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Complete artist information including video, audio and interviews are available at www.pricerubin.com

Vachon & Lacroix Duo – Biography

Christian Vachon and Frédéric Lacroix have performed together throughout Canada, the United States and Asia in a vast repertoire ranging from the baroque period to contemporary works, including cycles of complete works by various composers, as well as many neglected masterpieces from the Romantic period, and Mendelssohn's Double Concerto for Violin, Piano and Orchestra. They have been broadcast live in concert on CBC Radio and Radio-Canada.

In addition to regular concert performances on modern instruments, they have also explored the issues of balance in chamber music between for violin and piano in a series of concerts at Cornell University using period instruments under the auspices of Malcolm Bilson, which brought greater insight into the markings left by composers in their works.

They expand their partnership regularly to collaborate with other artists, creating new and exciting programs. Always interested in sharing further with the communities in which they play, they often take the opportunities to offer masterclasses either for their individual instruments, or share their insights into chamber music as a duo.

Recent, current and upcoming appearances include among others, concerts at the Concerts Ponticello, the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Music Society, Gallery 345, Concert Association of Huntsville, L'Oasis Musicale Concert Series, St. Andrew's Concert Series in Toronto, the OPUS Concerts, and Doors Open for Music at Southminster Concert Series.

Christian Vachon

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

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Vachon Bio Continued

Camerata, Ensemble Prisme, the National Arts Centre Orchestra String Quintet, and La Petite-Nation continued 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 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.

Frédéric Lacroix

Frédéric Lacroix has performed in Canada, the United States, Europe, and Asia as a soloist, chamber musician, and collaborative pianist, having performed with many of Canada's most important musicians. He has made regular radio appearances on the Canadian CBC and SRC or the American NPR. Following the University of Ottawa's purchase of a fortepiano in 1997, Frédéric has devoted part

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Lacroix Bio Continued

of his time to the study and performance of music on period keyboard instruments, for which he was recognized as the Westfield Center Performing Scholar for the 2008-09. He has recently performed Mozart piano concertos on the fortepiano with the Albany Symphony Orchestra, the Cape Cod Symphony Orchestra and the Ottawa Chamber Orchestra.

Intrigued by the seemingly infinite diversity of new music, Frédéric has enjoyed collaborating with composers and performers in the premiere of a number of Canadian and American works. Frédéric is also active as a composer, having composed for the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival, the Society of American Music, the Canadian University Music Society, the Choeur Classique de l'Outaouais and other noted Canadian musicians. His song cycle, *Nova Scotia Tartan* (2004), is featured on *Hail*, a disc dedicated to Canadian Art Song.

Much in demand as collaborative artist, teacher, adjudicator and composer, he currently teaches at the University of Ottawa. He holds degrees from the University of Montreal, the University of Ottawa, and Cornell University, where he recently completed his Doctorate degree in keyboard performance practice with Malcolm Bilson. His other teachers include Marc Durand, Cynthia Floyd, Andrew Tunis, Jean-Paul Sévilla and Monique Collet-Samyn.

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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

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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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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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