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**Off Centre Music Salon's** extended family!  
*All concerts take place on  
Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m.*

## 2008/2009 Subscriptions

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September 28, 2008

**Toronto Salon: Streetcar 501 Stops at Off Centre**

We hope the TTC won't mind Streetcar 501's detour as it leaves Queen Street and makes a stop at Off Centre's home in Glenn Gould Studio. Artists include soprano **Shannon Mercer**, mezzo **Krisztina Szabo**, baritone **Olivier Laquerre**, violinist **Jacques Israelievitch**, **Michael Israelievitch** on marimba, accordionist **Joseph Macerollo**, flutist **Robert Aitken** and the **Zarankins** (including Young Artist soprano **Ilana Zarankin**).

November 23, 2008

**Our 14th Annual Schubertiad: Winterreise**

The inhabitants of Toronto are going to hate us: bass baritone **Peter McGillivray** and pianist **Boris Zarankin** bring in the Winter early - with Schubert's immortal vocal cycle, *Die Winterreise*. But not to worry, we promise a taste of the Spanish *Costa del Sol* too. As always, **Inna Perkis** and **Boris Zarankin** will delight us with their four hand piano duo. SPONSORED BY THE SPANISH CONSULATE GENERAL.

January 25, 2009

**Italian Salon: Rossini's La Petite Messe Solennelle**

Our Italian Salon marks the Torontonion premiere of **Rossini's La Petite Messe Solennelle** for four singers (direct from Italy!): soprano **Serena Farnocchia**, mezzo **Francesca Provvisionato**, tenor **Antonio Poli**, bass **Paolo Pecchioli**, two pianos - **Inna Perkis** and **Boris Zarankin**, harmonium - **Joseph Macerollo** and chorus. Enjoy the *Petite Messe* as it was originally performed in a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Parisian salon! CO-SPONSORED BY THE ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE & THE ITALIAN CONSULATE GENERAL.

March 1, 2009

**Russian/Hungarian Salon**

What unites Hungarians and Russians? No emotional inhibitions and a shared appreciation for gypsy melodies. Artists include mezzo **Krisztina Szabo**, sopranos **Allison Angelo** and **Joni Henson**, baritone **Giles Tomkins**, violinist **Marie Berard**, double bassist **Joel Quarrington**, cellist **Winona Zelenka**, and the **Zarankin Family**. SPONSORED BY ANNA AND LESLIE DAN.

May 3, 2009

**The Romantic Spirit: The nightingale's flight**  
from South to North

Who's spirit is the most Romantic? The nightingale sings his sorrowful song in Spain as he does in Germany. From Granados to Brahms, baritone **Russell Braun**, sopranos **Monica Whicher** and **Lucia Cesaroni** join us in celebration.

CO-SPONSORED BY THE GERMAN AND SPANISH CONSULATE GENERALS.

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BAND Stand *On Opera* Choral Scene *Jazz Notes*

## Turning the Tables

In With the New *Quodlibet* World View *Early Music*

Ever wonder what our columnists do when they're not writing for *WholeNote*? This issue, we've turned the tables on our columnists, and interviewed them! We asked them to reflect on the past year and look ahead to the next in the music world in southern Ontario and tell us what stands out for them in their "beat" and out. And just for fun we asked what their dream local musical collaboration would be, their CD of choice for a road trip, and where this road trip would take them. Read on to learn which musical group Richard Marsella has named Canada's weapons of mass destruction, Chris Hoile's reason for attending the Fringe this year, and why Allan Pulker can think of better things to do in the Rogers Centre than watch baseball!

**Think back? What was your favourite concert or most magical musical memory in the past season?**

**Karen Ages (World View):** A sold-out performance by Les Mystère des Voix Bulgares—I'd long heard this group (also known as the Bulgarian Women's Chorus) on recordings, but hearing them live was a real treat! Imagine 23 women, each with soloist capabilities, singing in tight harmonies, in that piercing Bulgarian style. It was incredible!

Also, as an oboist, I freelance with a number of orchestras here and there. My most memorable gig this season was playing English horn in Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, with the Kingston Symphony. What an amazing work! And I've enjoyed other magical moments in Kingston, in particular the annual outdoor Fort Henry concerts. It always amazes me how they time the live cannons and fireworks perfectly at the end of Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture!*

**Richard Marsella**

(*In With the New*):

What a year...By far, one of my favorite concerts from the past season was TOCA LOCA's masterful presentation of their P\*P Project at the Glenn Gould Studio on March 25. The concert drove home the fact that a new generation of Canadian composers has certainly landed.

The musicianship of the trio is really unprecedented. Percussionist Aiyun Huang and pianists Simon Docking and Gregory Oh are the country's best kept weapons of mass destruction. Seriously "Stevie", forget about the funding of new tanks and choppers...feed these three mouths until they stop breathing, PLEASE!!!

TOCA LOCA do justice to the idea of genre inclusiveness in modern art music. Most of the pieces in the concert were influenced by popular culture and this theme for the pieces had pianist Gregory Oh screaming "China!" at the top of his lungs for one piece (An-



When he's not on post at the CMC, Richard Marsella creates "extreme vaudeville" tunes as *Friendly Rich*



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drew Staniland's *Made in China*), then the trio mashing Alanis Morissette's *Hand in my Pocket* in the next (Juliet Palmer's *Five*).

*Jim Galloway (Jazz Notes):* I had the great pleasure of playing a ballad with a wonderful pianist, John Bunch, at a recent jazz party...his accompaniment was close to being sublime. Definitely a musical memory I shall treasure. Another personal highlight was at the recent Art Of Jazz tribute to John Norris, when the three tenors Kira Payne, Dan Block

and John McMurchie locked horns in a friendly jousting match in the musical interlude between *Diminuendo* and *Crescendo In Blue*. I thought it was pretty special and that The Wee Big Band played really well that night. Unfortunately, the Globe & Mail critic thought otherwise and panned us. So a highlight for me was a flickering candle for him. Oh well, one man's meat is another man's *poisson!*



PHOTO: ALAN DUNLOP

*Jim Galloway's Wee Big Band plays at the recent Art Of Jazz tribute to John Norris*

most beautiful music ever written for violin. These virtuosic works were showcased by some of the finest exponents of the baroque violin, Christopher Verrette, Julia Wedman and Aisslinn Nosky, all of whom offered brilliant performances of these remarkable masterpieces.

*Jack MacQuarrie (BandStand):* My most magical musical memory is not of a band event! It was an amazing performance of Handel's *Messiah* by the combined forces of the Elmer Iseler Singers and The Amadeus Choir. In particular it was the crystal clear rendering by soprano Meredith Hall. I have always held the opinion that audiences listen with their eyes as well as their ears. At all times Ms. Hall's radiant smile matched her crystal clear voice and confirmed to all present that she was totally immersed in the music.



PHOTO: NIETIN VIATAS

*Memories: Karen Ages with the Kingston Symphony at Fort Henry. To her left, principal oboist Barbara Bolte.*

*Allan Pulker (Choral Scene, Quodlibet):* Of the concerts I have heard this season, one that really stood out was violinist Phoebe Tsang with pianist George Brough, playing Debussy's *Sonata for Violin and Piano*, and Dvorak's *Romance for Violin and Piano* (Op.11 In F minor). Phoebe's total commitment to bringing that music fully to life at the Heliconian Hall was very inspiring.

*Frank Nakashima (Early Music):* In this past season, members of Tafelmusik performed nine of Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber's *Mystery (Rosary) Sonatas*, based on the Mystery of the Life of Christ, some of the

# ELMER ISELER SINGERS

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### 2008~2009 SEASON

### 30th ANNIVERSARY

**Sunday, September 21, 2008 - 7:00 p.m.**  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church  
**VISIONARY**

Works by Eric Whitacre, Martins Vilums, Ruth Watson Henderson, Maurice Duruflé, Henryk Gorecki, Imant Raminsh

Launch of book by Walter Pitman – Dundurn Press:  
**ELMER ISELER, Choral Visionary**

**Friday, December 5, 2008 – 8:00 p.m.**  
Metropolitan United Church  
**HANDEL'S MESSIAH**

Special Guests:

Sir David Willcocks, Guest Conductor  
Amadeus Choir and orchestra  
Soloists Leslie Fagan, Jennifer Enns,  
Colin Ainsworth and Tyler Duncan

*Pre-Concert Dinner – Albany Club/Toronto*

**Friday, February 13, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.**  
Glenn Gould Studio  
**CLASSICS**

J.S. Bach "Mass" BWV 236 in G major  
(Lutheran Mass No. 4)

John Tavener's "In Memoriam Annon Lee Silver"  
Arvo Pärt's "Berliner Mass"  
with orchestra

**Friday, April 17, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.**  
Metropolitan United Church

**30th Anniversary CELEBRATION**

Andrea Ludwig, mezzo-soprano and  
Guest Alumni of the Elmer Iseler Singers  
Aaron Copland – "In the Beginning,"  
Benjamin Britten – "Rejoice in the Lamb"  
Imant Raminsh – "Magnificat"  
Gary Kulesha – "Shaman Songs"

Arthur Honneger – Final movement: "Laudate Dominum"

**Monday, May 4, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.**  
Metropolitan United Church

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