



CHOPIN AND FRIENDS: A PARISIAN SALON RECITAL

Friday, March 5, 2010 • 7:30 p.m.

Throughout his lifetime, Fryderyk Chopin was more comfortable performing in the intimate salon setting than in the concert hall. As a boy in Warsaw he had been in demand at the salons of the best society and mixed with the wealthiest aristocratic families at the top of the social ladder. When Chopin arrived in Paris in 1831 the tradition of the literary salon, a meeting place for the cultural elite, was thriving, as was private patronage of the arts. All the fashionable pianists made appearances in the elite Parisian salons where musical and social life were closely linked to one another. While public concerts required Chopin to present large scale works, usually with orchestra, in the more intimate salon setting his performance repertoire consisted of the lyrical miniatures: waltzes, mazurkas and nocturnes.

This modern recreation of a nineteenth-century style recital program features Thomas Yu, laureate of the Second Canadian Chopin Piano Competition and special guest performers including members of the jury, festival artists and friends.



THOMAS YU

Canadian-born pianist, Thomas Yu, continues to delight audiences across four continents while maintaining a full-time career as a periodontist. Dr. Yu obtained his DMD with Great Distinction from the University of Saskatchewan. He then went on to complete a residency at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, and recently completed his Master Degree in Periodontics at the University of Toronto.

Yu spent six years as a private piano student at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory, studying with esteemed pedagogue Marc Durand. Awards include third prize at the Canadian Chopin Piano Competition in 2004, first prize at the 2009 Bösendorfer International Piano Competition for Amateurs in Vienna, and third prize at the First Chopin International Piano Competition for Amateurs. Mr. Yu has been featured on CBC, Bravo!, TV5 and France 2 television. He has also recorded with CBC, Classical 96.3FM and Radio Classique. He has performed for the Governor General of Canada, the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan as well as the Mayor of Toronto. To celebrate their 100th anniversary, the University of Saskatchewan has named Thomas Yu as one of the school's top 100 most influential alumni.



MACIEJ BUJNOWICZ

Baritone Maciej Bujnowicz was born in Warsaw, Poland. He started his vocal studies at the Music Academy in Lodz and in June 2005 he received a graduation diploma with honours. After completing his Masters degree in Poland, Mr. Bujnowicz continued his education in the USA at the College of Charleston, South Carolina and UCLA. He is currently a student of Jean MacPhail in the Artist Diploma program at the Glenn Gould School.

Operatic roles have included: Johnny in "Comedy on the Bridge", Demetrius in "Midsummernight's Dream", Dr. Falke in "Die Fledermaus", Bartolo in "Il Barbiere di Siviglia" and Don Alfonso in "Cosi fan tutte".

He has performed at UCLA, Schoenberg Hall, Los Angeles Cathedral, Simmons Center for the Arts, Lodz Philharmonia, Poznanski Palace, Lodz Politechnic, Kalisz Philharmonia, Schlosstheater Rheinsberg and the Royal Conservatory.