February 21 **The Music Room**

Problematica

India Gailey, cello

Taking its name from a scientific term for organisms whose classification cannot be decided, this concert marks the release of cellist India Gailey's new album, featuring pieces commissioned from some of Canada's most interesting composers. This music weaves together cello, electronics and voice in beautiful, surprising and unclassifiable ways.

Fjóla Evans	*Universal Veil*
Nicole Lizée	*Grotesquerie*
Julia Mermelstein	*Bending Breaking Through*
Andrew Noseworthy	*GomL*
Joseph Glaser	*Joinery*
Thanya Iyer	*As Big as the Sun*

February 28 **Joseph Strug Concert Hall**

Goddess of the Wind: An encounter with the Orisha

Co-presented with Dalhousie University Fountain School of Performing Arts

Nicole Jordan soprano; Tim Crofts, piano; TBC, djembe; Christine Feierabend, flute

Canadian soprano Nicole Jordan was born in the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago where *Orisha*, an ancient spiritual tradition of the African Yoruba people, is still proudly practiced. While the roots remain unchanged, like the people of Trinidad and Tobago themselves, Orisha has been mixed and blended to include many influences from all over the world, creating a unique spiritual and cultural tradition. Nicole continues this tradition of change by transforming the familiar song recital into a creative new world. Presenting classical and traditional songs and music from Trinidad, France, Spain, India, and the Americas, as well as her own poetry and prose, Nicole tells of her personal encounter with the power and influence of Oya, the Orisha Goddess of the Wind. With music by Gabriel Fauré, Olivier Messiaen, Leslie Adams, Jeff Enns, Dominique Le Gendre, and others.

March 6 **Joseph Strug Concert Hall**

From the Page and Beyond

Co-presented with Dalhousie University Fountain School of Performing Arts

Chris Mitchell, woodwinds; Tom King, piano; Jamie Gatti, bass; Tom Roach, drums

For generations, improvisation has served as a catalyst to great composition, and subsequently, performers have frequently drawn on these works as a source for spontaneous musical creation. *From the Page and Beyond* explores music both from its origins on the page to hidden musical possibilities that lie in the moment.

March 20 **The Music Room**

SOUND & COLOUR: Pictures at a 21st Century Exhibition

Fiona Robson, cello; Raymond Truong, piano

An idea born of the many hours Fiona spent wandering through museums during her studies at the Conservatoire de Paris, and riffing on Mussorgsky's 1874 piano masterpiece *Pictures at an Exhibition*, this duo recital explores the historical and aesthetic intersections of visual arts and music, two art forms that Leonardo Da Vinci described as "sisters," and which have enriched and complemented each other for centuries. Raymond Truong, piano, and Fiona Robson, cello, will transport you from the turn of the 20th century to the very present day, by way of Debussy's colourful cello sonata and a cohort of Canadian composers whose visual influences include Cree artist Kent Monkman, the Group of Seven, and a set of mysterious medieval tapestries. At the heart of the program is the premier performance of a new piece by Canadian composer Christopher Goddard, inspired by the work of his great-uncle, Canadian painter Walter Tandy Murch.

Modest Mussorgsky	*Pictures at an Exhibition* (excerpts)
Claude Debussy	Sonata for Cello and Piano in D Minor
Euphrosyne Keefer	Suite for Cello and Piano: *La dame à la licorne*
Kelly-Marie Murphy	*The Lonely Road* (after F. H. Varley)
Ian Cusson	*La Pietà* (after Monkman)
Chris Goddard	New Work (world premiere)

April 3 **The Music Room**

Double Bass Squared

Max Kasper and Jemma Jones, double bass

A recital featuring the entire bass section of Symphony Nova Scotia, and more! Discover how beautifully the biggest member of the string family can sing, given the chance. And for a grand finale, four more bassists will join Max and Jemma for a sight never before seen in Halifax: a double bass choir!

Frank Proto	Duets for Double Basses
G.F. Handel	Trio Sonata in G Major, Op. 2, No. 8
B. Schlemowitz	Eight Concert Duets for Two Double Basses
G. Bottesini	Gran Duetto No. 1 for Double Basses

April 10 **The Music Room**

Richard Simoneau and Friends

Richard Simoneau, trumpet; Renaud Lapierre, violin; Marie-Christine Baril, piano

Symphony Nova Scotia's principal trumpet, Richard Simoneau, and concertmaster, Renaud Lapierre, join pianist Marie-Christine Baril, for trumpet and violin virtuosity, and to show how well their three instruments combine!

Johannes Brahms	Trio in E-flat Major Op. 40 (First movement)
Vassily Brandt	Concert Piece No. 2 for Trumpet and Piano, Op. 12
Eric Ewazen	Trio for Trumpet, Violin and Piano
Various composers	Violin Showpieces

April 17 **The Music Room**

Luke Welch in Recital

Luke Welch, piano

Toronto pianist, writer and podcaster Luke Welch shares the story and the magnificently virtuosic music of African-British pianist, conductor, and composer, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor. Renowned on both sides of the Atlantic at the turn of the 20th century, Coleridge-Taylor was admired by figures such as Edward Elgar, Theodore Roosevelt, and W.E.B. Du Bois.

Frédéric Chopin	Scherzo No. 3, Op. 39
S. Coleridge-Taylor	*Scenes from an Imaginary Ballet*, Op. 74
	Three Fours, Valse Suite, Op. 71

April 24 **The Music Room**

Courage, Curiosity, Compassion

Maureen Batt, soprano; Erin Bardua, soprano; Hilary Brown, cello; Tara Scott, piano

Founders of Toronto's Essential Opera, Maureen Batt and Erin Bardua create programs that tell stories, celebrate the art of singing, and set new compositional voices alongside the classics. Tonight, we will enjoy a vast range of song, from classics by Richard Strauss, Barbara Strozzi and Kurt Weill, to new Canadian works from Saman Shahi, Anna Höstman and Monica Pearce. A glorious garland of music to end our season!

Ticket Info

All tickets available for sale from Tuesday, September 5

Complete Subscriptions: 20 concerts, in-person and livestream access. Adult $350; Age 30 and under $200

Pick 10 Package: Adult $250; Age 30 and under $150

Pick 5 Package: Adult $150; Age 30 and under $90

Individual Tickets (includes livestream access): Adults: $35; Age 30 and under: $20

Livestream Package: Access to all 20 live streams. $175

Livestream ticket (individual concerts): $15

To Buy Tickets

Visit **www.scotiafestival.com** or call **902-429-9467**

Fees for online, mail, and phone orders: $2 per ticket; $5 per subscription/package.

Concert Venues

The Peggy Corkum Music Room
6181 Lady Hammond Rd

Joseph Strug Concert Hall
Dalhousie Arts Centre, 6101 University Ave

Presented by

Scotia Festival of Music

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THE MUSIC ROOM CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES

2023–2024 SEASON

SCOTIAFESTIVAL.COM

Dear Music Lovers,

Another season full of the joy of chamber music awaits! This year more than ever, the emphasis will be on variety, collaboration and connection.

You will hear a huge range and variety of performances, everything from the amazing soprano/pianist **Rachel Fenlon**, to Malian balafon virtuoso **Fodé Lassana Diabaté**, to Symphony Nova Scotia's **Max Kasper** and **Jemma Jones** with a double bass choir!

Highlighting our Scotia Festival connections, we have recitals by magnificent musicians who are former Young Artists: cellist **Fiona Robson** and pianist **Raymond Truong**; and violist **Carolyn Farnand**. And we are looking forward to collaborations with our friends and colleagues at the **Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts**, **Upstream**, and of course Dalhousie's **Fountain School of Performing Arts**, with their Faculty Series taking place this year in the new Joseph Strug Concert Hall.

Other highlights include a fantastically inventive concert by Bass clarinetist **Jeff Reilly** and pianist **Jennifer King**; two CD release concerts; appearances by two much-loved Canadian string quartets (**Bozzini** from Montréal and **Blue Engine** from Halifax); pianist **Luke Welch** with the fascinating music and story of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor; and a special celebration of 20 years of chamber music concerts in the Music Room.

We have a new lower ticket price of $20 for people aged 30 and under, and the same excellent deals for subscriptions as before: a full subscription equates to $17.50 per concert!

My deepest thanks to this year's generous series sponsors, to our co-presenters, to the fabulous staff at Scotia Festival, and of course to you, our audience! I'm excited to see you soon!

S. Dog

Simon Docking

Managing and Artistic Director

All concerts take place at 7:30 on Wednesday evenings.

All programs subject to change. For full and up-to-date program details, visit www.scotiafestival.com

September 27 **The Music Room**

Wanderlust

In collaboration with Leaf Music

Lara Deutsch, flute; Adam Cicchillitti, guitar

CBC "Top 30 under 30" musicians Lara Deutsch and Adam Cicchillitti bring energy and imagination to all they do. Tonight they celebrate their brand-new CD, *Wanderlust*, on Halifax's Leaf Music label. This is a musical journey around the world, and also a tour of the huge range of colours and textures the flute/guitar can conjure.

Astor Piazzolla	*Histoire du Tango*
Frédéric Chopin	Two Mazurkas
Osvaldo Golijov	*Fish Tale*
Gabriela Ortiz	*5 pa'2*
Béla Bártók	Romanian Folk Dances
Jason Noble	Folk Suite

October 4 **The Music Room**

Twenty Years of the Music Room Chamber Players!

Isabelle Fournier, violin; Susan Sayle, viola; Norman Adams, cello; Suzanne Lemieux, oboe; Simon Docking, piano

On October 1st, 2003, five musicians performed in the inaugural concert in what was then the Music Room Chamber Music Society. Happily, all five are still here, and they return tonight to mark 20 years (and nearly 400 concerts) of chamber music!

Franz Schubert	String Trio in B-flat Major, D471
Edward Elgar	*Chanson de Matin; Chanson de Nuit*
Peter Schickele	*Gardens*, for Oboe and Piano
Gustav Mahler	Piano Quartet in A minor

October 11 **The Music Room**

Transatlantic Pilgrimage

In collaboration with the Centre for Sound Communities at Cape Breton University and Smithsonian Folkways Recordings

Fodé Lassana Diabaté, balafon; Afua Cooper, spoken word

Lassana Diabaté is an internationally acclaimed musician and teacher, and a specialist in the balafon, a west African gourd-resonated xylophone. Tonight's performance with Dalhousie University's Afua Cooper is a musical and spoken-word meditation on their recent visit to Africa. We will also hear Lassana's string quartet *Sunjata's Time*, written for the Kronos Quartet and played tonight by students from the Fountain School of Performing Arts.

October 18 **The Music Room**

Rachel Fenlon in Recital

Rachel Fenlon, soprano and piano

Don't miss the Halifax debut of Berlin-based Canadian soprano Rachel Fenlon, who is quickly making an international reputation for herself by singing and accompanying herself at the piano, performing the most demanding repertoire with dazzling fluency and conviction.

Claude Debussy	*Ariettes Oubliées*
Bach/Busoni	Chorale Preludes
Franz Schubert	Selected Lieder
Alban Berg	Seven Early Songs

October 25 **Joseph Strug Concert Hall**

Autumn Gold

Co-presented with Dalhousie University Fountain School of Performing Arts

Patricia Creighton, flute ; Peter Allen, piano

J. S. Bach's and Béla Bartók's dance music bookend a crystalline Haydn Piano Sonata in the first half of this concert, all leading towards the epic grand finale, the Sonata for Flute and Piano by Prokofiev.

November 8 **The Music Room**

Music from the Faculty of the Maritime Conservatory

Sibylle Marquardt, flute; Chris Palmer, bassoon; Mary Lee, horn; Greg Myra, piano

Following last year's popular event, tonight we present another concert showcasing some of the excellent musicians who teach at the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts, a magnificent Halifax institution, 135 years old this year, and busier and more relevant than ever!

Joseph Haydn	Trio in D for flute, bassoon and piano
Christopher Palmer	Fantasia Brillante on Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera"
Erika Raum	*The Confessions of St. Augustine*
C.V. Alkan	Nocturne in B Major, Op.22 Barcarolle, Op.65, No.6
Francisco Mignone	Waltzes for bassoon solo
Catherine Hoover	*Summer Night* for flute, horn and piano

November 15 **The Music Room**

Carolyn Farnand in Recital

Carolyn Farnand, viola; Jennifer King, piano

The brilliant Canadian violist Carolyn Farnand joins Symphony Nova Scotia this fall. Tonight, she and pianist Jennifer King bring us a classic of the viola repertoire by Brahms, and music by four generations of American composers, from Amy Beach to a piece written for Carolyn by award-winning composer and internet star Shelbie Rassler.

Johannes Brahms	Sonata in F minor, Op. 120, No. 1
Amy Beach	Romance
David Jaeger	*Diptych*
Adolphus Hailstork	*Sanctum Rhapsody*
Shelbie Rassler	*In a Field of Flowers*

November 29 **The Music Room**

Left, Right, Left, Right!

Simon Docking and Peter Allen, piano

Join Simon and Peter for a selection of instantly lovable music for piano four hands: a glittering sonata by Mozart; Ravel's exquisite evocation of the Mother Goose nursery tales; and a selection of much-loved dances by Dvořák.

W. A. Mozart	Sonata in D Major, K. 381
Wagner arr. Liszt	"Spinning Song" from *The Flying Dutchman* "Liebestod" from *Tristan und Isolde*
Maurice Ravel	*Mother Goose* Suite
Antonin Dvořák	Slavonic Dances, Op. 46 (selections)

January 10 **Joseph Strug Concert Hall**

Montréal's Bozzini Quartet

Co-presented with Upstream Music Association

Alyssa Cheung and Clemens Markel, violins; Stéphanie Bozzini, viola; Isabelle Bozzini, cello

Upstream's *Open Waters* festival is always a magnificent journey of discovery, and we are proud to be part of it again this year as a co-presenter. This program shows why the Bozzini Quartet is one of Canada's most admired and sought-after ensembles, ranging from J.S. Bach to a new work by Halifax's Amy Brandon.

Bach arr. Oesterle	Chaconne (from Partita, BWV 1004)
Nicolas Caloia	*Four Invocations*
Amy Brandon	*Blacklight*

January 24 **The Music Room**

Blue Engine String Quartet

Jennifer Jones and Anne Simons, violins; Alexandra Bates, viola; Hilary Brown, cello

Halifax's Blue Engine String Quartet returns to our series with four great works by female composers representing different eras and places, from the Venetian classicism of Sirmen to Jennifer Higdon's loving evocation of the heat and languor of the southern USA.

M. L. Sirmen	Quartet No. 2 in B flat major, Op. 3
Lucie Vellère	String Quartet No. 3
Germaine Tailleferre	String Quartet
Jennifer Higdon	*Southern Harmony*

January 31 **Joseph Strug Concert Hall**

Dynamic Duos and Solos

Co-presented with Dalhousie University Fountain School of Performing Arts

Leonardo Perez, violin; Peter Allen, piano

Join Fountain School faculty Leonardo Perez and Peter Allen in an evening of mesmerizing music for violin and piano. Prokofiev's haunting and colourful Five Melodies opens the program, followed by a sublime solo Sonata for violin by Bach. The recital concludes with Franck's monumental Sonata for Piano and Violin, composed as a wedding present for the great Belgian violinist Eugène Ysaÿe.

February 7 **The Music Room**

Impressions

Jeff Reilly, bass clarinet; Jennifer King, piano

Bass clarinet virtuoso Jeff Reilly is always experimenting and innovating with his instrument's many capabilities. Tonight, he and Jennifer King will bring us a program of impressions: jazz and impressionism in two famous French sonatas, as well as impressions of nature in Jeff's own music.

Claude Debussy	Cello Sonata (transcribed for bass clarinet)
Francis Poulenc	Sonata for Clarinet and Piano
Fernande Decruck	*Cantilène*
Jeff Reilly	*Suddenly, Snow* *Cascade* *Hydnum Repandum*
Mel Bonis	*Romance sans paroles,* for solo piano
Meredith Monk	*Paris* (1972), for solo piano