

Welcome

2025-26 SEASON

NOON AT MET

FREE THURSDAY CONCERTS



MAY

7 | 14 | 21 | 28

MANUEL PIAZZA

Thursday, May 5 at 12:00 p.m.

Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune, CD 87

Claude Debussy, 1862-1918

transcribed by Jean-Baptiste Robin, Manuel Piazza

L'Oiseau de feu (1919)

Igor Stravinsky, 1882-1971

transcribed by Manuel Piazza

Ia. Introduction

Ib. L'Oiseau de feu et sa danse

Ic. Variation de l'Oiseau de feu

II. Ronde des princesses

III. Danse infernale du roi Kachtcheï

IV. Berceuse

transcribed by Maurice Besly

V. Finale

Manuel Piazza is the Assistant Director of Music at St. Thomas's Anglican Church in Toronto. He won first prize in the 2021 RCCO National Competition and second prize in the 2024 Elizabeth B Stephens International Competition. His teachers have included John Tuttle (UofT, BMus), Martin Jean (Yale ISM, MM), and Isabelle Demers (McGill, AD), and he has held church positions such as Interim Assistant Director of Music at Trinity Church, Boston (under the direction of Colin Lynch); organ scholar at Trinity Church on the Green, New Haven (under the direction of Walden Moore); and organ scholar at Truro Cathedral (under the direction of Christopher Gray). Manuel's playing has been praised for its "seamless registration changes ... imaginative stop selections, smoothly shifting tone colours ... (and) abundant energy" in Organ Canada. Other awards include the Godfrey Hewitt Memorial Scholarship, the Mary Baker Scholarship in Organ Accompanying, the Julia R. Sherman Memorial Prize for excellence in organ playing, the Aidan Kavanagh Prize for Academic Achievement, and the Ernest MacMillan Memorial Foundation Prize.

JAMES COOLE-STEVENSON, BARITONE | VLADIMIR SOLOVIEV, PIANO

Thursday, May 12 at 12:00 p.m.

Involuntary Love Songs

Jocelyn Morlock. 1969-2023

1. Thaw
2. Matches
3. Script

"You Held out the Light", from *Breakfast for Barbarians*

Ian Cusson

Moths

James Rolfe

1. Night is a river
2. The river of dreams
3. Dreams are a cloth
4. The cloth is eaten by moths
5. Moths give off light
6. Light is a River

"Si corre dal notaio", from *Gianni Schicchi*

Giacomo Puccini, 1858-1924

"Avant de quitter ces lieux", from *Faust* (Act 2, no. 6)

Charles Gounod, 1818-1893

The Bloody Gardener

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

James Coole-Stevenson, baritone, has impressed audiences in a number of operatic roles including Sydney Carton in Arthur Benjamin's *A Tale Of Two Cities*, Demetrius in Britten's *Midsummer night's dream*, and Don Giovanni in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. His sensitivity and nuance in art song, opera and sacred music, as well as his wide reaching musical interests has been a defining characteristic in his career. Currently living and working as a musician in Toronto, he strives for authenticity in each performance.

In the Spring of 2024, James had his professional debut as Ping and the Mandarin in Puccini's *Turandot*, through the Gate City Bank Fargo-Moorhead Young Artist Program. It was there that he fostered a love for Puccini, and developed a serious interest in the role of outreach as a tool to educate and introduce people to opera. With his newfound desire to broaden Opera's reach, James had the honor of participating in Manitoba Opera's Digital Emerging Artist's Program, where he worked with several industry talents to create a video project tracing his Newfoundland heritage through the lens of traditional folk songs collected by Maud Carpeles and Ralph Vaughan-Williams. He was able to travel to his grandfather's ancestral home where he met and interviewed long lost relatives about the importance of music in the small village of Newman's Cove, Newfoundland. He hopes that through his music, he can share his passion with the world.

Vladimir Soloviev is a Toronto-based pianist and vocal coach whose performances around the globe include appearances at Carnegie Hall and Bohemian National Hall in New York. Vlad has won the Pattison Piano Competition and the London Scholarship Foundation Competition, and the Concerto Competition at Western University. He completed his studies at the University of Western Ontario, Eastman School of Music, Mannes College, and The UofT Opera School.

Vlad currently holds the position of a répétiteur at the Canadian Opera Company's Ensemble Studio. Apart from this work, Vlad has coached at the Classical Lyric Arts Opera Studio, Highlands Opera Studio, UofT Opera School, and the Toronto Summer Music Festival. Vlad remains active as an organist and choral conductor, holding the positions of Music Director at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Kitchener, and Assistant Conductor at the Mississauga Festival Choir.

An avid traveler, Vlad has toured around the globe in performance and competition, but also for pleasure — he loves exposing himself to cultures of the world, particularly through museum visits and sampling of local wine. Outside of opera, Vlad holds a deep love of Beethoven's piano compositions and bad British TV (Vlad believes that "Taskmaster" is an accurate and poignant commentary on the human enterprise). A former lover of philosophy, Vlad has recently finished the 11-volume *A History of Philosophy* by Frederick Copleston. Vlad is looking forward to never reading again.

THE CARILLON OF METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH, TORONTO, ON

Installed in 1922, the Massey-Drury Carillon was the first well-tuned carillon in North America. The first 23 bells, cast by the Gillett & Johnston Bellfoundry in England, were donated by Chester D. Massey as a memorial to his wife, Margaret Phelps Massey. The largest bell, or bourdon, weighs 8,456 pounds (3,836 kg). It is 72 inches (183 cm) in diameter, and is almost the same in width. In 1960, twelve midrange bells, cast by Petit & Fritsen in the Netherlands, were added. They were a gift from Dr. Charles Drury. In 1971, nineteen small bells, cast by Paccard in France, were donated by the Massey Foundation, bringing the total to its current complement of 54 bells (four and a half octaves). The installation was completed in 1972, in time for the 50th anniversary of the carillon. Between 2019 and 2022, a major renovation project was conducted by Meeks, Watson & Company of Ohio.

MELODY YVONNE CHAN, PIANO

Thursday, May 21 at 12:00 p.m.

Piano Music of Frédéric Chopin, 1810-1849

Mazurkas, opus 17

B flat major - E minor - A flat major - A minor

Waltzes, opus 64

Molto vivace (D-flat major), 'Minute Waltz'

Tempo giusto (C-sharp minor)

Moderato (A-flat major)

Nocturnes, op. 27

C sharp minor

D flat major

Nocturne, op. 48, no. 1

Barcarolle

Grande Waltz Brillante

Described as “poised” and “elegant” by WholeNote magazine, **Melody Chan**, is a vibrant and versatile artist who engages in numerous musical projects throughout Canada and abroad. A seasoned recital soloist, she has been featured on numerous different platforms, and strives to curate thought-provocative programs which dynamically engage with modern audiences. Melody is a recipient for both the Canada Council for the Arts as well as the FACTOR (The Foundation Assisting Canadian Talent on Recordings) grant organizations. Melody was born in Los Angeles, California, and raised in Vancouver. She studied with her father throughout her formative years until her undergraduate schooling, where she attended the University of British Columbia. Upon graduation, she was invited to become a member of the Golden Key Society for academic excellence. She later moved on to complete both her Masters and Doctoral degrees on a fully funded fellowship at the University of Toronto. Highlights from her musical collaborations include being named a laureate at the International Northwest Piano Ensemble Competition (together with fellow pianist Matthew Ming Li). Making an impression internationally, Melody’s highly praised live performance of Denis Gougeon’s Piano-Soleil, was broadcasted on RCF Radio in France. She has been invited as a guest lecturer at Trinity Western University and also served as an adjudicator at the Ontario Registered Music Teachers’ Association Scholarship competition. Dr. Chan enjoys her role as a collaborative pianist with the Gloria dei Chorale ensemble, and looks forward to many more rich musical experiences to come.

JONATHAN OLDENGARM, ORGAN

Thursday, May 28 at 12:00 p.m.

Tocatta and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565

Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

Three Quiet Pieces (1978)

Derek Healey, b. 1936

Preludio - *The Baptism of Christ*

Canto - *based on Ojibway Song*

Pastorale - *Consider the Lilies*

Chromatic Partita

Ruth Watson Henderson, b. 1932

On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring

Frederick Delius, 1862-1934, arr. for organ by Nigel Potts

Präludium und Fuge über BACH

Franz Liszt, 1811-1886

Hailed for his “unalloyed musicality”, organist, harpsichordist, conductor, chamber musician and arranger **Jonathan Oldengarm** loves to colour outside the lines. Passionate about repertoire from the 16th to 21st centuries, he is equally at home as a soloist and ensemble player. Recording credits include discs on the ATMA Classique, Klanglogo and Analekta labels with Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal; saxophonist Claudia Tesorino; the Ottawa Bach Choir (Lisette Canton, director); the A&P Choir (Jean-Sébastien Vallée, conductor); the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, and Buzz Brass. Recent performance credits include the Leipzig Bach Festival, McGill University, Ottawa’s Pro Organo series, Hammer Baroque, the 2023 and 2025 RCCO National Conventions, the Kitchener-Waterloo, Montreal and Toronto Symphony Orchestras, Trinity Bach Project, the Elora Singers and Festival, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, Gallery Players, and Toronto Bach Festival. An enthusiastic teacher, Jonathan has made a specialty teaching keyboard harmony, improvisation, continuo, score reading, accompanying at the organ, hymn playing—in short, the professional keyboard artist’s essential skills. In addition to private studio teaching, Jonathan is an adjunct music faculty member at the University of Toronto. Since 2022 Jonathan has been Minister of Music and Organist at Metropolitan United Church in Toronto, home to multiple ensembles and a treasury of instruments that include Canada’s largest pipe organ and Canada’s oldest tuned carillon. Under his leadership the Metropolitan Festival Choir has recently performed Bach’s Markus Passion (Koolstra reconstruction), Schütz’s Musikalische Exequien, Handel’s Brockes Passion, Brahms Ein deutsches Requiem, Bach’s St John Passion and other masterworks. He holds degrees in organ and harpsichord performance from Wilfrid Laurier and McGill Universities; the Fellowship diploma of the Royal Canadian College of Organists; and studied at the Hochschule für Musik in Stuttgart. Principal organ teachers included Douglas Haas, Barrie Cabena, and Ludger Lohmann. Germany. From 2008 until 2022 he taught organ, harpsichord, keyboard skills, and liturgical improvisation at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University, while serving as Director of Music and Organist at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal.

THE ORGAN OF METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH, TORONTO, ON

Casavant Frères Ltée, op. 1367 (built in 1930)

GREAT (second keyboard)

Contra Bourdon 32' (TC)
Double Open Diapason 16'
Bourdon 16'
Open Diapason I 8'
Open Diapason II 8'
Open Diapason III 8'
Violin Diapason 8'
Hohl Flute 8'
Doppel Flute 8'
Stopped Diapason 8'
Quint 5 1/3'
Octave 4'
Principal 4'
Flûte Harmonique 4'
Flûte d'amour 4'
Quint 2 2/3'
Fifteenth 2'
Harmonics V
Mixture III
Contra Tromba 16'
Tromba 8'
Posaune 8'
Octave Tromba 4'
Harp (CH)

SWELL (third keyboard)

Contra Geigen 16'
Lieblich Bourdon 16'
Open Diapason 8'
Geigen Diapason 8'
Salicional 8'
Lieblich Gedeckt 8'
Viola da Gamba 8'
Voix Celeste 8'
Aeoline 8'
Octave 4'
Flauto Traverso 4'
Fifteenth 2'
Cornet V
Mixture III
Double Trumpet 16'
Trumpet 8'
Oboe 8'
Vox Humana 8'
Clarion 4'
Tremulant
Harp (CH)

CHOIR (first keyboard)

Contra Viola 16'

Open Diapason 8'
Melodia 8'
Quintadena 8'
Spitz Flute 8'
Flute Celeste 8'
Dulciana 8'
Unda Maris 8'
Dulcet 4'
Flute d'amour 4'
Nazard 2 2/3'
Harmonic Piccolo 2'
Tierce 1 1/3'
Dulciana Mixture IV
Contra Fagotto 16'
Trumpet 8'
Clarinet 8'
Clarion 4'
Tremulant
Harp
Harp Sub

ORCHESTRAL (fourth keyboard)

Contra Gamba 16'
Gross Gamba 8'
Gamba Celeste 8'
Viole d'orchestre 8'
Viole Celeste 8'
Rohr Flute 8'
Gross Flute 8'
Fugara 4'
Concert Flute 4'
Cornet de Violes III
Trombone 16'
Bassoon 16'
Tuba Sonora 8'
Orchestral Trumpet 8'
French Horn 8'
Orchestral Oboe 8'
Corno di Bassetto 8'
Cor Anglais 8'
Octave Tuba 4'
Tremulant
Harp (CH)

BOMBARDE (fifth keyboard)

Stentorphone 8'
Mixture VII
Tuba Magna 16'
Tuba Mirabilis 8'
Quint Horn 5 1/3'
Tuba Clarion 4'

PEDAL (for the feet)

Double Open Diapason 32'
Open Diapason I 16'
Open Diapason II 16' (ext)
Violone 16'
Gamba 16' (ORCH)
Bourdon I 16'
Bourdon II 16' (GT)
Viola 16' (CH)
Gedeckt 16' (SW)
Quint 10 2/3'
Octave 8' (ext)
Cello 8' (ext)
Stopped Flute 8' (ext)
Still Gedeckt 8' (SW)
Octave Quint 5 1/3' (ext)
Super Octave 4' (ext)
Mixture IV
Contra Bombarde 32'
Bombarde 16' (ext)
Trombone 16' (ORCH)
Bassoon 16' (ORCH)
Tromba 8' (ext)
Clarion 4' (ext)

GALLERY ORGAN

ANTIPHONAL (floating)

Open Diapason 8'
Principal 4'
Hooded Trumpet 8'

ECHO (floating)

Chimney Flute 8'
Viola da Gamba 8'
Flute 4'
Tremulant
Zimbelstern
Nightingale

PEDAL (feet)

Bourdon 16'
Octavebass 8' (ext)

UPCOMING IN MUSIC AT METROPOLITAN

Music at Met

Saturday, May 16 at 3:00 p.m. - Toronto Chamber Choir with Jonathan Oldengarm, organist, present (Re-)Building Notre Dame, a celebration of that great cathedral's rebirth. Tickets:

<https://torontochamberchoir.ca/e-registration/25/may16>

Saturday and Sunday, May 23-24 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. - Doors Open Toronto comes to Met, featuring organ and carillon demonstrations.

Sunday, May 24 at 1:00 p.m. - Doors Open Toronto, free concert featuring the Metropolitan Silver Band.

Saturday, June 20 at 7:30 p.m. - Modern Sound Collective presents *Considering Matthew Shepard*, a genre-defying oratorio by composer Craig Hella Johnson. The work offers a deeply human perspective on the tragedy of Matthew Shepard's murder. Tickets and details: modernsoundcollective.ca.

Metropolitan Carillon Festival - June 2026

June 4 - Deborah Hennig | **June 11** - Minako Uchino

June 18 - Katherine Chen | **June 25** - Dr. Elisa Tersigni, *Wayne C. Vance Carillonist*

MUSIC STAFF

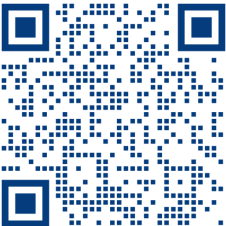
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Ethan Duan & Edward Xu - Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholars

Dr. Elisa Tersigni - Wayne C. Vance Carillonist carillon@metunited.ca

Alessia Signorella - Conductor, Metropolitan Choristers

Fran Harvey - Conductor, Metropolitan Silver Band



Our sound and livestream technician is Charlie Davidson. Metropolitan's livestreaming equipment was made possible thanks to the generosity of **Wayne C. Vance**. Your freewill donations support the ongoing musical ministry of Metropolitan United Church, and allow us to maintain our landmark heritage musical instruments and building. If you prefer to donate electronically, please visit metunited.ca/donate or scan the QR code here.

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