



The Royal  
Conservatory®

# MUSIC LIGHTS THE WAY EVENT

KOERNER HALL, APRIL 27, 2022

The Royal Conservatory of Music acknowledges the sacred land upon which our organization operates. It has been a site of sharing music and community for 15,000 years.

The land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt treaty, a covenant between several Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee nations to share the land in the spirit of peace, friendship, and respect.

In The Royal Conservatory's Koerner Hall, Indigenous artists such as Tomson Highway, Tanya Tagaq, Robbie Robertson, Richard Van Camp, The Jerry Cans, Susan Aglukark, Lacey Hill, and Buffy Sainte-Marie have shared their work, and three of those have received Honorary Fellowships. The Royal Conservatory is proud of its consistent record of engagement with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people, as well as its work with youth at risk, with low-income communities, with new Canadians, and in uniting all Canadians through music and the arts.

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# MUSIC LIGHTS THE WAY

**Music has an extraordinary ability to satisfy our need for belonging, to comfort and heal at a time of uncertainty, and to bring people together. And during times of challenge, crisis, or pause, music offers hope and inspiration. Simply put, music lights the way.**

This concert celebrates the launch of the *Celebration Series®*, *Sixth Edition*. This highly anticipated series of piano books features new pieces that are being published for the first time, as well as a broader selection of repertoire in different styles. I am particularly excited about this series because it offers much in the way of new repertoire that will motivate and inspire students. The repertoire in tonight's concert can be found in the new series and several of these pieces will have their world-premiere performance.

We also pay tribute to the work of music teachers everywhere as they continue to inspire and nurture the next generation of musicians and instill in them a lifelong appreciation for music. The work of teachers is more important than ever because the capacity to create and love music elevates the human condition in a way that no other activity can match.

Over the past two years, The RCM supported teachers by providing free access to the RCM Teacher Portal resource, by developing videos to help teachers transition to online teaching and adding functionality to our Teacher Directory connecting parents and students with teachers in their area, including those offering lessons online.

Additionally, the RCM has made an unprecedented decision to provide free sets of the new *Celebration Series®*, *Sixth Edition* for piano to teachers who qualify, and teachers of other instruments will receive another equally generous offer. This unparalleled decision is our way of saying thank you and helping our teachers, of all disciplines, who have continued to instruct students using our curriculum and examinations.

Enjoy the concert.



Dr. Peter Simon,  
President & CEO, The Royal Conservatory of Music  
April 2022



**“Advancing the transformative power of music lies at the heart of everything The Royal Conservatory does.”**  
Dr. Peter Simon

# MUSIC LIGHTS THE WAY TO HUMAN POTENTIAL

## THE RCM CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

For over 130 years, The Royal Conservatory of Music has been a leader in developing human potential through leadership in music education and the arts.

**The RCM Certificate Program** is the foundation of our educational mission; it provides students with a pedagogically sound, sequenced program for music study and achievement from Elementary through Advanced levels.

The RCM Certificate Program is available for more than 20 instruments, voice, speech arts and drama, and is used by more than 500,000 students and 30,000 teachers across North America. The RCM Certificate Program is considered the gold standard for developing high-calibre musical literacy.



The world's finest  
program of music  
study and  
assessment



# MUSIC LIGHTS THE WAY TO ACHIEVEMENT

## MEET SOME OF OUR ILLUSTRIOUS ALUMNI

More than five million alumni of The RCM have extended the benefits of music education into careers in a wide range of fields, including medicine, law, science, and professional athletics. Here are a few of our notable alumni who embody the transformative power of music.

### Music

**Oscar Peterson:** Grammy and Juno Award-winning pianist and composer, Companion of the Order of Canada; Honorary Fellow of The Royal Conservatory

**Burton Cummings:** Performer, singer-songwriter, member of The Guess Who, and Honorary Fellow of The Royal Conservatory

**Diana Krall:** Grammy and Juno Award-winning jazz singer and pianist; Officer of the Order of Canada

**Chantal Kreviazuk:** Juno Award-winning singer-songwriter and pianist; Honorary Fellow of The Royal Conservatory

**k.d. lang:** Grammy and Juno Award-winning singer-songwriter; Honorary Fellow of The Royal Conservatory

**Gordon Lightfoot:** Singer and songwriter, Companion of the Order of Canada

### Business

**Michael Koerner:** President of Canada Overseas Investments Limited; Chancellor of The Royal Conservatory

**Denise Donlon:** Business executive, television, producer, host, and Member of the Order of Canada; Honorary Fellow of The Royal Conservatory

### Film & Television

**Norman Jewison:** Multiple Academy Award-nominated film director, Companion of the Order of Canada

**Simu Liu:** Award-winning actor

**Sandra Oh:** Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild Award-winning actress

**Ryan Reynolds:** Film actor

### Media

**Jeanne Beker:** Television host and journalist

**Piya Chattopadhyay:** CBC broadcaster

**Heather Hiscox:** Television anchor, CBC News Network

### Sports

**Jeremiah Brown:** Olympic medalist, author, speaker, and Honorary Fellow of The Royal Conservatory

**Scott Niedermayer:** NHL Hockey Player

### Science

**Chris Hadfield:** Astronaut, engineer, pilot, author, producer, professor, business advisor, and Honorary Fellow of The Royal Conservatory



# MUSIC LIGHTS THE WAY

## INTRODUCING THE *CELEBRATION SERIES*<sup>®</sup>, SIXTH EDITION

The *Celebration Series*<sup>®</sup>, *Sixth Edition* is a comprehensive series of graded repertoire and etudes for piano. Developed by a team of leading pedagogues this outstanding collection features music from the Baroque era to the present day to inspire students and teachers. With 514 pieces representing composers from over 20 countries, the *Celebration Series*<sup>®</sup> features newly published pieces exclusively commissioned for the series, as well as a broader selection of repertoire to engage students.

“Our students do not realize what a privilege it is for them to study from the *Celebration Series*<sup>®</sup>, for they lack the perspective which we bring; ....their growth as young musicians is inextricably linked to the fact that they are studying from this curriculum.  
–Marvin Blickenstaff

## **CELEBRATION SERIES® , SIXTH EDITION – LIVING COMPOSERS**

Curating this book series is one way we realize our mission to develop human potential through the arts. Supporting living artists, and commissioning new pieces helps music to wield its profound power to connect people and inject vibrancy in our culture. The *Celebration Series® , Sixth Edition* includes pieces by over 70 living composers and 35 pieces commissioned for the series. This series features composers from more than 20 countries, including 47 Canadian composers and 54 American composers.

### **Australia**

Elissa Milne

### **Canada**

Barbara Assiginaak  
Colleen Athparia  
Joanne Bender  
John Burge  
Maria Case  
Stephen Chatman  
Renée Christopher  
Christine Donkin  
Emily Doolittle  
Martha Hill Duncan  
Ina Dykstra  
Pierre Gallant  
Anne Crosby Gaudet  
Janet Gieck  
Susan Griesdale  
Marc-André Hamelin  
Vincent Ho  
An-Lun Huang  
Edward Han Jiang  
George Kenins  
Sarah Konecsni  
Larysa Kuzmenko  
Rachel Laurin  
Alexina Louie  
Maggie Lu  
David L. McIntyre  
Jason Noble  
Christopher Norton

Katya Pine  
Teresa Richert  
Peter Rudzik  
Heather Schmidt  
Nancy Telfer  
Jeannine Vanier

### **Czech Republic**

Jakub Metelka

### **England**

Alison Mathews  
Gary K. Thomas

### **Germany**

Barbara Arens  
Mike Schoenmehl  
Kerstin Strecke

### **Ireland**

Ailbhe McDonagh

### **Japan**

Naoko Ikeda

### **Scotland**

Evelyn Glennie

### **USA**

H. Leslie Adams  
Dennis Alexander  
Seymour Bernstein

Melody Bober  
Timothy Brown  
Valerie Capers  
Kevin Costley  
Emma Lou Diemer  
James Domine  
Lee Evans  
Nancy Faber  
Randall Faber  
Tom Gerou  
Joyce Grill  
Diane Hidy  
Libby Larsen  
Emilie Lin  
Helen Marlais  
Edwin McLean  
Martha Mier  
Dorothy Rudd Moore  
Mark Mrozinski  
Susan Ogilvy  
Nkeiru Okoye  
Kevin Olson  
Elvina Pearce  
Dianne Goolkasian Rahbee  
Catherine Rollin  
Wynn-Anne Rossi  
Jason Sifford  
Bradley Sowash  
Mike Springer  
Chee-Hwa Tan  
Michael Valenti  
Judith Lang Zaimont

## ABOUT THE *CELEBRATION SERIES*<sup>®</sup>, SIXTH EDITION

Our expertly curated piano series, *Celebration Series*<sup>®</sup>, *Sixth Edition* includes:

- 12 repertoire books and 10 etudes books
- 514 pieces
- Repertoire from all periods – Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Contemporary
- 222 different composers from over 20 countries
- 35 selections composed especially for the series
- Familiar favourites from the teaching canon along with exciting new pieces to discover
- An online teacher community with:
  - high-quality audio video recordings of every piece in the series to inspire students and teachers
  - teaching videos by living composers
  - biographies of all the composers in the series

The *Celebration Series*<sup>®</sup>, *Sixth Edition* has been over three years in the making. Curating an undertaking of this kind took the efforts of a large and dedicated group of over 60 people involved in research, compilation, editing, production, recording, and licensing of a diverse and outstanding repertoire – all with the goal of delighting, inspiring, and nourishing piano students on their journey from their first lessons through to advanced study. Led by Elaine Rusk, we are immensely proud of the team at The RCM and offer huge thanks to the following individuals:

### Series Compilers

Tom Green  
Andrew Hisey  
Elaine Lau  
Dianne Werner  
Dale Wheeler  
Jane Wood  
Peteris Zarins

### Publishing

Alison Sloan  
Jennifer Gilchrist  
Amanda Lucier  
Andrew Fitzpatrick  
Jaqueline Ravensbergen  
Kathy Bidell  
Dejan Badnjar – Desktop  
Music Publishing  
First Image – Interior  
Design

### Academics

Janet Lopinski  
Jane Campbell  
Maria Case

### Audio/Visual Performing Artists

Kevin Ahfat  
Michael Berkovsky  
Younggun Kim  
Langning Liu  
Anton Nel  
Benjamin Smith  
Li Wang  
Dianne Werner  
Todd Yaniv

### Audio/Visual Production

Younggun Kim  
Leslie Ashworth  
Pouya Hamidi  
Brandon Wells  
Ben Ewing  
Adrian Mehes  
Christopher Murphy  
Doğa Zeren  
Sasha Bult-Ito  
Geoffrey Conquer  
Koerner Hall Production Staff & Crew



**“I feel so honored to have been asked to record these beautiful pieces for the *Celebration Series*<sup>®</sup>. Since many of these gems have not been recorded, I’m thrilled to be the one introducing them to the public.”**  
–Anton Nel

# PRESENTERS



**Marvin Blickenstaff**  
Teacher and Lecturer



**Randall Faber**  
Pianist and Educator



**Vincent Ho**  
Composer



**Dr. Janet Lopinski**  
Senior Director, Academic  
Programs, Faculty,  
The Glenn Gould School



**Mervon Mehta**  
Executive Director,  
Performing Arts



**Stephen Pierce**  
Associate Professor of  
Practice, USC Thornton  
School of Music



**Elaine Rusk**  
Vice President,  
Academics and Publishing



**Barry Shiffman, B.M., ARCT**  
Director, The Phil and Eli Taylor  
Performance Academy for  
Young Artist and Associate  
Dean & Director of Chamber  
Music, The Glenn Gould School



**Dr. Peter Simon**  
Michael and Sonja Koerner  
President & CEO, The Royal  
Conservatory of Music



**Gary K. Thomas**  
Composer

# THE MUSIC LIGHTS THE WAY CONCERT PERFORMERS



## **STEWART GOODYEAR**

Stewart Goodyear is an accomplished concert pianist, improviser, and composer. Goodyear has performed with many of the world's leading orchestras and chamber music organizations. He is an RCM alumnus and recently named Artist in Residence of The Royal Conservatory of Music.



## **ANGELA HEWITT**

One of the world's leading pianists, Angela Hewitt appears in recital and as soloist with major orchestras around the world. Awarded the City of Leipzig Bach Medal in 2020, she was the first woman in its 17-year history to receive the award. She also received the Wigmore Hall Gold Medal in recognition of performances in London's most prestigious chamber music venue.



## **LANG LANG**

A pianist, educator, philanthropist, and ambassador for the arts, Lang Lang has fully embraced new technology and innovation, leading the way to bringing classical music into the 21st century. Equally at home playing for millions at the 2008 Olympic Opening Ceremony in Beijing, or for just a few hundred students in public schools, Lang Lang is a master at communicating through music.



## **JAN LISIECKI**

Jan Lisiecki's interpretations and technique speak to a maturity beyond his age. Following his acclaimed Night Music recitals, Lisiecki is presenting a new all-Chopin recital programme in over 30 cities ending in 2022 as well as return by invitation to perform with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, and Filarmonica della Scala, among others. Jan is an award-winning RCM alumnus.



## **HEATHER SCHMIDT**

Heather Schmidt's dual talents as pianist and composer have garnered praise in both her native country of Canada and on the international musical scene. As a virtuoso pianist, Heather excels in both traditional and contemporary repertoire and regularly performs as a guest soloist with orchestras, as an in-demand chamber musician and long-time collaborator with Canadian cellist Shauna Rolston.



## **DIANNE WERNER**

Acclaimed for her lyrical and poetic style, Dianne Werner has performed as soloist, chamber musician and collaborative pianist in most major cities throughout the world. After foundational training at The Royal Conservatory, Dianne continued her studies and went on to win a number of major prizes including in the Young Keyboard Artists Association Competition in the United States and the Silver Medal at the prestigious Viotti-Valsesia International Piano Competition in Italy. Dianne is a member of the faculty of The Royal Conservatory.



## **TONY YIKE YANG**

Tony Yike Yang is emerging as one of the foremost pianists of the next generation. Yang garnered 5th Prize at the 17th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition at age 16 – the youngest-ever laureate of the competition. Yang has performed extensively in Canada and the United States, and is an award-winning RCM alumnus.

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## **STUDENT PERFORMERS**

### **Claudia Ho**

9 years old from Calgary Alberta  
Teacher: Minako Hulkenburg

### **Hope Thomas**

16 years old from Park City, Utah  
Teacher: Heather Smith

### **Connor Tran**

9 years old from San Marino, California  
Teacher: Stephen Pierce

# CELEBRITY TRIBUTES



## **EUGENE LEVY**

Actor, comedian, Grammy and Emmy award winner



## **DAVID FOSTER**

Musician, composer, arranger, record producer and multiple Grammy award winner



## **PAUL SHAFFER**

Singer, composer, actor, author, comedian and multi-instrumentalist

# MUSIC LIGHTS THE WAY CONCERT PROGRAM

**Show Opening – RCM video**  
**Host Mervon Mehta's Welcoming Remarks**

**Tony Yike Yang**

Sonata in C Major, K 330: First Movement, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

**Elaine Rusk**

Vice-President of Academics and Publishing for The Royal Conservatory of Music  
Introduction to the *Celebration Series®*, *Sixth Edition*

**Marvin Blickenstaff**

Tribute to The Royal Conservatory of Music and the *Celebration Series®*, *Sixth Edition*

**Eugene Levy – RCM Tribute**

**Stephen Pierce**

Teacher of Connor Tran

**Student Performance**

Connor Tran: *The Stormy Sea*, by Anne Crosby Gaudet

**Elaine Rusk**

*Celebration Series®*, *Sixth Edition* highlights

**Jan Lisiecki**

Nocturne in E flat Major, op. 9, no. 2, by Frédéric Chopin

**Heather Schmidt**

*Shimmer* by Heather Schmidt and *Canoeing*, op. 119, no. 3, by Amy Beach

**Vincent Ho**

Composer remarks and introduction of his daughter, Claudia Ho

**Student Performance**

Claudia Ho: *Little Dragon* and *Monkey See, Monkey Do*, by Vincent Ho

**Dianne Werner**

Intermezzo No. 1, by Manuel Ponce and *Alla reminiscenza*, op. 38, no. 8, by Nikolai Medtner

**Gary K. Thomas**

Composer remarks and introduction of his daughter, Hope Thomas

**Student Performance**

Hope Thomas: *Flip Flops*, by Gary K. Thomas (World Premiere)

**Gary K. Thomas Introduces Stewart Goodyear**

**Stewart Goodyear**

*The Cat and Mouse Tango*, by Gary K. Thomas (World Premiere),  
and tribute to his teacher, Jim Anagnosan

**Teacher Tribute – Video**

**Angela Hewitt**

English Suite No. 4 in F Major, BWV 809: Gigue, by Johann Sebastian Bach

**Paul Shaffer – RCM Tribute**

**Randall Faber**

Tribute to music teachers

**Tony Yike Yang**

*A Moonlit Night on the Spring River*, arranged by Edward Han Jiang (World Premiere)

**Peter Simon**

**Michael and Sonja Koerner President & CEO,  
The Royal Conservatory of Music**

**Announcement**

**Lang Lang**

*Canción de mayo*, op.1, no.3, by Enrique Granados

**David Foster – RCM Tribute**

**Janet Lopinski and Barry Shiffman**

**Music Lights the Way Piano Festival**

**Stewart Goodyear**

*Land of the Misty Giants*, by Oscar Peterson

**Closing Remarks**

**Please join us for a post-concert celebration on  
the Leslie & Anna Dan Galleria – Lower Balcony Level**



The Royal  
Conservatory®

