



## Violinist Christian Vachon

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Complete artist information including video, audio and interviews are available at [www.pricerubin.com](http://www.pricerubin.com)

## Christian Vachon – Biography



Christian has performed as a soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician throughout Canada, North America, Asia and Europe. He has been featured recital in broadcasts by the CBC Radio and Radio-Canada. He has appeared as a soloist with orchestras and ensembles in a wide repertoire from Bach to the World Premiere of Norbert Palej's Double Concerto for Violin and Viola, including the Hopkins Symphony, York Symphony Orchestra, the Ottawa Chamber Orchestra, the Fusions Ensemble, l'Orchestre Leonardo da Vinci, and many others. An active recitalist, he performs not only standard programs, but has presented lecture recitals, programs entirely for unaccompanied violin, and has explored the issues of balance between violin and piano in the sonata repertoire in concerts using instruments of various periods. He most often shares the stage with Canadian pianist Frédéric Lacroix. A passionate chamber musician, he was violinist of the Delta Trio, first violinist of the Fusions Contemporary Music Ensemble and has been a guest violinist at the Orford Camerata, Ensemble Prisme, the National Arts Centre Orchestra String Quintet, and others. Since 2009, he is also a member of the tango nuevo quintet Norteño, an ensemble specializing in the music of Astor Piazzolla featuring its original instrumentation. Highlights from recent seasons in Canada include among others concerts at the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival, the Orford International Music Festival, the Opening of Bourgie Hall in Montréal, the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Music Society, the NUMUS Concerts, Gallery 345, the National Arts Centre, Doors Open for Music at Southminster and the Concerts Ponticello.

Christian also frequently gives masterclasses and guest chamber music coachings. He has taught violin and chamber music at the Conservatoire de musique de Gatineau and has given masterclasses and guest chamber music coachings in universities, conservatories, music festivals and music programs throughout Canada, in the United States and Asia, in places like the conservatories of the Québec system, the University of Ottawa, Tainan University, etc., in addition to many private masterclasses and workshops.

Christian holds a Bachelor of Music degree (summa cum laude) from the University of Ottawa, and a Master of Music and Doctorate of Musical Arts degrees from the Peabody Conservatory of Music. During his doctoral studies, he was the Graduate Assistant of the Chamber Music Department. He studied violin with Nurhan Arman, Mauricio Fuks, Calvin Sieb and Martin Beaver, and chamber music with Martin Beaver, Manuel Barrueco, Robert MacDonald, Marian Hahn and the members of the

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Peabody Trio. While at the University of Ottawa, he won the Orchestra's concerto competition as well as the *Jeunes Artistes* auditions of Radio-Canada, and *Ottawa in Concert* auditions of CBC Radio. He was awarded the University of Ottawa's Silver Medal at his graduation, and was inducted member into the Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honors Society in the United States upon receiving his doctorate degree. He was also awarded two fellowships by Johns Hopkins University to assist in the inaugural year of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music at the National University of Singapore.

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## Christian Vachon – Feature Articles

QUARTIER LIBRE (Montréal): January 27th 2015

By Camille Freireisen

Concert

Fauré: Sonatas for Violin and Piano

A duo of musicians begins a series of concert dedicated to the famous French composer of the end of the 19th century Gabriel Fauré, Saturday January 31st, at Christ Church Cathedral (Montréal). Violinist Christian Vachon and pianist Frédéric Lacroix will perform the two sonatas by the master of the French melody, which were composed 40 years apart. The first sonata is a youthful work, while the second is a late work, less known and more adventurous. According to Christian Vachon, it will be an opportunity for listeners to discover Fauré at two very different times of his life and creative process. “There are notable differences in the musical language, says the violinist. The first sonata is very lyrical and we find lots of enthusiasm and harmony, and the second, a later work, is high in colours.” In addition to works from the baroque to the contemporary, the two musicians will be performing Fauré’s Complete Works in several Canadian cities through 2016.

### SNAP Oshawa - An Evening at The Opera

When it comes to art and culture, Oshawa is certainly not in short supply. For those who caught an Evening at the Opera with the Oshawa Opera last November, they found themselves enjoying an incredible experience. The always beautiful and extremely talented Kristine Dandavino of the Oshawa Opera gave an absolutely stunning performance. On this particular evening, she was also joined by a number of special guests including Norman E. Brown, Christian Vachon and Frédéric Lacroix - all of whom routinely perform on stages around the world. The night was a beautiful display of talent and left those in the audience feeling awe. If you, dear readers, have not had the pleasure of enjoying the Oshawa Opera before, their future events can be found at [www.oshawaopera.com](http://www.oshawaopera.com)

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Ottawa Citizen July 27, 2010  
**New fiddle, 300-year-old sound**

Exact copy of a 1693 Stradivari violin made in Ottawa debuts tonight  
Steven Mazey, The Ottawa Citizen

Christian Vachon grins as he gently holds up his new violin, a burnished, richly grained fiddle that he says comes as close as a new instrument probably could to the sound and look of the 300-year-old Italian violin of his dreams.

The varnished wood gleams as the violinist holds it up to the sunlight in his Gatineau home. He starts to play one of the tangos he'll perform tonight at the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival with the group Norteno in the violin's debut, and a sumptuous sound fills the living room, from lusciously dark lower notes to bright, sweetly penetrating high notes.

Vachon says it's the sound that he hoped for when he asked Ottawa violin maker Guy Harrison to make him a copy of a 17th-century Stradivari violin whose sound he has loved for years.

Vachon, 34, is a fan of the "long-pattern" Strads made by Antonio Stradivari in the 1690s. At the time, Stradivari was experimenting with the length of his violins, and when he added five-sixteenths of an inch, he produced what Vachon says is a distinctively dark and big tone in the Strads of the period.

Vachon fell particularly for a 1693 Strad that's in the collection of the National Music Museum in South Dakota. He had heard the instrument on recordings, and was dazzled by its big, warm sound. He has also played a few long-pattern Strads owned by friends or instrument dealers, and he says he also liked the slightly narrower width of these instruments.

"I liked the feel of playing the instrument, and the range of colours was so wide. You can vary the colours through a very easy style of bowing, rather than having to dig in so much," says Vachon, who grew up in Windsor and North Bay and studied at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore with Canadian violinist Martin Beaver.

"In the Strads of this period, the quality and clarity of the sound carries in such a way that it doesn't get lost or distorted. No matter where you sit in the hall, you get the impression the person is playing directly to you."

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## Christian Vachon – Feature Articles

Ottawa Citizen continued

Unfortunately, Vachon doesn't happen to have the \$2 million or so that he'd need to take home such a Strad, if one were to become available. So for a price in the range of a budget-model car, he had a copy of the 1693 Strad made by Harrison. The veteran stringed-instrument maker creates new instruments in his workshop on Gladstone Avenue and also makes copies of antiques when players request one.

Harrison, who was born and raised in Australia and studied violin-making in England, spent two days at the museum in South Dakota taking photos and measurements of the 1693 Strad. By coincidence, it's known as the Harrison Strad, named for the amateur British violinist who owned it in the 19th century.

Harrison says he did his best to duplicate the violin to the tiniest detail. He had the Strad scanned at a hospital to get views inside it, and from a museum in Cremona, Italy, he obtained copies of the templates Stradivari used to make it. Harrison used Bosnian maple with a grain that he says closely matches the grain of the original instrument. He says Stradivari used imported wood, likely from eastern Europe.

"With a violin it can be hard to draw the line between what affects the sound and what doesn't because almost everything affects the sound.

"So I go in with the mindset that I'm going to copy everything," says Harrison, who recently won a bronze medal at an international violin-making competition in Germany for one of his new instruments not modelled on an antique violin.

Harrison spent several months working on Vachon's violin, and in early June, the excited violinist finally picked it up. When he first made music on it, Vachon says he couldn't have been happier.

"I wanted something with power and projection, and it's everything I hoped for. It has a very sweet sound, but at the same time has very good projection. He really captured what I was looking for. When I tried it I instantly fell in love. It captures a lot of the qualities of the great old Cremonese instruments except that it's brand new and healthy. In terms of a new instrument, this is probably as close to that sound world as you could get."

Vachon, a teacher and freelance musician, has been a member of the tango quintet Norteno for the past year. He has played his new violin in a few pieces of classical music, but says its sound also happens to be ideal for the ripe, romantic style of the tango.

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## Christian Vachon – Feature Articles

Ottawa Citizen continued

Tonight's concert, which marks the instrument's first appearance in a full concert, will include pieces by Astor Piazzolla and by Pierre-Paul Provencher, who plays the accordion-like bandoneon in the group.

"This violin has a tendency to a dark sound and a very expressive sound, and for a lot of this highly romantic music, it's great for expressive solos, and it has a lot of projection and punch and bold sound for percussive attacks and things like that," Vachon says. He also loves the instrument's visual appeal."

"It's gorgeous to look at, from the quality of the wood to the colour and quality of the varnish. It's been made to look antique in a very tasteful way. I just find it spectacular. Vachon expects that, as with any good instrument, he and the violin will grow together. "

"Just as with many good instruments, the sound will keep developing as I get to know it better, and that's very rewarding. I'm looking forward to enjoying this instrument for many years."

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Info07 - La Petite-Nation  
Culture

## Bouquet of Sonatas in the Auberge La Petite-Nation

By Francois Robert

published April 28, 2014 [English translation of article originally in French]

The Melonanes of Petite-Nation in collaboration with the Auberge La Petite-Nation present a concert focused on sonatas given by Christian Vachon and Frederic Lacroix at Saint-Andre-Avellin on May 3 starting at 7:30 PM.



*The violinist Christian Vachon and his accompanist, the pianist Frederic Lacroix, go up on the stage of the Hostel La Petite-Nation at 7:30 PM on May 3 for a concert of sonatas.*

"We usually specialize in programs of sonatas, because we can really put forward the music in equal shares," indicates the violinist Christian Vachon. "We have also chosen this program to represent several different eras and composers from a wide variety of countries."

The violinist and his accompanist, the pianist Frederic Lacroix, are good friends for more than 20 years and have had the chance to perform together on many occasions. They have notably already offered this program on several occasions during a tour of Ontario during the winter.

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## Christian Vachon – Feature Articles

La Petite-Nation continued

"Among our choice of pieces, will be, among other things, a sonata by Bach in C minor which is wonderful," stressed Mr. Vachon. "The composer of Czech origin, Leos Janacek, will also be honored. It is a work of the early 20th century which sounds more modern. It has a lot of contrasts and also lyricism. Not to forget the third sonata by Brahms in D minor: a beautiful opening, very, very passionate with a lot of stormy passages and which really puts the two instruments together well on equal terms."

The violinist, who holds of a bachelor degree in music from the University of Ottawa, and a doctorate in musical arts of the Peabody Conservatory of Music also became known in the region as a teacher at the Music Conservatory of Gatineau a few years ago. In his free time, he has a passion for cabinetmaking which aids him in changing his ideas. But the musician in him is never very far away. During a rehearsal for a concert in Duhamel on a previous visit to la Petite-Nation, he had spontaneously offered to try the violin of Guy Lalonde, a craftsman of the region also making violins, in order to give him his comments concerning the instrument.

"Frederic is a formidable pianist," said Mr. Vachon. "We have excellent communication together. He is a passionate musician and very expressive, extremely talented. We have known each other for so long that it allows us to have a lot of freedom on stage to be spontaneous and connect together and with the audience."

[Organizations mentioned: Auberge La Petite-Nation, University of Ottawa, Peabody Conservatory of Music]

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# Christian Vachon – Repertoire

## **VIOLIN AND PIANO**

### **J.S. Bach**

Sonatas for Violin and Keyboard

### **L.van Beethoven**

Sonatas for Violin and Piano

### **Brahms**

Sonata #1, Sonata #2, Sonata #3, Sonatensatz,  
\* F.A.E. Sonata (Dietrich, Brahms and Schumann)

### **Debussy**

Sonata

### **De Falla**

Suite populaire espagnole, Danse Espagnole (arr. Kreisler)

### **Dvořák**

Sonatina

### **Fauré**

Complete works for violin and piano, including Sonata #1, Sonata #2, Berceuse, Romance, Andante, Après un rêve

### **Gershwin**

It Ain't Necessarily So, Summertime (arr. Heifetz)

### **Grieg**

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Sonata #3

## Christian Vachon – Repertoire

### **Händel**

Sonata #3, Sonata #4

### **Janáček**

Sonata

### **Korngold**

Suite « Much Ado about Nothing »

### **Kreisler**

Liebeslied, Liebesfreud, Schön Rosmarin, Tambourin Chinois, Praeludium and Allegro

### **Lekeu**

Sonata in G Major

### **Massenet**

Méditation from « Thais »

### **Mendelssohn**

Sonata, Opus 4

### **W.A. Mozart**

Sonatas for Violin and Piano

### **Piazzolla**

L'histoire du Tango

### **Prokofiev**

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Five Melodies, Sonata #2

**Ravel**

Sonate Op. Post.

**Christian Vachon – Repertoire**

**Respighi**

Sonata

**Sarasate**

Zigeurneweisen, Romanza Andaluza

**Schubert**

3 Sonatinas

**Clara Schumann**

Three romances

**Robert Schumann**

Sonata #1, Sonata #3 (Op. Posth.)

**Strauss, R.**

Sonata in E-flat Major

**Tchaikovsky**

Three pieces (Meditation, Scherzo, Melody), Sérénade Mélancolique

**Wieniawski**

Polonaise Brillante in A major, Scherzo-Tarantelle

**UNACCOMPANIED**

**J.S. Bach**

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6 Sonatas and Partitas

**Prévost, André** (Canadian Composer)

Improvisation

**Christian Vachon – Repertoire**

**Eugène Ysaÿe**

Sonata #2, Sonata #3, Sonata #4

### **VIOLIN AND ORCHESTRA**

**J.S. Bach**

Concerto #1, Concerto #2, Concerto for 2 Violins, Double Concerto for Violin and Oboe

**Barber**

Concerto

**Beethoven**

Concerto, Romance in F Major

**Brahms**

Concerto

**Bruch**

Concerto #1

**Chausson**

Poème

**Dvořák**

Romance in f minor

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## **Korngold**

Concerto

## **Lalo**

Symphonie Espagnole

## **Christian Vachon – Repertoire**

## **Mendelssohn**

Violin Concerto in E minor, Double Concerto for Violin and Piano

## **W.A. Mozart**

Concerto #2, Concerto #3, Concerto #4, Concerto #5, Symphonie Concertante

## **Norbert Palej**

Double Concerto for Violin and Viola

## **Piazzolla**

Quatro Estaciones Porteñas

## **Prokofiev**

Concerto #1, Concerto #2

## **Saint-Saëns**

Concerto #3, Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso

## **Sibelius**

Concerto

## **Tchaikovsky**

Concerto

## **Vieuxtemps**

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Concerto #5

**Vivaldi**

Four Seasons and other concerti

**Wieniawski**

Concerto #2

**Christian Vachon – Repertoire**

**CHAMBER MUSIC**

\* available upon request

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