



2016-2017  
OUR 60<sup>TH</sup> SEASON

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# ANDRÉ LAPLANTE

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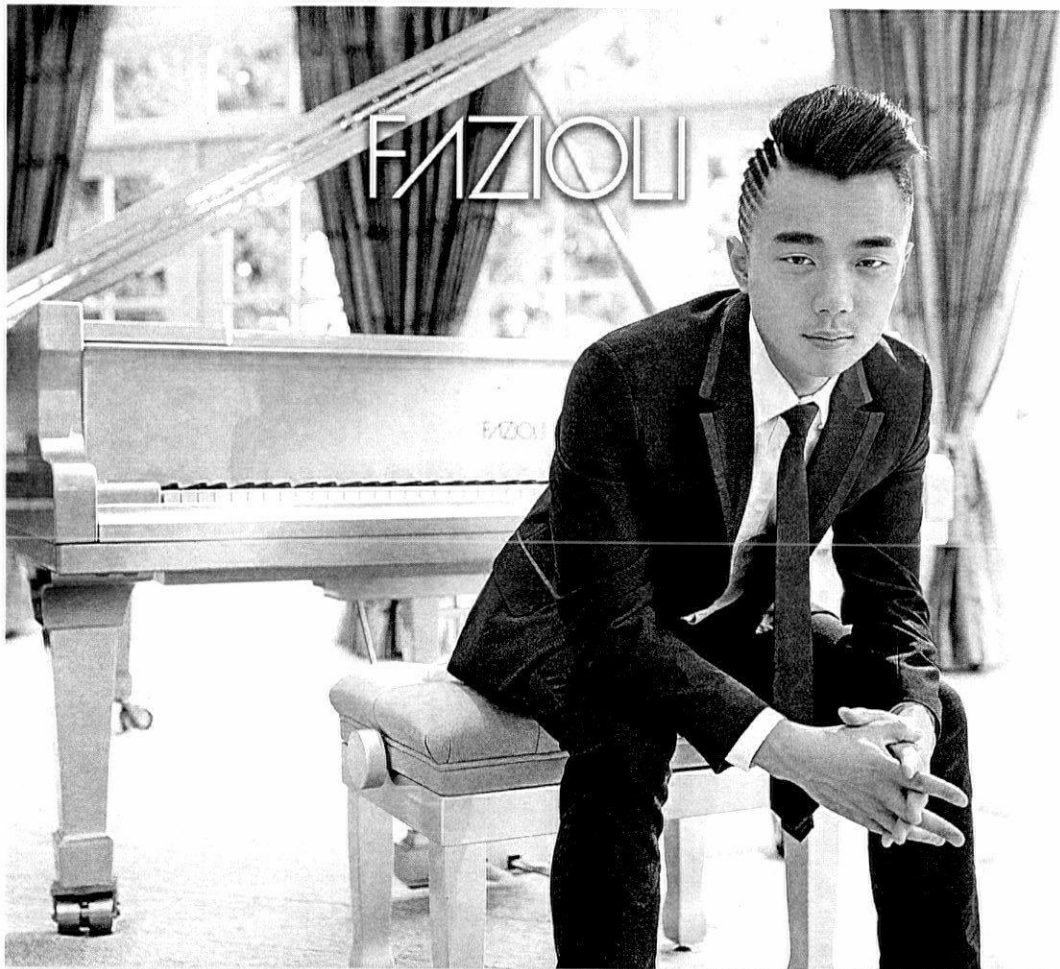
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with the

JOHN AVISON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA  
LESLIE DALA, CONDUCTOR

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2016



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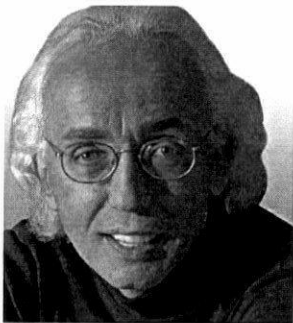
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## About the Artists

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### ANDRÉ LAPLANTE

Over the last decade, Canadian pianist André Laplante has firmly established himself as one of the great romantic virtuosos. He garnered international attention after winning prizes at the Geneva and Sydney International Piano Competitions, then capturing the silver medal at the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. Critics have compared him with Ashkenazy, Horowitz and Rudolph Serkin, placing him in the elite circle of virtuoso pianists who do not hesitate to take risks.

In 2005, Mr. Laplante was honoured to be named an Officer of the Order of Canada. In that same year, he was awarded the Prix Opus for Best Performer of the Year. In 1999, he received two Opus Awards for live performances: "Best Concert in Montréal" and "Best Concert in Québec Province." Most recently, in 2010, he received another Prix Opus, this time for Best Concert of the Year.

In recent years, Laplante has appeared as orchestral soloist with the Montréal and Chicago Symphony Orchestras, the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center, the Minnesota Orchestra conducted by Sir Neville Mariner, on tour in Europe with the Toronto Symphony under Andrew Davis and with the Royal Philharmonic under the baton of the late Sir Yehudi Menuhin during their extensive North American tour.

André Laplante has served as a juror of the Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition, the International Music Festival in Australia, the CBC National Competition, the Honens International Piano Competition, and the William Kapell International Piano Competition. Mr. Laplante also takes time off his concerts schedule to teach. He has a class at the Montreal Conservatory and he starts his summer season by spending one week in the beautiful settings of the Adam School of Music in Vermont, a place he is very fond of. He teaches a Master class every day and students experiment with a very intense piano immersion. He also goes to the Orford Festival where he teaches one Class every day and prepares students for performances. He has been invited to the Calgary MusicBridge program where international students gather every summer.

An active recording artist, his recording of Tchaikovsky No. 1 with Joav Talmi and l'Orchestre Symphonique de Québec, was nominated for the 2001 Felix Award ; and in 2010 his recording of Liszt's *Années de Pèlerinage* was awarded a Felix Award for Best Classical Solo Album of the Year.

## About the Artists *(continued)*

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**CONDUCTOR LESLIE DALA** enjoys a multi-faceted career spanning the genres of opera, symphonic music, choral and contemporary works. On the podium, he is known for his passionate, dynamic and charismatic approach to music making. Named one of the "Top Ten Artistic Leaders" by the Vancouver Sun, Dala's national profile has grown steadily with guest conducting appearances with Pacific Opera Victoria, Edmonton Opera, Saskatoon Opera, Thirteen Strings Chamber Ensemble, the COSI Festival in Sulmona, Italy, Vancouver's Goh Ballet, and University of Toronto Opera.

Equally at home with symphonic music, opera and contemporary music, Mr Dala is a Guest Conductor in 2016/17 with Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra and Kamloops Symphony Orchestra, and returns to Prince George Symphony where he held the position of Music Director and Conductor from 2003 to 2011, as a piano soloist in Ravel's Piano Concerto in G Major. He has worked on more than seventy Vancouver Opera main stage productions. In his position of Music Director of the Vancouver Bach Choir and the Vancouver Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Dala has led performances in a wide range of orchestral and choral repertoire. He is a frequent guest conductor with the UBC Opera Ensemble and leads the popular "Merry Evening of Opera" concerts presented each August by the Bard on the Beach Festival.

### **THE JOHN AVISON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

Anyone who listened to the CBC Radio in its heyday of the 50s, 60s and 70s will know the name of the indefatigable and ubiquitous John Avison. For more than 5 decades he conducted the CBC Radio Orchestra in a weekly radio presentation that had an audience of thousands of loyal Canadian listeners. He introduced them to much of the great classical chamber orchestra repertoire, as well as to a myriad of new Canadian composers whose works he so readily championed. Those weekly broadcasts were a staple of the classical music world, and long after Avison's death in 1983, his band stayed on as the last remaining Radio Orchestra in North America.

John Avison toured with the Orchestra to many distant and remote corners of Canada including (in the days before Nunavut) Frobisher Bay and the Beaufort Sea, where they played in Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk in the early 70's. But strangely enough, the CBC Orchestra seldom performed public concerts in the very city where its founder and musicians were resident.

With that in mind, it seemed appropriate that as White Rock Concerts uses a Vancouver-based chamber orchestra frequently, this group be named after someone to whom we owe a debt of musical mentorship.



Erick Lichte  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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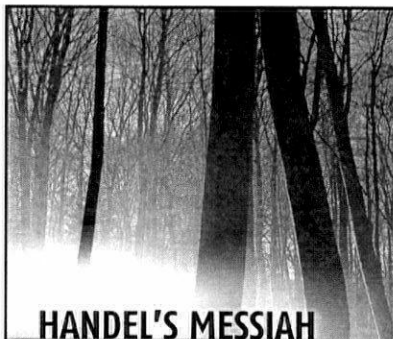
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## HANDEL'S MESSIAH

*The Christmas Masterpiece*

8pm Friday, Dec 9, 2016 | Orpheum Theatre

Martha Guth, Soprano  
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Colin Balzer, Tenor | Tyler Duncan, Baritone  
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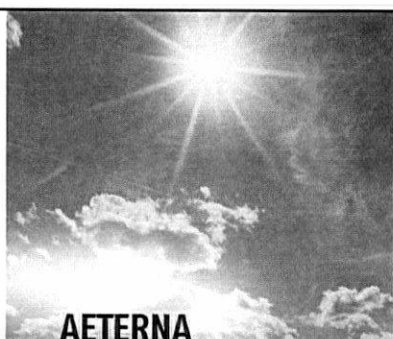
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## AETERNA

*Pergolesi Stabat Mater  
& Duruflé Requiem*

8pm Friday, Apr 14, 2017 | Orpheum Theatre

Vancouver Chamber Choir and Orchestra  
Jon Washburn, Conductor

The Vancouver Chamber Choir brings you the finest repertoire for chorus and orchestra every Good Friday in hopes that you will make it part of your family's musical tradition. Enjoy Pergolesi's magnificent *Stabat Mater*, a pinnacle of Italian Baroque music, and the sublimely beautiful *Requiem* based on Gregorian chant by French master Maurice Duruflé.



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# ANDRÉ LAPLANTE

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with the

JOHN AVISON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA  
LESLIE DALA, CONDUCTOR

Piano Concerto in A major K.414

W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Allegro ~ Andante ~ Allegretto  
(with the John Avison Chamber Orchestra)

Ballade in b minor

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

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INTERMISSION

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Nocturne in F Major Op 15 No 1

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Sonata No 2 in b-flat minor Op 35

Frédéric Chopin

Grave - Doppio movimento ~ Scherzo ~ Marche funèbre: Lento ~ Finale: Presto

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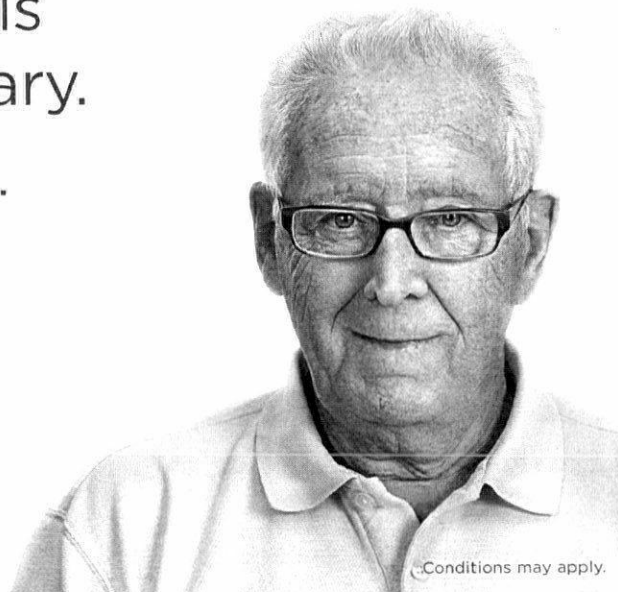
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-The Vancouver Sun

## George's Blog

Hello White Rock Concerts Friends,

I am back from my wanderings around Southern Europe, and looking forward immensely to attending the next concert with pianist André LaPlante and the John Avison Chamber Orchestra. You have probably noticed that you are going to enjoy the orchestra several more times this season - with the Canadian Guitar Quartet in January; with Kai Gleusteen and Catherine Ordronneau [violin and piano] in early March and with the UBC Opera Ensemble in their late March production of *La Bohème*.

The John Avison Chamber Orchestra consists of some of Vancouver's finest free-lance players... for years, many of them played with Avison's distinguished CBC Vancouver Radio orchestra. When the CBC [foolishly, I suggest] terminated the orchestra's regular broadcast schedule in 2005, the City of Vancouver was left without a unique musical gem.

It always struck me as ironic that Winnipeg [a city one third the size of Vancouver] could maintain both a full Symphony Orchestra and a Professional chamber orchestra. The City of Minneapolis, only half the size of metro Vancouver is home for both the Minnesota Orchestra and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. Why not Vancouver?

*(continued over)*

So, here's a little bit of Vancouver's lost musical history. The Orchestra was founded in 1938. John Avison was its conductor until 1980. I was a member of the orchestra in the 60's when we broadcast as many as 39 one hour broadcasts a year, many of which were also public concerts. In its final years, it was the last remaining publicly funded radio orchestra anywhere in North America.

Avison's band played a quintessential role in the development of Canadian music in the last century by performing and recording an endless list of contemporary Canadian works. It reached out to remote and smaller communities by a series of tours which included Frobisher Bay [before it became Iqaluit], Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Inuvik. In the orchestra's entire 70 year history, there were only three other conductors John Elliot Gardener, Mario Bernardi and Alain Trudel.

Any surprise, then, that I wanted to see a chamber orchestra in Vancouver named after its founder, innovator and earliest musical inspiration? Well, now that the Bergmanns are taking such splendid care of White Rock Concerts I can devote some of my time to the re-establishment of a chamber orchestra for metro Vancouver. And, in a way, White Rock Concerts will play a central role, and thereby take its own special place in Canadian music history by revisiting that long lost heyday of John Avison's remarkable CBC Orchestra.....truly, the little orchestra that could.

*George's complete Blog can be found at [whiterockconcerts.com](http://whiterockconcerts.com)*



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# The John Avison Chamber Orchestra

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Rick Dorfer

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Ellen Farrugia

## Viola

Tawnya Popoff  
Marcus Takizawa

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