



# Western Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

## FRIDAYS @ 12:30 SERIES CHAMBER MUSIC, FRIENDSHIP, AND MENDELSSOHN'S OCTET

Friday, October 22, 2021

12:30 p.m., von Kuster Hall

Scott St John, *violin*

Erika Raum, *violin*

Annalee Patipatanakoon, *violin*

Mark Fewer, *violin*

Annemarie Moorcroft, *viola*

Sharon Wei, *viola*

Mischa Meyer, *cello*

Thomas Wiebe, *cello*

Sonata for Violin and Cello

*Allegro*

*Très Vif*

Maurice Ravel

(1875-1937)

Scott St John, *violin*, Mischa Meyer, *cello*

String Octet in E flat Major, Op.20

*Allegro moderato ma con fuoco*

*Andante*

*Scherzo: Allegro leggierissimo*

*Presto*

Felix Mendelssohn

(1809-1847)

*Violins:* Scott St John, Erika Raum, Annalee Patipatanakoon, Mark Fewer

*Violas:* Annemarie Moorcroft, Sharon Wei

*Cellos:* Thomas Wiebe, Mischa Meyer

*Please join us following the performance for [Talking Music](#), a new research series featuring expert insights into music research and practice by Western Music faculty members.*

### TALKING MUSIC

Since the nineteenth century, Felix Mendelssohn's *String Octet* has been a favourite for classical-music audiences – and performers too. How does it feel to play this piece? What can it teach us about chamber music as a creative and social activity? Join renowned performers Scott St John, Erika Raum, Annalee Patipatanakoon, Mark Fewer, Sharon Wei, Annemarie Moorcroft, Mischa Meyer, and Thomas Wiebe for this post-concert conversation, moderated by Jonathan De Souza, a music theorist/historian from Western's Department of Music Research & Composition.

## THE ARTISTS

Violinist **Scott St. John**, from London Ontario, is known for his joyful style of music-making and inspiring chamber music coaching. Scott is Concertmaster of the innovative ROCO Chamber Orchestra in Houston, Texas, and returns frequently to the summertime Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont. From 2018 to 2021 he was Director of Chamber Music at The Colburn School in Los Angeles. Early violin success with teacher Richard Lawrence in London Ontario gave Scott a path to the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia and the chance to work with David Cerone, Arnold Steinhardt and Felix Galimir. After winning the Alexander Schneider Competition and playing a Carnegie Hall debut, NYC pulled Scott into its orbit, where Young Concert Artists gave him fabulous opportunities for performance. In addition to a magical year of working at the Disney Store in Times Square, Scott has been Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, and Artist-in-Residence at Stanford University as part of the St. Lawrence String Quartet. Scott has received an Avery Fisher Career Grant and won a Juno Award for recording Mozart with his sister Lara St. John. He has founded two chamber music awards for students: the Felix Galimir Award at University of Toronto and the Ida Levin Award at the Colburn School. Scott loves chamber music, Dvorak, new music, music by less-known composers, and a great espresso. He has been to all the Canadian provinces, 49 of the United States, and would prefer to travel by train when practical. He is married to violist Sharon Wei and they have a 10-year-old daughter named Julia.

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.

Violinist **Annalee Patipatanakoon** is one of Canada's most respected performing artists. A graduate of Indiana University and the Curtis Institute of Music, Annalee is a laureate of the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels, and a first prize winner of both the Canadian Music Competition and Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition. Annalee is a founding member of three-time Juno Award-winning [Gryphon Trio](#). She can be heard on 22 recordings on Analekta, Naxos, and other labels. Annalee is currently Associate Professor of Violin and Performance Area Chair of Strings at University of Toronto Faculty of Music. She and Gryphon Trio members Roman Borys and Jamie Parker are ensemble-in-residence at the Isabel Bader Centre for Performing Arts in Kingston, Ontario and artists-in-residence at Trinity College, University of Toronto.

Violinist **Mark Fewer** leads a multi-disciplined life in music. Violin soloist, chamber musician, orchestral leader, artistic director, conductor, arranger, teacher, jazz violinist, recording artist and occasional radio host, he has performed worldwide to great critical acclaim. He has held the positions of Concertmaster of the Vancouver Symphony, William Dawson Scholar at McGill University, Artist-in-Residence at Stanford University, and has been a member of the Duke Piano Trio, the St. Lawrence and Supernova String Quartets, and the Smithsonian Chamber Players in Washington DC, who perform and record on a collection of famed Stradivari instruments. Currently Associate Professor of Violin at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto, he also co-directs the school's Contemporary Improvisation Ensemble. His solo appearances with orchestras in Australia, the U.S, Canada and Italy have been described as "intrepid" (Globe and Mail), "freaky good" (The Gazette), and "genre-bending" (National Post). His discography includes complete collections of works by J.S. Bach, Antonio Vivaldi, Giovanni Pandolfi, Johannes Brahms, George Antheil and others. Mr. Fewer is a Juno and Prix Opus winner and is the subject of an episode of the Biography Channel's People Uncut.

Canadian violist **Sharon Wei** is a dynamic and varied musician, establishing herself as one of the most respected violists on the scene today. She has performed throughout North America, Europe and Asia. She has appeared as concerto soloist with orchestras such as Symphony of the Redwoods, Kingston Symphony, Sinfonia Toronto, Orchestra of Southern Utah, San Francisco Chamber Orchestra and Connecticut Valley Chamber Orchestra. She will premiere Richard Mascall's "Ziigwan" viola concerto with the London Symphonia in 2022. She has given recital tours under the auspices of Debut Atlantic and Prairie Debut. Sharon co-founded Ensemble Made in Canada which won a CBC rising stars award. Their recent Mosaïque Project won a 2021 JUNO and toured to every province and territory in Canada in both traditional venues and eclectic ones such as the seabed of Hopewell Rocks at low tide. She collaborates with leading artists at chamber music festivals such as Marlboro, Verbier, Scotia Festival, Ravinia, Banff and Seattle Chamber Music Society. Sharon was on the faculty at Yale and Stanford and is currently Associate Professor at Western University. At Western Sharon has created a course for performance majors in which students learn off-stage initiatives such as networking, grant writing, website design, and managing finances. She has given masterclasses at the American Viola Society Festival, Beijing Conservatory and universities across Canada. In summers she is a regular faculty violist at Curtis Summerfest and the Orford Academy. Sharon was a National Scholar at Western, won the Yale Viola Prize and has been the recipient of grants through the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, FACTOR and Western University.

**Annemarie Moorcroft** was born in London, Ontario and began playing the violin at age 4. After seeing the light as a teenager, she switched to viola and studied at Western with Ralph Aldrich before studying in Cologne, Germany with Rainer Moog. Her musical education continued in New York, where she studied with Michael Tree and Cynthia Phelps, receiving her Masters degree from the Manhattan School of Music in 1995. In 1996 Annemarie was appointed principal violist of the German Symphony Orchestra of Berlin and soon after made her Berlin debut playing Don Quixote with Yo-Yo Ma under Vladimir Ashkenazy. She has since performed concertos under conductors Leonard Slatkin, Sir Roger Norrington and Kent Nagano among others. Annemarie is also a versatile and avid chamber musician. Her experiences performing at the Marlboro Festival were early inspirations and she was a member of the Breuninger String Quartet from 1998-2010, performing regularly in the Berlin Philharmonic Hall. Recently she has performed live chamber music on German National Radio with wonderful collaborators such as the pianist Kirill Gerstein. Annemarie became an Alexander Technique teacher in 2010 and was appointed to the viola department of the Musikhochschule Hanns-Eisler in 2019.

**Mischa Meyer**, born 1983 into a family of musicians, won the the „Deutsche Musikwettbewerb“ prize in 2007 and is regarded as one of the leading talents of his generation. Starting in 1996 he studied in Karlsruhe with Prof. Martin Ostertag, and continued his development at the Musikhochschule Hanns-Eisler in Berlin with Prof. David Geringas and Prof. Peter Bruns. As a versatile musician he is in demand for his expertise in contemporary music as well as the historic music practice of the 17th and 18th century. He explores his love for chamber music as a member of the Fontane String Quartet. Important influences were Jörg-Wolfgang Jahn, Pamela Frank, Seiji Ozawa, Steven Isserlis and Gustav Rivinius. Since 2007 he is the principal cellist of the German Symphonie Orchestra Berlin, currently under maestro Robin Ticciati. Upcoming solo performances include the Brahms Double Concerto with the DSO. Mischa Meyer plays a cello built in 2018 by Robert König and Michael Betcher.

Cellist **Thomas Wiebe** has been heard by audiences and on radio broadcasts throughout North America and Europe. Mr. Wiebe performs with Toronto's GRAMMY-nominated ARC Ensemble, including recent appearances at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Schoenberg Hall in Los Angeles, and the Sala Sinopoli in Rome. ARC Ensemble's next CD on the Chandos label, featuring the music of Dmitri Klebanov, is scheduled for release in 2021. Mr. Wiebe also is a frequent collaborator with the Art of Time Ensemble in Toronto. Mr. Wiebe has performed on numerous occasions as a guest artist with Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra London Canada. He has also been soloist with the Juilliard Orchestra at Lincoln Center in New York, and with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. He has recorded for the Chandos, CBC, Centrediscs, Doremi and Bowl labels. Thomas Wiebe studied cello in his native Winnipeg with Julie Banton. He later studied at the Eastman School of Music with Robert Sylvester and Steven Doane, and at Yale University and the Juilliard School with Aldo Parisot. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Yale. Mr. Wiebe is Associate Professor of Violoncello at the Don Wright Faculty of Music at Western University in London.