



WHITE ROCK  
CONCERTS

2017-2018  
OUR 61<sup>ST</sup> SEASON

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# THE GRYPHON TRIO

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ANNALEE PATIPATANAKOON - VIOLIN

ROMAN BORYS - CELLO

JAMES PARKER - PIANO

FRIDAY JANUARY 19, 2018

## About the Artists

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### Gryphon Trio

This season, the Gryphon Trio celebrates its milestone 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Over the years, the Gryphon Trio has firmly established itself as one of the world's preeminent piano trios, garnering acclaim and impressing international audiences with its highly refined, dynamic and memorable performances. With a repertoire that ranges from traditional to contemporary and from European classicism to modern-day multimedia, the Gryphons are committed to redefining chamber music for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Creative innovators with an appetite for discovery and new ideas, Gryphon Trio has commissioned over 75 new works, and frequently collaborates on projects that push the boundaries of chamber music. The Trio tours regularly throughout North America and Europe and their 19 recordings are an encyclopaedia of works for the genre. Honours include two Juno Awards for Classical Album of the Year, and the prestigious 2013 Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts from the Canada Council for the Arts.

Deeply committed to the education of the next generation of audiences and performers alike, the Gryphons conduct masterclasses and workshops at universities and conservatories, and are Artists-in-Residence at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music and Trinity College. Since 2010, The Trio's groundbreaking outreach program, Listen Up!, has inspired and engaged 13 Canadian communities to collaborate on large-scale multi-faceted arts creation projects.

Gryphon cellist Roman Borys is Artistic and Executive Director of the Ottawa Chamber Music Society. Annalee Patipatanakoon and Jamie Parker serve as OCMS's Artistic Advisors in addition to their responsibilities at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music, where Mr. Parker is the Rupert E. Edwards Chair in Piano Performance and Ms. Patipatanakoon is Associate Professor of Violin and Head of Strings.

# THE GRYPHON TRIO

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ANNALEE PATIPATANAKOON - VIOLIN

ROMAN BORYS - CELLO

JAMES PARKER - PIANO

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**Piano Trio No. 45 in E-flat Major, Hob. XV:29**

**Joseph Haydn  
(1732-1809)**

I. Poco allegretto  
II. Andantino ed innocentemente  
III. Finale. Allemande. Presto assai

**Love Triangle**

**Dinuk Wijeratne  
(Born 1978)**

- INTERMISSION -

**Piano Trio No. 7 in B-flat Major, Op. 97, Archduke**

**Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)**

I. Allegro moderato  
II. Scherzo. Allegro - Coda  
III. Andante cantabile ma però con moto  
IV. Allegro moderato

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*The Gryphon Trio is represented by Andrew Kwan Artists Management Inc.  
Recordings by the artists will be available at intermission and after the performance.*

## Programme Notes

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### **Love Triangle (2013) | Dinuk Wijeratne**

Dinuk Wijeratne writes: "This fourteen-minute, single-movement piece entitled Love Triangle is not autobiographical, nor is it similar to the many concept-driven pieces I write. The music evolved rather rhapsodically from two distinctive features: the Middle Eastern-inspired melody heard in the strings at the outset, and the underlying rhythmic pattern inspired by a seven-beat Indian Classical 'time cycle'. It also attempts to integrate a Western Classical sense of structure with three very improvisatory cadenzas from each instrument. The musicians and I are aiming for an effect akin to that glorious 'out-of-time'-ness that occurs when an Arabic oud instrument solos over the unyielding fixed groove of the band. There are several other melodic and rhythmic devices that are Middle Eastern and North Indian. The Gryphon Trio, with their staggeringly diverse resumé of collaborations, are no strangers to music that is about the meeting of cultures, or about blurred boundaries between what sounds improvised and what does not. I was utterly thrilled to have this opportunity to write for them".

### **Dinuk Wijeratne | Biography**

Sri Lankan-born, Dubai-raised, UK and US-educated Dinuk Wijeratne has based an international career in Halifax, N.S. for the past decade. A new citizen of Canada, he collaborates as composer, conductor, and pianist with a wide range of musicians from Symphony Nova Scotia to the McGill Percussion Ensemble, jazz saxophonist and bandleader John Dankworth to DJ Skratch Bastid with the Afiara String Quartet. "What he's able to do so expertly is articulate a mix of sounds and a mix of worlds," says the Gryphon Trio's Roman Borys.

### **Piano Trio in B-flat major, Op. 97, Archduke | Ludwig van Beethoven**

Completed in 1811, it is commonly referred to as the Archduke Trio, because it was dedicated to Archduke Rudolph of Austria, the youngest of twelve children of Leopold II, Holy Roman Emperor. Rudolf was an amateur pianist and a patron, friend, and composition student of Beethoven. Beethoven dedicated a total of fourteen compositions to the Archduke, who dedicated one of his own to Beethoven in return. The trio was written late in Beethoven's so-called "middle period". He began composing it in the summer of 1810, and completed it in March 1811.

The first public performance was given by Beethoven himself, Ignaz Schuppanzigh (violin) and Josef Linke (cello) at the Viennese hotel *Zum römischen Kaiser* on 11 April 1814, as his deafness continued to encroach upon his ability as a performer. After a repeat of the work a few weeks later, Beethoven did not appear again in public as a pianist.

The pianist and composer Ignaz Moscheles attended the first performance, and wrote about the work: "In the case of how many compositions is the word "new" misapplied! But never in Beethoven's, and least of all in this, which again is full of originality. His playing, aside from its intellectual element, satisfied me less, being wanting in clarity and precision; but I observed many traces of the grand style of playing which I had long recognized in his compositions."

*Excerpted from Wikipedia. With permission.*

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### George's Blog

For the final few weeks of 2017, I enjoyed an unexpected "vacation" at Peace Arch Hospital, recovering from a fractured hip. Many Board members and subscribers dropped by while I was there, and I want to thank them all, profoundly. I also welcomed those daily visits from The President. Erika, more than all others contributed to my quick and relatively easy recovery.

Nobody enjoys Hospital stays, but I must say that the medical staff, the nurses, the physiotherapists and even those troglodytes down in the basement who prepared the meals [and to whom I am bequeathing a salt cellar in my last will and testament] were also extraordinarily kind and caring to me, and helped, each in his or her own ways, to sending me home as soon as possible.

The last ten days in the hospital consisted of a rehabilitation programme, where we worked intensely with some remarkably skilled occupational therapists. This little nugget of information has a curious and touching connection to White Rock Concerts.

On one afternoon, our Artistic Directors, Elizabeth and Marcel Bergmann dropped by to visit me. It was an awkward time. All thirty five patients from the fifth floor were gathered together in a small gym, where we were working out in a group therapy session with simple, repetitive exercises. I saw the Bergmanns out of the corner of my eye, but I could not navigate my way through the sea of temporary wheel chairs, but they could not see me.

## George's Blog *(continued)*

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So the Bergmanns sat down at the edge of gym and waited... Suddenly they realized that in the corner of the room there was an electric keyboard. Marcel, ever curious, went over and turned the switch on, while Elizabeth tried an arpeggio or two, Marcel joined in and our exercises continued, picking up the rhythm of the music... Before long, the therapy session had turned into a magical two piano concert for the thirty five patients. Talk about a captive audience! On the other hand, talk about a couple of captive visitors! What a lovely touch of Christmas joy, that was, albeit ahead of the season. It was a delightful twenty minutes of Gershwin, Vivaldi, Mozart and Bergmann, and in such an unexpected venue!

“Do they really do that for a living”, asked one of my fellow patients. “Yes, indeed”, I replied, “they are renowned international concert artists, and best of all we have them here in White Rock where they are my successors as Artistic Director of our concert series”. We toasted the unexpected event with apple juice out of Styrofoam cups, the closest that Peace Arch Hospital would permit us to a proper bubbly salute.

GZ, Jan 02, 2018

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