

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH



NOON AT MET CONCERT SERIES

October 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2023

We are an Affirming Congregation, offering welcome and companionship to all, inclusive of age, ethnicity, gender identity, differing abilities, and sexual orientation.



For thousands of years, this land has been the traditional home of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit, covered by Treaty 13. It is still home to Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We are grateful to work, live and worship on this land.

WORD OF WELCOME

Our 2023-24 season is built upon Met's solid musical foundation, honouring established artists and giving young performers a launching pad—supported by partnerships with the Glenn Gould School, the U of T Music Faculty, the RCCO, the Norquay Fund, and others. The Patricia Wright Fund is established in honour of our Minister of Music Emerita, and has the encouragement of young organists as its stated purpose. Finally, in an event that combines liturgy, scholarship, and great music, our Good Friday choral concert, scheduled for Friday, March 29, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., features Robert Koolstra's convincing 2017 reconstruction of Bach's long-lost *St. Mark Passion*, BWV 247.

In a time when the pace of life is increasingly hectic and unstable, our souls need care. Regardless of your creed or background, we invite you to immerse yourself in the beauty of music, words, and our beautiful Gothic Revival sanctuary. You are welcome.

-Jonathan Oldengarm, Minister of Music

THE CARILLON OF METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH, TORONTO, ON

Installed in 1922, the Massey-Drury Carillon was the first well-tuned carillon in North America. The first 23 bells, cast by the Gillett & Johnston Bellfoundry in England, were donated by Chester D. Massey as a memorial to his wife, Margaret Phelps Massey. The largest bell, or bourdon, weighs 8,456 pounds (3,836 kg). It is 72 inches (183 cm) in diameter, and is almost the same in width. In 1960, twelve midrange bells, cast by Petit & Fritsen in the Netherlands, were added. They were a gift from Dr. Charles Drury. In 1971, nineteen small bells, cast by Paccard in France, were donated by the Massey Foundation, bringing the total to its current complement of 54 bells (four and a half octaves). The installation was completed in 1972, in time for the 50th anniversary of the carillon. Between 2019 and 2022, a major renovation project was conducted by Meeks, Watson & Company of Ohio.

CARILLON RECITALISTS

Thursday, October 5 at 11:30 a.m. Elisa Tersigni, Metropolitan Carillonist

Thursday, October 12 at 11:30 a.m. Naoko Tsujita

Thursday, October 19 at 11:30 a.m. tbc

Thursday, October 26 at 11:30 a.m. tbc

CHRISTIAN MASUCCI FACCHINI, COUNTER TENOR JENNIFER TUNG, PIANIST

Thursday, October 5 at 12:00 p.m.

The Blessed Virgin's Expostulation, from *Harmonia Sacra*, Z.196 Henry Purcell, 1659-1695
From rosy bow'rs, from *Don Quixote*, Z.578

Vergnügte Ruh', beliebte Seelenlust, BWV 170 Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

Abendempfindung, K.523 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756-1791

À Chloris Reynaldo Hahn, 1874-1947

Say love if ever thou didst find, from *The Third Booke of Songs and Aires*
John Dowland, 1563-1626

Music for a while, from *Oedipus*, Z.583 Henry Purcell, 1659-1695

But who may abide, from *Messiah* George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759

Encountertenor Jake Heggie, b.1961

I. Countertenor's Conundrum

The Toronto-born and raised countertenor, **Christian Masucci-Facchini**, is described as having a full, rich, and muscular sound, that paired with his "impressive stage presence" (Opera Canada), is propelling him through the classical and contemporary music scene today. He is an alumnus of St. Michael's Choir School where he was trained in classical voice, piano and violin, from 2007-2017. He has performed as a chorister and soloist internationally across Europe and North America, as well as at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica in Toronto. Christian is a graduate of York University where he studied Music, specializing in Classical Voice Performance with Stephanie Bogle. There, he achieved the first-place title in the York University Concerto Competition. For the past two years, Christian has been studying with a full-tuition Sheila K. Piercey Vocal Scholarship at The Glenn Gould School, as part of their Artist Diploma Program, at The Royal Conservatory of Music. Highlighted stage credits at The Conservatory from the 2021-2023 season include:

Rinaldo in Handel's, Rinaldo (GGs spring opera), Cupid in John Blow's, Venus and Adonis (GGs fall opera) and Refugee in Jonathan Dove's, Flight (GGs spring opera).

Christian is very passionate about Baroque and Contemporary music and found his love for combining the music and styles of these eras through working as a soloist in Toronto for an exciting project entitled 'Mother Sorrow', a secular re-imagining of the 'Stabat Mater' by Pergolesi, in collaboration with Tafelmusik, with an all-Canadian cast and crew. A summer 2023 highlight for him was journeying to Thiré, France, to join Les Arts Florissants, a world-renowned Baroque music academy, in a summer program with co-director, Paul Agnew. There, Christian took part in inspiring and exciting masterclasses and a fabulous concert, featuring works by early English composers from the Restoration period. Christian is a recent graduate of The Glenn Gould School and is looking forward to working on building this next phase of his professional career by continuing his relationship with The Conservatory, as he is thrilled to announce that he is selected as one of the 2023-24 artists in, The Rebanks Family Fellowship and International Performance Residency Program. Follow along on his musical journey on all social media platforms.

Artistic director of Toronto City Opera and assistant conductor of the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra, Dora nominated (Gould's Wall) Chinese-Canadian conductor **Jennifer Tung** leads a uniquely versatile career as music director and pianist. In 2020/21, she joined Tapestry Opera as a conducting fellow in the inaugural year of the Women in Musical Leadership program, in partnership with Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Pacific Opera Victoria. As part of her time within the program, Jennifer served as associate conductor for the world premiere of Brian Current's *Gould's Wall* for Tapestry Opera, and a brand new production of *Orfeo ed Euridice* by Vancouver Opera in collaboration with Ne Sans.

In 2017, Jennifer made her conducting debut in *The Mikado* with the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, and has subsequently returned to conduct *Sweeney Todd* and Peter Brook's *Tragedy of Carmen*. In 2019, she led *La Traviata* for Opera York and was the assistant conductor of the Dora Award winning opera *Shanawdithit* by Dean Burry and Yvette Nolan for Tapestry Opera and Opera on the Avalon.

Jennifer is a sought-after faculty member for international training programs, and is on faculty at Toronto's prestigious Glenn Gould School. She holds degrees in vocal performance and collaborative piano from the Eastman School of Music and studied conducting with Denis Mastromonaco.

PHILIP JOSEPH FILLION, ORGANIST

Thursday, October 12 at 12:00 p.m.

Toccata, Adagio, and Fugue in C, BWV 564

Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

Lotus

Billy Strayhorn, 1915-1967, arr. Alec Wyton

Rhapsody in D, op. 30

Rosseter G. Cole, 1866-1952

Pensée d'automne, op. 47, no. 2

Joseph Jongen, 1873-1953

Nun danket alle Gott, BWV 79

J.S. Bach, tr. Virgil Fox

Philip J. Fillion was appointed Cathedral Organist at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Michael, Toronto, in June 2022. He accompanies the many choirs of St. Michael Choir School at three sung Masses each weekend, in rehearsal, in concert, and on annual national and international tours. He was previously Assistant Director of Music and Organist at Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Dallas, one of the largest congregations in the Episcopal Church. There he accompanied the church's four choirs, played for services, and assisted in the administration of the music program, particularly by training the youngest choristers. From 2017-2020, he was Organist and Director of Music at St. Mary's Church in Auburn, NY. There, he directed the Choir and Schola Gregoriana, trained high school students in Gregorian chant, and accompanied the four weekend masses on the recently-restored 1890 Barckhoff and 1872 House organs (recipients of OHS Citations 396 and 397). He has also served as organist at the Cathedral Basilica of Ss. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia, Grace Church in Newark, NJ, and as choral accompanist at Elmhurst College in Chicago. He has given world premieres of works by Philip Moore, Cecilia McDowall, Angela Kraft Cross, and Todd Wilson, and accompanied choirs in tours of the United States and Europe. In 2017, he earned his master's degree in sacred music and organ at Westminster Choir College, where he studied organ with Daryl Robinson, and his bachelor's degree in organ performance at Wheaton College in 2015.

IRINA BAZIK, PIANIST

Thursday, October 19 at 12:00 p.m.

FREDERIC CHOPIN, 1810-1849

Nocturne in C Sharp Minor, Op. Posth.

Nocturne in E Flat Major, Op. 9 No. 2

Nocturne in F Minor, Op. 55 No. 1

Nocturne in D Flat Major, Op. 27 No. 2

Mazurkas, Op. 17

-*Vivo e risoluto*

-*Lento, ma non troppo*

-*Legato assai*

-*Lento, ma non troppo*

Etude in F Minor, Op. 10 No. 9

Etude in A Flat Major, Op. 25 No. 1

Etude in F Minor, Op. 25 No. 2

Etude in C Minor, Op. 25 No. 12

Dr. Irina Bazik is an internationally acclaimed pianist and researcher specializing in the nineteenth century repertoire. Her current research explores female composers-pianist in the nineteenth century, particularly focusing on the ways in which these women challenged tradition and influenced the development of piano repertoire of the time.

Bazik has been performing throughout the world from a young age, winning prizes at international piano competitions in Serbia, Italy, and France. The youngest student to ever be admitted to the Belgrade University of Arts at the age 14, Bazik completed her MMus at the Belgrade Music Academy under Mirjana Šuica-Babić. Upon graduating, Bazik won a full-merit scholarship for the Graduate Diploma Program at the Boston Conservatory under Michael Lewin. After her studies in Boston, Bazik was awarded a full-merit scholarship and a Teaching Assistantship position at UCLA, where she earned her DMA Degree. Bazik currently resides in Toronto, Canada.

JOSH ZENTNER-BARRETT, ORGANIST

Thursday, October 26 at 12:00 p.m.

Pièce d'orgue, BWV 572

Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

Douze pièces pour grand orgue
6. Lamento

Gaston Litaize, 1909–1991

Pièces de Fantaisie, Suite No. 4, Op. 55
3. Cathédrales

Louis Vierne, 1870–1937

Sonata No. 8, Op. 132
IV. Passacaglia

Josef Gabriel Rheinberger, 1839–1901

Josh Zentner-Barrett is an organist, liturgist, and musical enlivener based in Ottawa, ON. He is a PhD student in Theology at Saint Paul University where his research explores the impact of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada on the practice of Christian liturgy. Prior to beginning his PhD, Josh completed a Master of Arts in Theology at Saint Paul University, the Master of Sacred Music in Organ Performance at Southern Methodist University, and the Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance at Wilfrid Laurier University. He is an Associate of the Royal Canadian College of Organists.

A dedicated church musician, Josh is deeply committed to global music in the context of the church community. He has worked for churches and seminaries in Canada and the United States, and currently serves as Director of Music for the Anglican Studies Program at Saint Paul University as well as a member of committee developing *Then Let Us Sing / Ensemble, chantons!*, the new music resource from The United Church of Canada.

UPCOMING AT METROPOLITAN

Sunday, October 15 at 3:00 p.m. Back by popular demand, the *Trinity Bach Project* (period instruments and vocal ensemble) presents Bach's Cantata 192, motet "Der Geist Hilft", and more, with spoken word. Freewill donation. In person and livestreamed.

Friday, October 27 at 7:00 p.m. the perennial community favourite *Phantoms of the Organ* returns! A line-up of young (and young-at-heart) Toronto organists parade their favourite party pieces and costumes at the mighty Casavant. In partnership with the Royal Canadian College of Organists' Toronto Centre. Freewill donation.

Sunday, November 12 at 3:00 p.m. Two of Bach's great solo bass cantatas: *Ich habe genug*, BWV 82, and *Ich will den Kreuzstab gerne tragen*, BWV 56, performed by star Canadian bass-baritone Daniel Lichti, Tafelmusik principal oboist John Abberger, and a period instruments ensemble led by Jonathan Oldengarm. Dan celebrates his 50th anniversary season as a professional singer—and his debut was at Met United under the direction of Melville Cook. Tickets: \$25/\$15 (in person/livestream).

Noon at Met, November 2023: Thursdays at 12 pm

November 2 - Julia Mirzoev, violinist (Rebanks Fellow at the Glenn Gould School)

November 9 - Jonathan Oldengarm, harpsichordist

November 16 - Lindsay McIntyre, soprano

November 23 - Jonathan Kravtchenko, pianist

November 30 - Mark Himmelman, organist

Our sound and livestream technician is Charlie Davidson. Metropolitan's livestreaming equipment was made possible thanks to the generosity of **Wayne C. Vance**.



Your freewill donations support the ongoing musical ministry of Metropolitan United Church, and allow us to maintain our landmark heritage musical instruments and building. If you prefer to donate electronically, please visit metunited.ca/donate or scan the QR code here.

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