

Bio

ARTefact Chamber Music

GROUP BIO

ARTefact is an ensemble of four spirited, like-minded musicians who joined forces in 2008 to celebrate the centenary of Olivier Messiaen's birth. A Canadian tour featuring Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time garnered unanimous reviews, "Each of the performers is a virtuoso of the highest order... The result was an extraordinary performance, one that will long remain etched in the minds of those who heard it."

Hailed for "their extraordinary technical skills and musicianship" and their "special feel for the music and a sense of communication that could not be missed", the individual members of ARTefact are at the forefront of their respective fields, yet play together "as if this was something they had been doing for a quarter of a century. Occasionally one finds a special alchemy among performers, and this was unquestionably the case here."

ARTefact's four members view the ensemble not only as an opportunity to present pieces from the broad and vivid repertoire for clarinet, violin, cello and piano, but also as a fount of varied and versatile repertoire for combinations within its instrumentation; piano trio, clarinet trio, instrumental sonatas, duos and solos. Passionate for the Classical and Romantic repertoire for these instrumental combinations, the members of ARTefact are also distinct advocates of the music of our time. Each member has had concertos and solos written for him and correspondingly, ARTefact builds on its musicians' ongoing commitment to expand their instruments' repertoire with a new mission: commissioning and premiering new works for this ensemble's unique and popular instrumentation. To this end ARTefact has commissioned pieces from Canadian luminaries such as Serge Arcuri, Michael Oesterle and Nicolas Gilbert. Drawing from repertoire that traverses the centuries, ARTefact's performances are as riveting as they are engrossing, "of the highest intensity, absolutely searing in its emotional force in live performance". Dedicated to the music of today, devoted to the music of yesterday, ARTefact's imaginative and innovative programming, coupled with an irrepressible energy, make them the only group of its kind on the Canadian chamber music scene.

INDIVIDUAL BIOS

Jonathan Crow, violin

Upon graduation from McGill University in 1998, Jonathan Crow joined the Montreal Symphony as Associate Principal Second Violin, and won the Associate Concertmaster chair 5 months later. He was appointed Concertmaster in 2002, a position he held until 2006, becoming the youngest Concertmaster to lead a major North American orchestra. Jonathan is currently Assistant Professor of Violin at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University. He has been featured as soloist with orchestras throughout North and South America, working with conductors such as Charles Dutoit, Kent Nagano, Sir Yehudi Menuhin, Mario Bernardi, and João Carlos Martins. As an advocate of contemporary music he has premiered works by Michael Conway Baker, Marjan Mozetich, Luna Pearl Woolf, Bramwell Tovey, Ana Sokolovic, Eldon Rathburn, Barrie Cabena, Ernest MacMillan and Healey Willan, and includes in his repertoire major concerti by such composers as Gyorgy Ligeti, Alfred Schnittke, Brian Cherney and Leonard Bernstein. An avid chamber musician, Jonathan has performed at festivals throughout the world including Banff, Ravinia, Orford, Domaine Forget, Seattle, Montreal, Ottawa,

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Incontri in Terra di Sienna, Alpenglow, Orford, Festival Vancouver, Pernambuco (Brazil), and Strings in the Mountains, and can be heard frequently on Chaîne Culturelle of Radio-Canada, CBC Radio Two, and National Public Radio, along with Radio France and the RAI in Europe. Mr. Crow has recorded for CBC/SRC, Skylark, Oxingale, XXI-21 and Atma labels.

Yegor Dyachkov, cello

Named Canadian "Artist of the Year" by the CBC and recipient of the Young Canadian Musician Award in 2000, Yegor Dyachkov "is undoubtedly a cellist of great stature: the natural bowing, the rich, deep sound, the total concentration, the interpretative sense, he has it all." (La Presse, Montreal). As recitalist, soloist, and chamber musician, he performs in Europe, Asia, Latin America, Canada and the United States. His schedule includes invitations from the Évian, Kronberg, Tanglewood, Rio Cello and Vancouver festivals as well as from the Geneva Chamber Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic of Flanders, the Montréal Symphony Orchestra and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Yegor Dyachkov has premiered works dedicated to him such as the Sonata by Jacques Hétu, Ironman by Michael Oesterle, as well as Menuhin : Présence by the late André Prévost. He was invited by Yo-Yo Ma and Sony Music to take part in the Silk Road Project. Winning the Orford International Competition led to an invitation from the Chandos label to record his debut CD in 1997. His other acclaimed recordings can be found on the Briosio, Pelléas and Analekta labels. His performances are broadcast on radio and television in Canada and abroad. Yegor Dyachkov's principal mentors have been Aleksandr Fedorchenko in Moscow, Yuli Turovsky in Montréal and Boris Pergamenschikow in Cologne. He offers frequent masterclasses and teaches at McGill University.

Simon Aldrich, clarinet

Called "a spectacular player" by The Los Angeles Times, holder of a doctorate and two masters degrees from Yale University and nominated for an Opus Award as "Discovery of the Year", Simon Aldrich is currently solo clarinet of l'Orchestre Métropolitain du Grand Montréal, as well as a member of Nouvel Ensemble Moderne. He has also been solo clarinet of the Chicago Classical Symphony and the Colorado Philharmonic. His teachers have included David Shifrin, Joaquin Valdepeñas, Robert Marcellus and Emilio Iacurto and he has also attended Northwestern University and McGill University. He has performed as soloist with the Toronto Symphony, Victoria Symphony, Orchestra London, Chicago Classical Symphony, Chicago North Shore Chamber Symphony, Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, l'Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal and the Fanshawe Orchestra. With Nouvel Ensemble Moderne Simon has performed across Canada, the United States, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Australia and Japan. His CD of Elliott Carter's Clarinet Concerto won an Opus Award for Best Contemporary Recording in 2002. He is heard regularly on CBC radio and has recorded for the CD labels Atma, SNE, Analekta, CBC, UMMUS, Montaigne Auvidis, Amberola and Sächsische Tonträger. Simon teaches at McGill University and is artistic director of The Jeffery Summer Concerts in London, ON.

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Louise Bessette, piano

Combining an eclectic repertory with an impeccable delivery, Louise Bessette has earned several honours, including the First Prize at the Eckhardt-Gramatté Canadian Music Competition (1981), the First Prize at the Concours International de Musique Contemporaine in Saint-Germain-en-Laye (France, 1986), the First Prize at the International Gaudeamus Competition (Rotterdam, 1989) and the Prix Opus 1996-1997 in the category "soloist of the year" for her recital devoted to the *Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus* by Olivier Messiaen. An accomplished musician with a daredevil technique, Louise Bessette makes regular guest appearances in concert halls throughout Europe, America and Asia. She has made twenty recordings, all of them highly acclaimed both by the public and the critics. She has contributed to the advancement and dissemination of new music by her noted participation at international music festivals and by her premiere performances of works written specially for her. Woman of the Year, Arts Category, at the 1989 Montreal Salon de la Femme, winner of the Flandre-Québec Award (1991), Member of the Order of Canada (2001), and appointed Officier of the Ordre national du Québec in 2005, Louise Bessette is regularly honored for her contribution to classical and modern music. Since fall 1996, she has been Professor of piano at the Montreal Conservatory of Music.

October 2009

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