



Western Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

FRIDAYS AT 12:30 SERIES

Friday, March 15, 2024

12:30 p.m., von Kuster Hall and [via livestream](#)

Cara Lianne Mcleod, *soprano*

Mark Payne, *piano*

Ah! Sweet Mystery of Life	V. Herbert (1859-1924)
Sea Air from A Streetcar Named Desire	A. Previn (1929-2019)
Musica proibita	S. Gastaldon (1861-1939)
Ideale	P. Tosti (1846-1916)
Brindisi	G. Verdi (1813-1901)
A Chloris	R. Hahn (1874-1947)
Oh quand je dors	F. Liszt (1811-1886)
Nuit d'étoiles	C. Debussy (1862-1918)
Stay	M. Ekko & J. Parker (b.1984) & (b.1992)
Serendipity	C. McLeod, K. Larkin, T. Brabec, J. Hendrick (b.1960), (b.1955), (b.1943), (1921-2017)
Somewhere Over the Rainbow	H. Arlen (1905-1986)

BIOGRAPHIES

Cara Lianne McLeod's musical and artistic journey has taken her down winding and rewarding paths. Connecting with people through music is Cara's passion and gift, and consistently she is recognized as a vibrant and generous artist, both on and off stage.

From childhood voice lessons, to the Canadian Finals Rodeo singing competition finals in the early 90's, to performing the role of Contessa in LE NOZZE DI FIGARO in Rome, Italy in 2009, to writing and recording her own music, she continues to reinvent herself. Ms. McLeod's operatic performances include Annina in LA TRAVIATA, Donna Elvira in DON GIOVANNI, Nedda in PAGLIACCI, and Micaëla in CARMEN. Most recently she performed in, and subsequently produced and performed in ROBERTO DEVEREUX as Queen Elisabetta, her most challenging role to date. In recital and concert, she has appeared with Vocal Alchemy, Edmonton Youth Orchestra, Calgary Civic Symphony and Calgary Concert Opera Company, and numerous times with Alberta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) under the direction of Emilio De Mercato.

One of Cara's performing highlights is sharing the stage with her dad singing Country Roads by John Denver. A year after his passing, she would be invited by Rick Worrall to join Rocky Mountain High concerts with ESO at the Winspear Centre, and would be invited to appear as the guest soprano soloist once again, before touring with the band in 2023. At the onset of the Covid19 pandemic, Cara sang from her balcony for neighbours and friends, and ended up garnering national media attention, which connected her to friends throughout Canada. For the next 2 years Cara remained active; singing in online and outdoor performances (with Edmonton Opera, Peace Region Music Series, and Calgary Concert Opera Company), teaching, and adjudicating the Ontario Music Festival Association Provincial Junior Voice classes. She co-created & performed in Music in the Air, an outdoor concert series with ASO - together with Emilio De Mercato, they offered 26 performances in Edmonton and Alberta. In 2022, Music in the Air - One Night at the Amphitheatre, offered the audience a full-length concert of opera, classical, and pop music, and included the first live performance of Cara's debut single, My Love. She has gone on to record 3 other singles. As her artistic endeavours continue to diversify, Cara will continue to write and record music, and cross many genres on stage, as she remains a sought-after performer, teacher, adjudicator and clinician.

Mark Payne is a multi-faceted headlining entertainer. With a career spanning more than 25 years, Mark is at home performing at the highest level in literally every musical genre. He is currently the resident Music Director for the Victoria Playhouse in Petrolia. As a performer, his critically acclaimed one-man shows, *Simply Grand* and most recently, *I Love A Piano* have played consistently to sold out audiences.

Mark has also performed as soloist with professional orchestras, both as a pianist, conductor and singer. He has recorded multiple CDs, including *Simply Grand* and his most recent work, *Reflections*.

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