japan.

For his services to music he has been awarded Honorary Doctorates by the National University of Ireland, by Trinity College Dublin and by Shenandoah University; and has been named Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government, awarded the Ehrenkreuz für Wissenschaft und Kunst by the Austrian government and named to the Order of the Rising Sun by the Japanese government.

#### www.johnoconor.com

John O'Conor appears by exclusive arrangement with Diane Saldick, L.L.C., 225 East 36 St., New York City, NY 10016 www.dianesaldick.com



#### Lyric Singers & Sonus Boreal

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EUGENE SKOVORODNIKOV (PIANO)

NOVEMBER 9, 2014 FRANCESCO NICOLOSI (PIANO)

JANUARY 25, 2015
EUGENE SKOVORODNIKOV (PIANO),
PETER KRYSA (VIOLIN) &
DILIANA MOMTCHILOVA (CELLO)

FEBRUARY 22, 2015
ELIZABETH BERGMANN &
MARCEL BERGMANN (PIANO DUO)

MARCH 29, 2015 SIHANA BADIVUKU (VIOLIN) & EUGENE SKOVORODNIKOV (PIANO)

APRIL 26, 2015 HUGUES LECLERE (PIANO)

SUBSCRIPTION (ALL 6 CONCERTS) ADULTS: \$120 SENIORS AND STUDENTS: \$100 INDIVIDUAL TICKETS ADULTS: \$25 SENIORS AND STUDENTS: \$22

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### John O'Conor | Piano

#### SIX BAGATELLES OP. 126

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN [1770-1827]

- · Andante con moto, Cantabile e compiacevole
- · Allegro
- · Andante, Cantabile e grazioso
- · Presto
- · Quasi allegretto
- · Presto, Andante amabile e con moto

#### SONATA IN C MINOR OP. 13 "PATHÉTIQUE"

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

- · Grave Allegro di molto e con brio
- · Adagio cantabile
- · Rondo: Allegro

\*\*\*INTERVAL\*\*\*

#### SONATA IN C MINOR D958

Franz Schubert [1797-1828]

- · Allegro
- Adagio
- Menuetto and Trio Allegro
- Allegro

#### White Rock Baptist Church Youth Fundraiser

Good Evening White Rock Concerts Members.

During this evening's intermission, the Youth of White Rock Baptist Church would like to offer you an opportunity to support our fundraiser. We will have beverages and snacks available for purchase in the gym. The funds we raise will go to the following needs: Missions trips and serving opportunities, special events in a safe environment, Youth room renovation, child sponsorship, and food donations. Whatever is raised tonight, will contribute greatly to each of those mentioned.

We will have signs that you can follow to the gym. There, you will see tables, with water, coffee, juices and various snacks for sale of one to two dollars. Each table will offer the same items. Since time is limited, we suggest having currency ready before purchase. We will be accepting cash only. Please observe the recycling and garbage bins located at the entrances of the gym.

On behalf of the White Rock Baptist Church Youth Group, we thank you very much for your support. Enjoy tonight's performance. Have a great evening and God Bless.

Jason Rahardjo

WRBC Youth Coordinator

#### Six Bagatelles

These pieces were Beethoven's final work for piano and were published in 18 25 (late in his career). They were dedicated to his brother Johann. Beethoven was very proud of the Bagatelles, and in a letter to his publisher he said that he thought they "are probably the best I've ever written". Beethoven presumably meant the six pieces to be played in order, as a single work. Critics have often remarked on the many parallels with better-known instrumental works written in the same time. In particular, the final Bagatelle opens with a chaotic passage reminiscent of the opening of the finale of the Ninth Symphony.

#### Sonata Pathétique

This sonata was written in 1798 when the composer was 27 years old. It was published in 1799 and dedicated to his friend, Prince Karl von Lichnowsky. The name "Pathétique" was given by his publisher who was profoundly impressed by the work's many tragic sonorities.

In 1804, the pianist and composer Ignaz Moscheles, then a 10 year old student, discovered the work. As he was unable to afford to purchase the music, he made copies of it from a library score. He later wrote that when his music teacher found out "he warned me against playing or studying eccentric productions before I had developed a style based on more respectable models. Without paying heed to his instructions, however, I laid Beethoven's work on the piano and found in it such consolation and pleasure as no other composer ever vouchsafed me. "

#### Sonata in C minor

Franz Schubert's three piano sonatas (D 958, 959 and 960) are the composer's last major compositions for the instrument. They were written late in his life, between the spring and autumn of 1828, but were not published until about ten years after his death, in 1839. As with the rest of Schubert's piano sonatas, they were mostly neglected in the 19th century, but by the late 20th century, public and critical opinion had changed, and these late sonatas are now considered among the most important of the composer's mature masterpieces. The Sonata D 958 was the first of these three monumental works.

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Jan. 28 - Feb. 11, 2015

Apr. 29 - May 11, 2015

May 29 - June 12, 2015

June 1 - 17, 2015

Sep. 21 – Oct. 6, 2015

Sep./Oct. 2015

Sep. 28 - Oct. 12/16, 2015

Tours are not affiliated with or endorsed by White Rock Concerts Society.



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#### Elektra announces its 2014-2015 Season!

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March 14, 2015 • 7:30pm

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featuring one of Canada's leading percussionists, Beverley Johnston

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Celebration of Women's Choirs

featuring choirs from Winnipeg, California and Norway

For more information and tickets visit our new website at elektra.ca Become a season's ticket subscriber and receive a 20% discount!





The Board of Directors is proud to announce the appointment of

Elizabeth and Marcel Bergmann

as our new Associate Artistic Directors



# We are pleased to announce a major upgrade to our website. Please check it out! www.whiterockconcerts.com

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DETAILS ABOUT OUR ARTISTS AND THEIR CONCERT PROGRAMS
INFORMATION ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION AND OUR SUBSCRIPTION PROCESS
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A SPECIAL THANKS TO SHARP PU FOR HIS CREATIVITY IN FRESHENING OUR LOOK!



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White Rock Concerts P.O. Box 45089, RPO Ocean Park, Surrey, BC V4A 9L1 www.whiterockconcerts.com | facebook.com/whiterockconcerts | T: 604.385.0543 (messages only)





Our Next Concert Lara St. John, violin

Friday October 17, 2014

WELCOME THIS CANADIAN VIRTUOSO TO OUR WHITE ROCK STAGE.

#### Message from the Artistic Director



It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you our future Artistic Directors - Elizabeth and Marcel Bergmann

The Bergmanns are already well known on the concert stage as an outstanding Canadian duo-piano ensemble. Without missing a beat in their continuing international concert career, they will join me, starting with the current season, as White Rock Concerts Associate Artistic Directors. You'll have a chance to get to know them, and recognize their ever-friendly presence at each of our concerts this year. By 2015-16, they will be working with me to plan my final gala season at the helm of White Rock Concerts.

You will also meet them as performers, when they open the 2015–16 concert season with a programme featuring the Mozart Concerto, K 365, for two pianos.

All of this is leading to the 2016-17 season when the Bergmanns will be your new Artistic Directors, and I shall happily start attending the concerts without worrying about who is going to tune the piano!

The Bergmanns come to White Rock Concerts with a myriad of varied international experience and have been inspiring audiences for more than two decades on many of the world's great concert stages. They have also performed extensively for smaller communities throughout Canada, often travelling with their two grand pianos in tow!

Their community experience as teachers is well known as they have been associated with the Langley Community Music School and its many programs for several years.

Piano enthusiasts will have a chance to hear them on February 22, 2015 when they perform for Encore Peninsula Concerts at First United Church in White Rock and on February 26, 2015 at the Coffee Concerts series at the Surrey Arts Centre. The Bergmann Duo is truly part of our burgeoning White Rock/South Surrey music community.

Now, sit back and enjoy this year's series. Every concert is a gem.

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

# F/ZIOLI

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Photo Credit: V. Tony Hauser

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