

MARK FEWER

Violinist

Mark Fewer enjoys one of the most varied musical lives of his generation. Known for his relaxed style and honest interpretations, he switches easily between roles as soloist, chamber musician, orchestral leader, jazz musician, artistic programmer, and most recently, teacher.

Mr. Fewer was concertmaster of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra from 2004-2008, during which time he gave the Canadian premieres of works by John Adams (*The Dharma at Big Sur* for six-string electric violin and orchestra) and Beethoven (the unfinished violin concerto *WoO5*), as well as the Vancouver premiere of Felix Mendelssohn's *Concerto for Violin, Piano and Orchestra*. He also led the orchestra in traditional *kappelmeister* style (without conductor) on several occasions in baroque and classical repertoire. In recognition of his work with the VSO, he was recognized by the Vancouver Sun as one of the music industry's top "Movers and Shakers" for 2006.

As soloist, Mr. Fewer has appeared with most of Canada's major symphony orchestras, and is frequently heard on CBC radio, National Public Radio, the BBC's Radio 3 and RTVE. In the past season, broadcasts have included concertos by Shostakovich, Locatelli, Vivaldi, Beethoven (*Triple Concerto*), Bottesini (*Grand Duo Concertante*) and Mendelssohn (piano and violin concerto).

As a chamber musician, Mr. Fewer is a regular member of the Duke Piano Trio and Canada's SuperNova String Quartet, both of which recently completed critically acclaimed Beethoven cycles. In March, 2009, the SuperNova Quartet hosted an international quartet festival in Montreal in which groups from around the world played all of Haydn's quartets in a four-day period.

Recent and forthcoming concerts include appearances as director/soloist with l'Orchestre Symphonique de Laval, 13 Strings of Ottawa, the McGill Baroque Orchestra, Scotia Festival Strings and the Newfoundland Sinfonia.

He performed as jazz violinist at MusicFest Vancouver's 2009 tribute to Stephane Grapelli, as well as playing *Obsessed*, his new arrangement of Miles Davis inspired tunes with the Zapp Quartet at the Festival of the Sound (Parry Sound, Ontario).

His most recent recording is a new work, *Nine Daies Wonder*, for violin and brass band written for him by Bramwell Tovey. Playing the violin and reciting lines from several of The Bard's great comedies, Mr. Fewer re-enacts the famous publicity stunt of Shakespeare's comedic actor Will Kemp, who morris-danced his way from London to Norwich in 1600.

Forthcoming performances include Adams' *The Dharma at Big Sur* in May, 2010 with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in Australia.

Forthcoming recordings include the complete sonatas of Giovanni Pandolfi with harpsichordist Kenneth Slowik and cellist Myron Kutzke (Azica Records), and the complete Brahms sonatas with pianist Peter Longworth.

Mr. Fewer is Artistic Director of the SweetWater Music Festival, and was director of the Scotia Festival of Music from 2005-2009. His most recent appointment is to the Schulich School of Music at McGill University, where he teaches violin, chamber music, and string improvisation.

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