

MOUNTAIN VIEW FESTIVAL MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mountain View Festival announces **CONVERGENCE: A THREE-PART VIRTUAL CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES** **FEATURING WORKS FOR PIANO AND STRINGS**

Six musicians, one filmmaker, and a new arts streaming platform.

A collaboration between Mountain View International Festival of Song and Chamber Music Society, Polaris Centre for the Performing Arts, Emil Agopian Film, Stagestream Live and Steinway Piano Gallery of Calgary.

Calgary, AB - June 22, 2020 - Mountain View International Festival of Song and Chamber Music Society (www.mountainviewfestival.com) will showcase three virtual concerts from June 29-July 13, featuring chamber music performances by Alberta artists. The performances, hosted by Jonathan Gresl, will feature musicians Jack Olszewski (piano), Lev Nesterov (violin), Sara Far (violin), Susanna Heystek (viola), as well as members of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, David Morrissey (cello) and Matt Heller (double bass).

The concert series will be a collaboration and partnership between **Mountain View Festival** and several organizations in the Calgary arts community, including the **Polaris Centre for the Performing Arts** (www.polariscentre.ca), **Steinway Piano Gallery of Calgary** (www.steinwaycalgary.ca), as well as filmmaker **Emil Agopian** (www.emilagopian.com) and Agopian's new arts streaming platform, **Stagestream Live** (www.stagestreamlive.tv).

CONVERGENCE will showcase three diverse 30-minute sets of musical repertoire from around the world, composed for string ensemble and piano.

Performances will be broadcast online following this schedule:

- **Light Classics: A Medley of Chamber Music Miniatures**
Live Streamed on Monday, June 29 - 6 P.M. MST (8 P.M. EST)
- **Minimalist Expressions: The Sounds of Our Time**
Release Date: Monday, July 6 - 6 P.M. MST (8 P.M. EST)
- **Mysterious & Magical: A Journey Into a World of Dreams & Imagination**
Release Date: Monday, July 13 - 6 P.M. MST (8 P.M. EST)

All performances can be viewed through the Stagestream Live platform (www.stagestreamlive.tv/series/convergence) at no charge to the general public. Donations are encouraged and will be matched up to 15% by ATB Cares through (www.atbcares.benevity.org/community/cause/124-890421597RR0001).

BACKGROUNDER ATTACHED

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MOUNTAIN VIEW INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF SONG & CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY
www.MountainViewFestival.com

BACKGROUND

About the Mountain View International Festival of Song and Chamber Music Society:

Founded in 1994, the International Festival of Song and Chamber Music Society made its inaugural debut in 1995. The Society runs two programs, The Mountain Festival of Song and Chamber Music, a summer and winter program focused on the chamber music repertoire and the song repertoire, and the Mountain View Connection Concert Series. Both programs provide opportunities for young musicians from across Canada and around the world to gain valuable experience performing and perfecting the song and chamber music repertoire.

Its new online performance project, *Isolation Point Virtual Concerts*, was created as an outlet to keep music and musicians moving forward during the COVID-19 lockdown. An immediate success, Mountain View Festival is now looking forward to being a part of this new socially distanced chamber music collaboration.

About the Polaris Centre for the Performing Arts:

Newly completed, the Polaris Centre is a brand new performing arts venue in Rocky View County, with particular emphasis on live music, theatre, and dance. While only 200 seats, the venue boasts excellent acoustics for live music. Full-colour stage lighting and an impressive custom-tuned Meyer sound system complement the space. Of particular interest is the capability to capture high-quality recordings from the stage, as well as the in-house recording studio.

About Emil Agopian Film:

Director, documentarian, animator and producer, Emil has directed documentaries in China, Europe, the USA, and across Canada. His latest feature, *The True North Project*, has garnered international awards for Directing and Animation/Editing, was a finalist for the European Cinematography Awards, won Best Documentary at the Monaco International Film Festival, and was screened at other festivals worldwide.

Emil Agopian Film represents a collective of talented filmmakers, artists and media innovators who are hand-picked for a project of any scale. From a small documentary team to a fully crewed set, Emil Agopian Film firmly believes in nurturing independent artistic voices within a powerfully cohesive team.

About Stagestream Live:

Stagestreamlive.tv is a platform where audiences gather to browse curated free, paid, and by donation live streams from the arts community and beyond. By working with Stagestream Live, concert presenters, organizations, and individual artists alike can reach a wider audience and bolster their own live online presence. Stagestream Live delivers a fully customizable experience for the marketing, purchasing, and viewing of events with our one of a kind Stagestream Live Viewer. As well as the platform, Stagestream Live offers professional in and out of venue livestream production, using industry leading technology to create cinematic results. Prioritizing artistry and sensitivity, the Stagestream Live team works closely with performers and production teams to create an immersive online experience.

About Steinway Piano Gallery Calgary:

Steinway Piano Gallery Calgary is the exclusive representative for the Family of STEINWAY Designed Pianos and Roland Digital Pianos for the Greater Calgary Area. For over 160 years, STEINWAY & SONS has been handcrafting the world's finest pianos. The store includes the entire Family of STEINWAY Designed Pianos including STEINWAY & SONS, Boston and Essex upright and grand pianos as well as award winning Roland digital pianos. The pianos come in a variety of sizes to accommodate all musical tastes and budgets. Steinway Piano Gallery Calgary also offers an incredible selection of designer styles and finishes including limited editions and one-of-a-kind instruments to complement any decor.

CONVERGENCE / Project Team, Programme Information and Release Schedule on following page



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CONVERGENCE | Project Team, Programme Information and Release Schedule:

CONVERGENCE | Project Team

Lev Nesterov and Jack Olszewski, *Project Curation & Coordination*
Emil Agopian, *Filmmaker*
Jonathan Gresl, *Host*
Ryan Starkewski, *Graphic Designer*
Megan Ray-Kowalchuk, *Social Media Coordinator*
Kathleen van Mourik, *Mountain View Festival Artistic Director*

Musicians:

Jack Olszewski, *piano*
Lev Nesterov, *violin*
Sara Far, *violin*
Susanna Heystek, *viola*
David Morrissey, *cello*
Matt Heller, *bass*

Set I | Light Classics: A Medley of Chamber Music Miniatures

Carl NIELSEN (1865-1931)

Suite for Strings, op.1, arranged by Lev Nesterov for string quintet (1888)

Michael Conway BAKER (b. 1937)*

Rhapsody for Rachmaninoff for piano and strings (2017)*

Jean FRANÇAIX (1912-1997)

L'heure de Berger (French Café Music) for string quintet and piano (1947)

Claude DEBUSSY (1862-1918)

Beau Soir, arranged by Orfeo Mandozzi/Jack Olszewski for string quintet and piano (1880)

Libby LARSEN (b. 1950)

Four on the Floor for violin, cello, bass and piano (1983)

**denotes Canadian composer*

Live Streamed on Monday, June 29 - 6 P.M. MST (8 P.M. EST)

Set II & III information on following page



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Set II | Minimalist Expressions: The Sounds of Our Time

Pavel KARMANOV (b. 1970)
Michael Music for piano quintet (2004)

Terry RILEY (b. 1935)
G Song for string quartet (1984)

Pavel KARMANOV (b. 1970)
String QuaREtet for string quartet (1997)

Release date: Monday, July 6 - 6 P.M. MST (8 P.M. EST)

Set III | Mysterious & Magical: A Journey Into a World of Dreams & Imagination

Alexandre RABINOVITCH-BARAKOVSKY (b. 1945)
Trois Invocations for string quartet and amplified celesta (1997)

Astor PIAZZOLLA (1921–1992)
Oblivion, arranged by Vyacheslav Gryaznov for piano quintet (1982)

François COUPERIN (1668-1733)
Tic-Toc-Choc, arranged by Vyacheslav Gryaznov for piano quintet (1722)

Release date: Monday, July 13 - 6 P.M. MST (8 P.M. EST)



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