

19TH SEASON 2013-2014

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Friday, May 9, 2014, 8:00 PM  
**St. Mary's Anglican Church, 1701  
Elgin Street, V8R 5L7, in Oak Bay  
(note change of venue)**

BOCCHERINI Symphony No. 3  
Concerto, featuring the 2014 Louis Sherman  
Concerto Competition winner  
RESPIGHI Trittico Botticelliano



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The Victoria Chamber Orchestra



Yariv Aloni  
Music Director

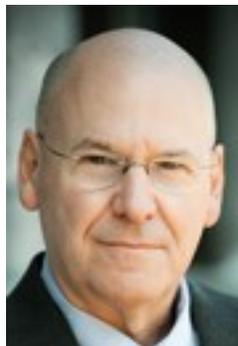
Friday, February 21, 2014 – 8:00 PM

A PRESENTATION OF THE ISLAND STRING PLAYERS SOCIETY



**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1756 – 1791**

In 1783 on a Sunday afternoon in Vienna, Mozart and several of his friends went to the home of his patron, Baron Gottfried van Swieten, to study the manuscripts of J.S. Bach. Bach's music was no longer in style during the late 18th century, and the complex counterpoint of his fugues had been replaced by the new Classical style. Upon seeing these fugues, Mozart dashed off *Fugue in C minor*, originally for two pianos. In 1788, he orchestrated it for string orchestra and added the Adagio. Mozart follows the form of Bach's fugues quite precisely. The principal theme, introduced by the cello and bass, is in turn imitated by the other three voices, expanded, played upside down in inversion, and tumbled together in close succession. However, the melodic and harmonic language and the expressive quality belong unmistakably to Mozart. AC



**Stephen Chatman 1950 –** is one of Canada's most prominent composers. He is Professor of Composition at UBC in Vancouver. A multiple Juno nominee, he is the recipient of many composition awards. He writes of this piece, "In June, 2002, Maestro Bramwell Tovey suggested that I compose a dramatic string orchestra work for the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. Coincidentally, a week later, a producer at "Take Five", CBC Radio 2, telephoned me, proposing to commission a

chamber work for its Glenn Gould Studio, Toronto Live to Air "Over Thorns to Stars" broadcast, in honour of victims of the September 11 attacks. Fulfilling the wishes of both the CBC and the VSO, I created a 9-minute work, initially for string quartet and tenor, *Per Aspera ad Astra (Over Thorns to Stars)*, and arranged it in 2003 for Bramwell Tovey and the VSO. In composing *Over Thorns to Stars*, I attempted to express through music many emotions: agony, love, valour, determination, and above all, the resilience of the human spirit. The work's simple, austere opening is played with great dignity – the slow rising lines, constantly increasing in intensity, express hopefulness and strength." Steve's next project is *A Song of Joys* using the same forces as Beethoven's 9th, with which it is paired in the Calgary Philharmonic concert of May 1 this year. Well worth the trip, if you can still get a ticket. RB

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Allyn Chard  
Francis Wu

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Cathy Reader  
Gwen Isaacs  
Fiona Millard  
Jennifer Fisher

**Viola**

Janet Sankey, leader  
Catheryn Kennedy  
Jon O'Riordan  
Mary Clarke  
Michele MacHattie

**Cello**

Mary Smith, leader  
Janis Kerr  
Trevor MacHattie  
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Becky Major

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**GERMAN ROMANTICS**

**Saturday, March 1, 2014, 2 p.m.**

Alix Goolden Performance Hall

<i>Yariv Aloni</i>	<b>Weber</b>	<i>Nathan Jacklin &amp;</i>
music director	<b>Mendelssohn</b>	<i>Evan Hesketh</i>
	<b>Schumann</b>	assistant conductors

www.civorchestraofvictoria.org



**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.

**Louis Sherman Concerto Competition for Young String Players** at the Schaffter Hall, Tyndall Room, St. Michael's University School, 3400 Richmond Road, Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 7:00 pm. Admission is by donation. Come and support the players!



Some previous winners, clockwise from top left: Eejhoon Kwon, Ceilidh Briscoe, Nikki Chooi, Rylan Gajek, Nelson Moneo & Jessica Pickersgill, Thomas Kempster.



**Max Bruch 1838 – 1920** wrote, "one good melody is worth more than 200 art melodies in depth of emotion, power, originality and beauty". *Serenade on Swedish Folk Melodies* was written in 1916, when Bruch was in his late 70s and still a romantic. The five charming, melodic miniatures clearly prove his point. Organized in an arch form, the first and fifth movements are marches, based on

the Royal March of Karl XII, and the delicate, sometimes somber, spiccato of the strings neatly frames the three middle movements. The second (*andante*) movement begins with the melody of a Swedish love song played *con sordini* (muted) by the celli and violas and is the longest movement in the Serenade. Movement 4 (*andante sostenuto*) is sonorous and emotional, though the writing always has a light touch. The 1st violins at times play filigree passages over the melody, reminiscent of sections of the slow movements of Bruch's familiar compositions for violin and orchestra. The top of the arch, movement 3, is a rhythmic, dance-like *allegro* that ebbs and flows through subtle tempo changes. Although the dynamic level is usually very quiet, be prepared for several surprising *fortissimos*. AC

**Ernest Bloch 1880 – 1959** was a Swiss-born American composer who was a revered teacher. His *Concerto Grosso* of 1924 opens with a noble struggle – perhaps the struggle of life – with a series of rising chords. These are followed by rapid descending scales, followed by slower rising scales as we struggle back. We are again knocked down, and it now takes more effort to regain that life until the movement closes with an A-minor chord that seems to say that our time is up. The second movement, *Dirge*, is a beautiful *andante moderato* which expresses regret, loss, sighing – just what we feel ourselves as we get older, experience change or loss, or consider the prospect of death. The third movement, *Pastorale and Rustic Dances*, starts out dreamily, recalling other times as we awaken to a dance that eventually takes over the pastoral and becomes even more majestic as it closes – the noble dance of life? The fourth movement, *Fugue*, is everyday reality, lots of things happening at the same time, struggle and competition. But eventually, we again hear the noble rising chords from the first movement, reminding us of the great mission that life puts upon us. (I'll let each of you decide for yourselves what that may be). We continue to rise up in a struggle that closes the whole work in a D-major chord of victory! DK



**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 Mary-

land. 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."

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*Programme*

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

Adagio and Fugue in C minor KV 546

**Stephen Chatman**

Over Thorns to Stars

Becky Major, Trumpet

**Max Bruch**

Serenade on Swedish Folk Melodies

*March*

*Andante*

*Allegro*

*Andante sostenuto*

*March*

*Intermission*

**Ernest Bloch**

Concerto Grosso for String Orchestra with Piano Obligato

*Prelude*

*Dirge*

*Pastorale and Rustic Dances*

*Fugue*

Sydney Bulman-Fleming, Piano

