

APRIL 12, 2025 @ 5 PM CS- CSYO SIDE BY SIDE -YOUNG ARTIST SHOWCASE

PROGRAM

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) Egmont Overture

Kye Marshall About the Trees *World Premiere*
I. Maple II. White Spruce III. Pine Tree IV. Weeping Willow V. Poplar

W.A. Mozart (1756-1791) Piano Concerto No. 21, Mvmt 1
MICHELLE YEH

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) Violin Concerto in E minor, Mvmt 3
BERNARD FAN

INTERMISSION

Henryk Wieniawski (1835-1880) Violin Concerto No. 2, Mvmt 3
JEREMY ZHU

Henry Purcell (1659-1695) Dido's Lament
Giacomo Puccini (1835-1880) O Mio Babbino Caro
EVELYN ESCH

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) Concerto for Violin&Cello, Mvmt 1
NOAH & ZOE LAIYI CLARKE

ORCHESTRA * denotes Student

Violin 1:
Joyce Lai, concertmaster Zoe Laiyi Clarke*
Alain Bouvier, Jeremy Zhu*
Calvin Tsang, Aaron Wu*
Violin 2:
Hibiki Kobayashi, principal Nicole Ma*
Irina Babuk, Ryan Jia*
Viola:
Jean-Luc Plourde, principal Jeffrey Chen*
Ian Clarke, Adora Yao*
Cello:
Andras Weber, principal Noah Clarke*
Rosalind Zhang, Ethan Xie*
Bass: Tim FitzGerald, principal Ben Cherkassky*

Flute:
Stephen Tam, Audrey Zhu*
Oboe:
Joshua Zung, Sophie Ribnitski*
Clarinet:
Kaye Royer, Kevin Sun*
Bassoon:
Kristin Day, Tracy Yuan*
Horn:
Olivia Esther, Hanhwi Lee*
Trumpet:
Paul Sanvidotti, Ryan She*
Trombone:
Aaron Chan
Timpani/Percussion:
John Brownell, Danielle Sum



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KYE MARSHALL is a professional composer, cellist and nature photographer. She has written for full orchestra and numerous chamber ensembles. Her full length opera Pomegranate was presented by the Canadian Opera Company in June 2023 and was nominated for a Dora Award. She has six CD's to her credit. www.kyemarshall.com

MICHELLE YEH currently studies with pianist Lang-Ning Liu as a scholarship student at The Phil and Eli Taylor Academy of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. Michelle has won first prizes at the the International Music Festival Association, the Global Outstanding Artist Association, first prizes and best of class at the Ontario Music Festival Association, and 3rd prize in CMC National Competition. Michelle has performed with the Northumberland Orchestra, the Kindred Spirits Orchestra and Seohan Orchestra.

BERNARD FAN 13, has been studying the violin since the age of five and is currently under the tutelage of Dr. Conrad Chow. Bernard is a former student at the Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy. At this young age, he is already a recipient of numerous international awards. He is a first place winner of the 8th Hong Kong International Youth Performing Arts Festival, the Asia Pacific Young Musicians Open Competition, the Asia Music Competition for Young Artists in Busan, Korea, and the Wien International Young Musicians Music Competition. In 2020, he received Gold Awards in both the Osaka International Music Competition and the Hong Kong Joint School Music Competition. In the same year, he also placed first at the 6th Hong Kong Young Violinist Competition and the International Fringe Music Festival.

JEREMY ZHU is 12 years old and currently studying violin with Maestro Tak Ng Lai. He started his violin journey at 4. Jeremy completed his Royal Conservatory of Music Level 10 with first-class honours at 10, and he has been playing violin in the Canadian Sinfonietta Youth Orchestra over 2 years. Jeremy just started grade 7 at the University of Toronto Schools.

EVELYN ESCH is 17 years old. She is currently studying vocal performance on full scholarship at Wilfrid Laurier University in the studio of Leslie Fagan and Allyson McHardy. Evelyn undertook pre-college studies with Michelyn Wright, under whose tutelage she won many awards and scholarships. She is also an accomplished pianist-having studied with her father, Dr. Michael Esch. Evelyn has won numerous awards in competitions both in the GTA and Ontario.

NOAH CLARKE is 17 years old and studies cello with CS principal cellist Andras Weber. Noah is also a pianist and studies with Aster Lai. Noah is a first prize recipient of competitions in both GTA and Ontario. Significant past performances include premiering the late Richard Herriott's "Rhapsody Canadien for solo piano and orchestra" in multiple cities in Austria and Italy in 2023. Most recently, Noah was featured as cello soloist with the York Chamber Ensemble. Currently Noah is the principal cellist for the CS Youth Orchestra and is in his third year as a member of the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra.

ZOE LAIYI CLARKE just turned 16 years old and has been playing the violin since she was 4. Zoe Laiyyi is the current concertmaster of the Canadian Sinfonietta Youth Orchestra (CSYO) and a member of the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra. She has been a featured soloist both on violin and viola with the York Chamber Ensemble as well as the Canadian Sinfonietta Youth Orchestra, and has performed in both Canada and in Europe. Laiyi is a recipient of numerous first place awards from competitions in the GTA. She currently studies violin with both her grandfather, Tak Ng Lai and mother Joyce Lai. Laiyi also attends regular private coachings with TSO concertmaster, Jonathan Crow.

About the Trees by Kye Marshall

We are now discovering that trees are 'social creatures'. Through root networks they share water and nutrients and send each other distress signals warning about impending drought and disease. Humans have relied on trees for many things including shelter and fuel and crucially creating the oxygen we need to survive. We also need to trees to build stringed instruments and bows! Canada has a wealth of trees which we often take for granted. Sadly our trees are under threat from the effects of rapid climate change and deforestation. This composition celebrates five of our magnificent Canadian trees and hopefully brings attention to their fragility in a changing world.

The Maple. Perhaps our best beloved tree, Maples have diverse uses, providing valuable hardwood for furniture and flooring, serving as ornamental trees for shade and aesthetics, and in the making of stringed instruments such as the back, sides and neck of the violin. It is of course the source of our delicious Maple Syrup. In this movement one might hear the running of the Syrup and experience the rich palette of glorious Autumn colours in the multi coloured wind section.

The White Spruce is Canada's northern most tree. It coats it's short, blue-green needles with wax thus conserving water during the very cold winters when soil water is frozen. Spruce wood is commonly used for the soundboard or top of stringed instruments. It survives in freezing temperatures, as portrayed in this movement by stark violin melodies. The cold low persistent bass note eventually transforms into a melodic refrain of survival.

The White Pine is the most majestic of trees, growing to a height of 150 feet. It's wood is highly valued and thus often harvested in it's prime. This is 'narrative' or program music movement- telling a story. It opens with a proud regal chorale which is interrupted by the timpani and bass drum representing both foresters and elements of climate degradation. Chaos ensues. Protesters try and stop the devastation but are unsuccessful. The movement ends with the opening chorale which is abruptly cut off.

The Weeping Willow This graceful giant, known for its open crown of wispy, ground-sweeping branches and long, slender leaves provides a perfect home for birds. Willows are useful for Carbon sequestration, water health, and regenerative farming practices. In this composition the Willow does indeed weep through the plaintiff bassoon and mournful strings for the destruction of trees by foresters and by environmental degradation.

The Poplar This fast growing tree is very useful for winter windbreaks and soil remediation making them a valuable species in forestry and environmental applications. Its graceful, upward-stretching branches and bright leaves seem to touch the sky, while its deep roots connecting it to the earth as may be heard in the orchestra. This tree has oval, heart-shaped leaves that grow close together, fluttering in the wind. One can hear the leaves dancing especially with the tambourine and marimba.