



**The Louis Sherman Concerto Competition for Young String Players** was established in 2000 with the generosity of Louis' daughter, Claudia Chance, and the Victoria Chamber Orchestra. This honours the memory of an outstanding musician. Born in Toronto, 1907, the eldest of five brothers, Louis died in October 1999.

Louis was very active in the Victoria music scene, and is remembered most for his kindness and generosity toward his fellow musicians, particularly talented young string players and emerging artists. As a benefactor, he helped to establish the Victoria Chamber Orchestra, and many of this evening's performers remember him fondly as a friend.

This season's concert will be **Friday, April 12, 2013, 8:00 pm**, and will include the winning young player's performance.

Application forms for the Louis Sherman Concerto Competition for Young String Players are available through Anja Rebstock [anja.rebstock@gmx.de](mailto:anja.rebstock@gmx.de) and the website below. Remember the deadline for submission, January 19, 2013. The finalist competition is at the Copeland Lecture Hall, St. Michael's University School, 3400 Richmond Road, Tuesday, February 26, 2013, 7:00 pm.

## VICTORIA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA 18TH SEASON

Friday February 22, 2013 8:00 PM  
First Metropolitan United Church  
Lawrence de la Haye, Clarinet  
GÁL Serenade for Strings  
HANDEL-BARBIROLI Clarinet Concerto  
TCHAIKOVSKY Souvenir de Florence

Friday April 12, 2013 8:00 PM  
First Metropolitan United Church  
Sunday April 14 12:30 PM  
Saturna Island Recreation and Cultural Centre  
WILLAN Poem for Strings  
Concerto, featuring the 2013 Louis Sherman  
Concerto Competition winner  
MOZART Symphony No. 40 in G minor

Tickets: \$20 (adult) & \$15 (senior over 65)  
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**Season tickets: \$65 (adult) & \$50 (senior over 65)**  
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THE VICTORIA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA  
PO Box 31122

# The Victoria Chamber Orchestra

## HENRY PURCELL DIDO AND AENEAS ABDELAZER SUITE, CHACONY



Yariv Aloni  
Music Director

The University of Victoria PRIMA Choir  
And Soloists  
Wade Noble, Director

Saturday, November 17, 2012 - 8:00 pm  
Sunday, November 18, 2012 - 2:30 pm

A PRESENTATION OF THE ISLAND STRING PLAYERS SOCIETY

**Henry Purcell (1659-1695)** Both parents died and he was brought up in the supportive and affectionate household of his uncle. Thought by many to be the genius of English composition, Purcell was born at a flowering of English thought. Henry VIII had englished the liturgy as a result of the rejection of Rome in his pursuit of a son. Oliver Cromwell had taken this further so that “the Great Instauration” allowed every person to interpret all authoritative texts for him and herself—medical, religious, musical, political. The printing presses allowed



wide dissemination of thought, a social medium that would take an idea or tract or composition less than a month to spread all over Europe. Charles II assumed the crown in 1660, espousing religious tolerance, until James II took over in 1685 and promoted Roman Catholicism (the seductive witches who persuaded the morally weak Aeneas). He was replaced in the bloodless revolution of 1688 by the Protestants William and Mary (the marriage Dido and Aeneas might have had), an ideal solution for the English people (represented by Dido).

*Abdelazer* (also spelled "Abdelazar") or *The Moor's Revenge* is a 1676 play by Aphra Behn, an adaptation of the c.1600 tragedy *Lust's Dominion*. Purcell wrote incidental music for a revival in the summer of 1695. It is best known for the Rondeau, used in Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* (but if you know the second and third contemporary usages of it, you are entitled to Churchillian Pride).

The *Chacony* is another study of a musical technique. Just as the fugue was the subject of our last concert, the chaconne is the study of this concert.

Purcell collaborated with many writers of the day, most successfully with Nahum Tate in *Dido and Aeneas*.

The first documented performance of *Dido and Aeneas* was at Josias Priest's girls' school in Chelsea, London around July 1689. What are the young women of the school to make of the First Sailor's song, "Take a boozy short leave of your nymphs on the shore, and silence their mourning with vows of returning, though never intending to visit them more." a cautionary tale about the commitment of young men, who will promise anything.



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### THE VICTORIA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Violin 1

Yasuko Eastman, concertmaster; Anja Rebstock, Gwen Isaacs, Susan Colonal, Don Kissinger

Violin 2

Sue Innes, leader; Cathy Reader, Fiona Millard, Jennifer Fisher, Julia Hostetler, Heather Gatland

Violas

Janet Sankey, leader; Lee Anderson, Mary Clarke, Catheryn Kennedy, Michael Klazek, Jon O'Riordan

Celli

Mary Smith, leader; Ellen Himmer, Janis Kerr, Zachary Taylor, Karen Whyte

Bassi

Richard Watters\*, leader; Richard Backus

Harpichord

Peter Smith

\*recipient of the Marian Moody Student Bursary

The **University of Victoria PRIMA Choir** is an auditioned SATB choir made up primarily of UVic students and alumni, although we do welcome talented high-school students and members of the community as well. PRIMA fills an important cultural niche by providing an opportunity for young adults to experience high-quality choral music.

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Or Aeneas' "no sooner she resigns her heart but from her arms I'm forced to part, how can so hard a fate be took? One night enjoyed the next forsook..."?

The opera opens with Belinda divining Dido's melancholy as love for the transient Trojan prince, and suggesting that marriage between Carthage and the remains of Troy (and remote possibility of Rome) would strengthen both. Dido worries that love will weaken her rule, and Belinda tells her "the hero loves as well". Dido greets the god-like Aeneas coolly, but eventually agrees to marriage (He says "I'll defy the stroke of destiny").

The Sorceress has other plans, and invites her witches and elf to her cave to plot the downfall of the Queen ("of Carthage whom we hate, as we do all in prosperous state") and Prince. The elf in Mercurial form will remind Aeneas of Jove's order to continue on to Italy. The conspirators break up in a cacophony of sound, which repeats as the thunder of the next act.

The court is on a hunting party, and conviviality abounds until the two massive strokes of thunder. "Hark! How thunder rends the mountain oaks asunder..." Everyone flurries to shelter, but Aeneas is arrested "Stay, Prince! And hear great Jove's command. He summons thee this night away...Waste no more in Love's delights..." The elf in Mercurian guise. Aeneas: "but ah! What language can I try my injur'd Queen to pacify?" This is the crux. Dido is rejected. She can only respond with dignity and pride. There is no way to retrace. There is no more trust possible. No words will take the glint of his raw ambition away.

The witches know this: "The Queen's forsook, Elissa's ruin'd Ho, ho! Ho, ho!" Dido's pain can only trace the arc to death, and her Lament is one of the most evocative of plaints. Wikipedia: *Dido's "Lament" opens with a descending chromatic line, the ground bass, which is repeated eleven times throughout the aria, thus structuring the piece in the form of a ciaccona. The meter is 3/2 in the key of G minor. Purcell has applied word painting on the words "laid" which is also given a descending chromatic line portraying death and agony, and "Remember me," which is presented in a syllabic text setting and repeated with its last presentation leaping in register with a sudden crescendo displaying her desperate cry with urgency as she prepares for her fate:*

*Thy hand, Belinda, darkness shades me, On thy bosom let me rest, More I would, but Death invades me; Death is now a welcome guest. When I am laid, am laid in earth, May my wrongs create No trouble, no trouble in thy breast; Remember me, remember me, but ah! forget my fate. Remember me, but ah! forget my fate.*



**Yariv Aloni**, director of the Victoria Chamber Orchestra since 1995, is also the founder and music director of the Galiano Ensemble of Victoria and music director of the Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra. Acclaimed by critics for his sensitivity and virtuosity, he performs in major concert halls around the world. He received his early training in Israel, where he studied viola with David Chen at the Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem and subsequently with the late Daniel Benyamini, principal violist of the Israel Philharmonic. His chamber music studies took him to the United States, where he studied with Michael Tree of the Guarneri String Quartet at the University of Maryland. A former member of the Aviv and the Penderecki Quartets, he can be heard on CDs issued by the United, Marquise, Tritonus and CBC labels, and has recorded for the CBC, the BBC, National Public Radio, Radio-France and the Israeli Broadcasting Corporation. Mr. Aloni studied conducting with the Hungarian conductor János Sándor, and he participated in conducting workshops with Gustav Mayer and Helmuth Rilling. As a conductor, he has received praise for conducting his impassioned, inspiring and "magnificently right" interpretations of major orchestral and choral repertoire. Reviewers also describe him as "a musician of considerable insight and impeccable taste."



**Wade Noble** has lived in Victoria since 1987 and holds a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from the University of Victoria. Wade is sought after as a conductor, instructor, clinician and baritone soloist throughout Vancouver Island, and is well known for being able to bring out high levels of musicianship from people of widely varying skills and backgrounds. In addition to his work with PRIMA, Wade also conducts the award-winning Vancouver Island Chamber Choir and travels to Sooke weekly to conduct the Sooke Philharmonic Chorus.

*Programme*

**Abdelazer Suite, or The Moor's Revenge, Z570**

- Overture*
- Rondeau*
- Air*
- Air*
- Minuet*
- Air*
- Jig*
- Hornpipe*
- Air*

**Chacony in G minor, Z730**

*Intermission*

**Dido and Aeneas**

*An Opera in 3 Acts, Z626*

Soloists:

- |                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Dawna Beach       | Dido        |
| Xuguang Zhang     | Aeneas      |
| Cassandra Lemoine | Belinda     |
| Anna Shill        | 2nd Woman   |
| Erin Ronningen    | Sorceress   |
| Andrea Paddock    | 1st Witch   |
| Eve Richardson    | 2nd Witch   |
| Olivia Selig      | Elf/Mercury |
| Joshua Lovell     | Sailor      |

**PRIMA CHOIR:** Jenna Barmi, Lane Foster-Adamson, Amy Frueh, Stephanie Gustin, Danielle Hampton, Missy Haynes, Leah Hohman, Kelsey Johansen, Rick Knoles, Gillian Longman, Emily McFarland, Amber Messmer, Bronwynn Nestegaard-Paul, Nick Pettyjohn, Patrick Reid, Anna-Lena Steiner, Leah Tidey, Jennifer Tong, Riley Vainionpaa