

Presented by
The Edmonton Music & Speech Arts Festival,
The Edmonton Symphony Orchestra
and

The Shean Trust



May 21st & 22nd, 2021 Virtually via recorded videos



Ranald Shean 1914-1997 Vera Shean 1923-2005

ABOUT THE COMPETITION & ITS FOUNDERS

The Shean Strings & Piano Competition, made possible by a generous grant to the Edmonton Community Foundation from Ranald and Vera Shean in 1996, is open to amateur musicians between 15 and 28 years of age who are residents of Canada currently studying here or abroad, or to non-residents who have been studying in Canada for a minimum of two academic years. Six finalists are chosen from the submitted discs. The winner of the 2021 Competition may be invited to perform with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra at a later date. Strings and piano are featured in alternative years.

Ranald Shean excelled in both music and sports and was a "Master Music Teacher". Vera Shean was an equally gifted violinist and pianist. They met in Vancouver where Ranald was an associate teacher with Gregori Garbovitsky, and Vera was Garbovitsky's piano student. She also completed advanced piano studies with Sir Arthur Benjamin. Ranald & Vera married and began a lifelong collaboration in music, predominantly in the Edmonton area.

In the 1940s, Ranald was concertmaster and conductor of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. In addition to playing violin in the Symphony, Vera performed in recital and as an accompanist for the CBC, and Ranald also conducted the Edmonton Youth Orchestra. In 1966, they established the Edmonton Conservatory of Music which later merged with the Alberta College Conservatory of Music.

Their passion was teaching. During their lives, they both maintained a full teaching schedule (Vera – piano, Ranald – violin) working seven days a week. Sunday was "Open House" for their students. Any student who wanted to come and practice, work with an accompanist (Vera), have extra coaching, play in an ensemble, etc. was welcome. Both Ranald and Vera were elected to the City of Edmonton's Arts & Culture Hall of Fame.

Their dream for young musicians to experience the same passion they had for music, lives on in **The Shean Competition**.

The Shean Strings Competition Friday, May 21st, 2021 Day One

1

Jacques Forestier, Violin

Susanne Ruberg-Gordon, assisting artist

Recitativo und Scherzo-Caprice, op. 6 (1911)

Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962)

Fuga from *Violin Sonata No. 1 in g minor*, BWV 1001 (1720)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Violin Sonata No. 2 in G Major, M.77 (1923-27)

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

- i. Allegretto
- ii. Blues. Moderato
- iii. Perpetuum mobile. Allegro

Introduction et Tarantelle, op. 43 (1899)

Pablo de Sarasate (1844-1908)



Russell Iceberg, Violin

Felix Hong, assisting artist

Chaconne from *Violin Partita No. 2 in d minor*, Johann Sebastian Bach BWV 1004 (1720) (1685-1750)

Introduction et Tarantelle, op. 43 (1899)

Pablo de Sarasate

(1844-1908)

Sonata for Violin and Piano in g minor, L.140 Claude Debussy (1917) (1862-1918)

i. Allegro vivo

ii. Intermède: Fantasque et léger

iii. Finale: Trés animé

Ballade No. 1 in g minor, op. 23 (1916)

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849) adapt. Eugène Ysaÿe (1858-1931)

3

Gabrielle Després, Violin

Andrew Hsu, assisting artist

Fuga from *Violin Sonata No. 3 in C Major,* Johann Sebastian Bach BWV 1005 (1720) (1685-1750)

Sonata for Violin and Piano in g minor, L.140 Claude Debussy (1917) (1862-1918)

i. Allegro vivo

ii. Intermède: Fantasque et léger

iii. Finale: Trés animé

Nigun (Improvisation) from *Baal Shem*, B.47 Ernest Bloch (1923) (1880-1959)

Introduction et Tarantelle, op. 43 (1899)

Pablo de Sarasate
(1844-1908)

BREAK

Emad Zolfaghari, Viola

Benjamin Smith, assisting artist

Prelude from Suite No. 5 in c minor for Solo Violoncello, BWV 1011 (1717-23)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Viola Sonata, op. 25, no. 1 (1922)

Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)

iv. Rasendes Zeitmaß. Wild. Tonschönheit ist Nebensache

Viola Sonata No. 2 in E-flat Major, op. 120, no. 2 (1894)

Johannes Brahms

(1833-1897)

- i. Allegro amabile
- ii. Allegro appassionato
- iii. Andante con moto Allegro

Tango from Sarasateana (ca. 1942)

Efrem Zimbalist (1889-1985)

trans. William Primrose

(1904-1982)

5

Luka Coetzee, Violoncello

Susanne Ruberg-Gordon, assisting artist

Prelude from Suite No. 6 in D Major for Solo Violoncello, BWV 1012 (1717-23)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Sonata for Solo Cello (1948/1953)

György Ligeti (1923-2006)

- i. Dialogo Adagio
- ii. Capriccio Presto con slancio

At the Fountain, op. 20, no. 2 (1870)

Karl Yul'yevich Davïdov

(1838-1889)

Violoncello Sonata No. 2 in F Major, op. 99 (1886)

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

- i. Allegro vivace
- ii. Adagio affettuoso
- iii. Allegro passionato
- iv. Allegro molto

Hannah Corbett, Violin

Ben Smith, assisting artist

Violin Sonata No. 1 in G Major, op. 78 (1879)

Johannes Brahms

(1833-1897)

- i. Vivace ma non troppo
- ii. Adagio
- iii. Allegro molto moderato

Fuga from *Violin Sonata No. 1 in g minor,* BWV 1001 (1720)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Introduction et Tarantelle, op. 43 (1899)

Pablo de Sarasate (1844-1908)

Tzigane, M.76 (1924)

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

End of Day One

The Shean Strings Competition Saturday, May 22nd, 2021 Day Two

1

Emad Zolfaghari, Viola

Benjamin Smith, assisting artist

Viola Concerto (1929)

William Walton (1902-1983)

- i. Andante comodo
- ii. Vivo, con molto preciso
- iii. Allegro moderato

Jacques Forestier, Violin

Susanne Ruberg-Gordon, assisting artist

Violin Concerto in d minor, op. 47 (1903-04, rev. 1905)

Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

- i. Allegro moderato
- ii. Adagio di molto
- iii. Allegro, ma non troppo

3

Russell Iceberg, Violin

Felix Hong, assisting artist

Violin Concerto in b minor, op. 61 (1905-10)

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

- i. Allegro
- ii. Andante
- iii. Allegro molto

BREAK

4

Gabrielle Després, Violin

Andrew Hsu, assisting artist

Violin Concerto in D Major, op. 77 (1878)

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

- i. Allegro non troppo
- ii. Adagio
- iii. Allegro giocoso, ma non troppo vivace Poco più presto

Hannah Corbett, Violin

Ben Smith, assisting artist

Violin Concerto in D Major, op. 35 (1878) Pyotr II'yich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

- i. Allegro moderato
- ii. Canzonetta. Andante
- iii. Finale. Allegro vivacissimo

6

Luka Coetzee, Violoncello

Susanne Ruberg-Gordon, assisting artist

Violoncello Concerto No. 2 in b minor, op. 104, B. 191 (1895)

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

- i. Allegro
- ii. Adagio, ma non troppo
- iii. Finale. Allegro moderato Andante Allegro vivo

7:30 PM (MDT) — Awards Announcement

1st Place – \$8,000 & ESO Performance 4th Place – \$3,000 2nd Place – \$5,000 5th Place – \$2,000 3rd Place – \$4,000 6th Place – \$2,000

Paul J. Bourret Memorial Award for the Best Performance of the Test Piece – \$1,000

2021 Competitors



Luka Coetzee, Violoncello Calgary, AB

Canadian 'cellist Luka Coetzee (b. 2004) has always enjoyed the musical life combining the richness of art, travel, and performing many kinds of music ever since she was able. Ms. Coetzee made her solo début at age 11 with the Calgary Civic Symphony as a winner of the Calgary Concerto Competition. She also received Second Prize at the

Orchestre symphonique de Montréal Manulife Competition and is a semi-finalist of the 2020 Stulberg International Strings Competition. As a member of the (Liechtenstein Global Trust) Young Soloists, Ms. Coetzee recorded the Beethoven A Major 'Cello Sonata arranged for solo 'cello and strings on NAXOS at the Teldex Studio in Berlin, Germany. She has also performed at the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, the Berlin Philharmonic, the Victoria Hall in Singapore, the Rheingau Musik Festival, and at the Woordfees Festival in Stellenbosch, South Africa. In 2018, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation filmed a documentary on her life as a musician. Moreover, Ms. Coetzee has worked with renowned artists including Andrés Cárdenes, Johannes Moser, Frans Helmerson, Laurence Lesser, and the Calidore and Schumann String Quartets. At the age of one, Ms. Coetzee had her first 'cello lesson with Christine Bootland. Other prominent teachers include John Kadz, Johanne Perron, and Horacio Contreras.



Hannah Corbett, Violin – Vaughan, ON

Hannah Corbett is a third year scholarship student at the University of Toronto, pursuing a degree in Violin Performance under the tutelage of Jonathan Crow. She is a 2018 graduate of The Phil and Eli Taylor Academy at The Royal Conservatory, where she studied on a full scholarship with Atis Bankas. Ms. Corbett

performed across Canada and Spain as co-Concertmaster of the 2019 National Youth Orchestra, and was also a 2019 and 2020 winner of an Award of Excellence. In October 2019, Ms. Corbett was selected to participate in an international orchestra in Trieste, Italy at the Tartini Conservatory's Pordenone Festival. Ms. Corbett is the 2018 Ontario Music Festivals Association provincial gold medallist in Open Strings, and a 12-time Gold medalist & Rose Bowl Champion at the Kiwanis Music Festival. Ms. Corbett has served as concertmaster of the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra, NYO Canada, and the University of Toronto Symphony & Opera Orchestras. She has appeared as a soloist with multiple symphony and chamber orchestras throughout Southwestern Ontario, including a performance of the Sibelius Violin Concerto as a winner of the TSYO concerto competition. She is the recipient of numerous scholarships, including the NAC's Most Promising String Player Award at MusicFest Nationals, University of Toronto's National Arbor Scholarship, and the Women's Musical Club of Toronto Centennial Scholarship.



Gabrielle Després, Violin – Edmonton, AB

Canadian-born violinist Gabrielle Després is the winner of numerous competitions, most recently first prize in the 2020 Irving M. Klein International

String Competition. This year, she also competed as a semifinalist in the Stulberg International String Competition and was on CBC's annual list of 30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians under 30.

From a young age, Ms. Després has competed nationally, winning top prizes in the Canadian Music Competition in both violin and piano. In 2016, she was featured on Radio-Canada's nationwide television show, *Virtuose*, placing second out of 24 young Canadian artists. In 2017, she was a top prizewinner in the national Shean Strings Competition, and in 2018, she was invited to perform as a soloist with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra of Edmonton. Ms. Després was also the sole recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Scholarship for Performing Arts in 2018.

Ms. Després began violin studies at the age of three, and studied with James Keene for nine years. She was a student of Robert Uchida from 2016 to 2018 and began the Bachelor of Music program at The Juilliard School in September of 2018, where she currently studies with Masao Kawasaki and Joseph Lin. Ms. Després' summer studies have included the Orford Summer Music Academy, the Morningside Music Bridge program, and the Casalmaggiore International Music Festival. Last summer, she was awarded the New Horizons Fellowship which is a

full-tuition scholarship to study at the Aspen Music Festival.

Ms. Després gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the Anne Burrows Music Foundation, and the Edmonton Community Foundation in supporting her education.



Jacques Forestier, Violin – Edmonton, AB

Born into a family of musicians, 16-year-old Jacques Forestier began playing the violin at the age of two, and has since delighted audiences across North America, Europe, and Asia. Presently studying with Patinka Kopec of the Manhattan School of Music, Mr. Forestier is also a student of Itzhak Perlman, Li Lin,

and Catherine Cho at the Perlman Music Program. Mr. Forestier has performed as a soloist with orchestras around the world making his orchestral début with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra at the age of 11. Mr. Forestier has been a prize winner of many national and international competitions most recently taking top prizes at the 2019 OSM Manulife Competition. In March 2015, Mr. Forestier was invited to perform as a soloist at Carnegie Hall in New York. In May 2019, Mr. Forestier toured Asia with the award winning European ensemble – LGT Young Soloists. Since 2016, Mr. Forestier has been a student at the Mount-Royal Conservatory of Music Academy for Gifted Youth – Advance Performance Program. Presented as a student-artist at the 2019 biennial Starling-DeLay Violin

Symposium at the Juilliard School, Mr. Forestier was also a semi-finalist at the 2018 Menuhin International Competition in Geneva, Switzerland – the only Canadian to qualify. Mr. Forestier is grateful for the support of many local grants and scholarships including the Winspear Scholarship, the Shean Scholarship, and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Grant.



Russell Iceberg, Violin – Old Snowmass, CO

Russell Iceberg is a violinist based in Montréal, OC. A graduate of McGill University's Schulich School of Music as a student of Andrew Wan, Mr. Iceberg is continuing his studies with Professor Wan in McGill's Artist Graduate Diploma program. Mr. Iceberg completed bachelor's his degree University's Northwestern

Bienen School of Music, where he studied with Blair Milton of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Other significant teachers include Phyllis Freeman, Naoko Tanaka, and Scott Yoo. As a soloist, Mr. Iceberg has performed with the Maryland Symphony Orchestra, the Northwestern University Alumni Symphony, and the Colorado College Summer Music Festival Orchestra. Mr. Iceberg was a finalist in the McGill Classical Concerto Competition and two-time grand prizewinner of the McGill Chamber Music Competition as a member of the Iceberg String Quartet and of the Persée String Quartet. Mr. Iceberg was a finalist in

the 2019-2020 Golden Violin Competition. As a member of the Iceberg String Quartet, Mr. Iceberg has performed in Banff, Toronto, and Montréal in Canada, The Hague in The Netherlands, as well as in Boston, Massachusetts, New York City, Montpelier, Vermont, Stamford, New York, and Rehoboth Beach, Delaware in the United States. The Iceberg String Quartet also advanced the semi-final round of the 2019 Young Concert Artists competition in New York City. In addition to string quartet, Mr. Iceberg's chamber music activities have led him to collaborate with esteemed artists including Andrew Wan, Scott Yoo, Stephen Rose, Steven Copes, Stefan Hersh, Eric Nowlin, Charles Richard-Hamelin, Yegor Dyachkov, Jennifer Frautschi, Neal Gripp, Michel-Alexandre Broekaert, Philip Chiu, and Felix Hong.



Emad Zolfaghari, Viola – Oakville, ON

16-year-old Toronto-based violist Emad Zolfaghari comes from a musical family. Upon moving from Michigan in 2018, Mr. Zolfaghari joined the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra where he often performs as principal player, as well as The Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists on

full scholarship as the only student violist. He currently studies with Theresa Rudolph, Assistant Principal Violist of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Most recently, Mr. Zolfaghari was accepted into the Curtis Institute of Music where he will begin studying with Hsin-Yun Huang in the

fall. Mr. Zolfaghari has performed in various concerto competitions, and won first prize in the 2020 Guelph Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition, the 2019 Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra Competition, OMFA's 2019 and 2020 Provincial Finals Competition and second prize in the 2020 Oakville Chamber Orchestra Competition. He is also a finalist of the 2018 Royal Oak Concerto Competition, as well as the 2019 Geringas Memorial Scholarship competition. As result a accomplishments, Mr. Zolfaghari will appear as a soloist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Guelph Symphony Orchestra and Oakville Chamber Orchestra in the 2021/22 season. He has also performed in master classes for distinguished artists such as Roberto Díaz, Kim Kashkashian, Misha Amory, Steven Tenenbom, Teng Li, Atar Arad, Rachel Podger, and James Ehnes. Mr. Zolfaghari has been participating in the Morningside Music Bridge international summer festival on full scholarship since 2019. He also attended the 10th Center Stage Strings festival in summer of 2020 on full scholarship.



2021 Adjudicators



David Hoyt, Chair

David Hoyt graduated from the University of Alberta with a degree in musicology. While still a student, he joined the Edmonton Symphony (ESO) horn section becoming Principal Horn in 1975. He also played horn with the Canadian Opera Company, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Hamilton Philharmonic, and the Chuck Mangione Band. He played Principal Horn for the Toronto Symphony, and performed in Carnegie Hall with l'Orchestre symphonique de Montréal.

David Hoyt began conducting professionally in 1982, becoming assistant conductor of the Edmonton Symphony in 1985 and of the Canadian Opera Company in 1991. He has been guest conductor for the Atlantic Symphony, Orchestra London, the Winnipeg Symphony, the Saskatoon Orchestra, the Regina Symphony, the Calgary Philharmonic, the Edmonton Opera Company, the Alberta Baroque Ensemble, the Okanagan Symphony, the Vancouver Island Orchestra, and the Vancouver Symphony.

David Hoyt had a long-standing relationship with the Banff Centre working there yearly since 1972. He taught for ten years at the University of Alberta, and has taught across the country at Festival 500 (St. John's), The Scotia Festival (Halifax), Domaine Forget (Québec), Les Concerts Bell (Montréal), International Music Camp (Toronto), Festival of the Sound (Parry Sound), MusiCamrose (Alberta), and Courtney Music Festival (British Columbia).

David Hoyt resigned from the ESO in 2004, and presently conducts two ensembles: The Mill Creek Colliery Band and Orchestra Borealis. For the last twenty years, he has been Artistic Director of The Shean Strings & Piano Competition. He is married to pianist Janet Scott-Hoyt and they have two daughters, both musicians.



Erika Raum, Violin

Known for her "lively temperament, energetic individuality and warm and communicative tone" (Muzsika, Budapest), violinist Erika Raum has a distinct musicality and tone. Playing professionally since the age of twelve, Ms. Raum quickly rose through the ranks by taking first place at the 1992 Joseph Szigeti International Violin Competition in Budapest as well as the award for best interpretation of a Mozart concerto. She has returned on many occasions to perform in Hungary, Portugal, Sweden, Austria, Germany, England, Italy and France. She has appeared as guest artist with orchestras including the Budapest Radio

Orchestra, the Szombathely Symphony Orchestra, the Austro-Hungarian

Orchestra, and the Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra.

At home, Ms. Raum performs throughout Canada, having appeared with orchestras in cities such as Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver, Ottawa, Victoria, Halifax, Laval, and Edmonton. Both a recitalist and chamber musician, some of her international highlights include the Beethoven Festival in Warsaw, the BargeMusic Festival in New York, and the Seattle Chamber Music Festival and most recently, the Festival Pablo Casals de Prades, France and the Clandeboye Festival, Ireland. Past invitations include the Budapest Spring Festival, Szombathely Festival in Hungary, Carnegie Hall as well as the Caramoor and Prussia Cove festivals. Her performances are heard on an array of radio networks like CBC across Canada and the NPR in the USA.

Ms. Raum has been a member of the ARC Ensemble since its conception. ARC is a chamber group specializing in the rediscovery of great 20th century composers and their music, with an emphasis on those whose lives were interrupted or even lost during the Holocaust. So far, they have released four CDs on the RCA Red Seal label, two of which were nominated for Grammy Awards. The Strad Magazine even gave her special mention for her performance noting that she had them "hanging on to her every note". Her other recordings include a partnership with internationally renowned pianist Anton Kuerti for a world première recording of Carl Czerny's piano and violin works on the CBC Musica Viva label. She also recorded the Brahms Horn Trio and premièred Pantheon, a piece by esteemed composer (and mother), Elizabeth Raum, on the Arktos label

Ms. Raum is a graduate of the University of Toronto where she studied with the late Professor Lorand Fenyves and was awarded the prestigious Eaton Scholarship upon her graduation. She is currently on the faculties of The Glenn Gould School of The Royal Conservatory and the University of Toronto. She lives in Toronto with her husband, distinguished Canadian composer, Omar Daniel, their daughter Roslein, and triplets Eero, Oskar, and Roxanne.



David Stewart, Violin

Violinist David Stewart has enjoyed a wide range of experience in the music profession: as frequent soloist with orchestra, recitalist, chamber musician, studio musician, baroque violinist, concertmaster, university professor (University of Ottawa and the University of Manitoba), conductor, and as 1st violin of the Quatuor Lumière, a classical period-instrument quartet.

Presently re-engaged as First Concertmaster of the Bergen Philharmonic in Norway, he re-won his position

after a 20 years' absence.

He has been a leader in several orchestras, starting out as assistant concertmaster of the Victoria Symphony, Concertmaster of the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, and a mentor/apprentice position as Concertmaster of the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra. He has worked as a guest concertmaster in several orchestras including the Hanover Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Trondheim Symphony, the Norwegian Opera Orchestra, Edmonton Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, the Canadian Opera Company, and is regularly a guest concertmaster with the Porto (Portugal) National Symphony.

His passion for excellence in orchestral playing has led to many engagements as conductor/coach for youth orchestras around the world: multi-year engagements with the Deutsch-Skandinavische Jugend-Philharmonie in Berlin, the Orchestre de la Francophonie in Montréal, the Grieg Academy in Bergen, coaching for Norges musikkhøgskole in Oslo, Norway, and the Copenhagen Youth Orchestra. As well, he has toured China fourteen times as conductor and soloist with student ensembles from Canada and Norway.

His teachers included Oscar Shumsky, Steven Staryk, and Camilla Wicks. Mr. Stewart is co-founder of the Quatuor Lumière, the Agassiz Chamber Music Festival, and the Norwegian Contemporary music ensemble BIT20.



Paul J. Bourret — Musician, Educator, Advocate, and Friend (1933-2010)

Paul J. Bourret was born in Lebret, SK and grew up in Lethbridge, AB. He received his education at the University of Alberta, and spent all of his adult life in Edmonton. Paul was Supervisor of Music for Edmonton Catholic Schools, and Founder and Artistic Director of the Edmonton Columbian Choirs from 1966-1995. He was the

Executive Director of the Edmonton Kiwanis Music & Speech Arts Festival, Past-President of the Alberta Music Festival Association Board, and a member of the Anne Burrows Music Foundation Board. Paul was responsible for bringing the 2008 Canadian National Music Festival to Edmonton, and was instrumental in the running of The Shean Strings & Piano Competition since its inception. In his honour, The Shean Trust Committee has named the award for best performance of the test piece: the *Paul J. Bourret Memorial Award for the Best Performance of the Test Piece*.

Among his many awards are:

- Richard S. Eaton Award of Distinction for a Lifetime of Service to Choral Music in Alberta − presented by Choir Alberta.
- Member of Edmonton's Arts & Culture Hall of Fame presented by the City of Edmonton
- Alberta Centennial Medal
- Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Medal

The Shean Trust Committee

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The 2022 Shean Piano Competition will take place May 20th & 21st

The 2023 Shean Strings Competition will take place May 19th & 20th