

Biographies

Yolanda Bruno was born in Canada and began playing the violin at the age of 5. Twice winner of the Canadian Music Competition, she has been a finalist at the Stulberg International String Competition and was winner of the McGill Concerto Competition in 2011 and of the 2012 Cavatina Intercollegiate String Quartet Competition in London with the Hieronymous Quartet. Yolanda has won numerous awards and scholarships and has played with Pinchas Zukerman and the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Thirteen Strings Chamber Ensemble and McGill Symphony Orchestra.

Yolanda has performed across Canada and in Holland, Italy, France, Germany and the UK. She has worked with members of the Alban Berg Quartet and Guaneri String Quartet and has performed with Antonio Lysy, Chris Constanza (St. Lawrence String Quartet), Philip Dukes (Nash Ensemble), and Menahem Pressler (Beaux Arts Trio).

As a recipient of the Lloyd Carr-Harris Scholarship, Yolanda studied with Jonathan Crow at McGill University in Montreal. Yolanda is currently supported by the Sylva Gelber Foundation while pursuing postgraduate studies with David Takeno at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London.

The **Despax Quartet (le Quatuor Despax)** was formed in 2003 and is composed of four brothers and sisters: Cendrine and Jean Despax (violin), Maxime Despax (viola) and Valérie Despax (cello).

The quartet studied at the Conservatoire de Montréal with Denis Brott and at the Conservatoire de Gatineau with Calvin Sieb and Christian Vachon. They had the pleasure of working in master classes with Rémy Cardinale, Brian Manker, Atar Arad, the Shanghai Quartet, Mimi Zweig, the Penderecki String Quartet, the Cecilia String Quartet, the Leipzig String Quartet, the New Orford String Quartet and the St. Lawrence String Quartet.

They perform regularly in the National Capital, in the Outaouais and in Montreal. In 2004 they performed in France at Tillac in “Arpèges en Gascogne.” In summer 2006, the quartet was in residence for a week during the fifth season of les Concerts aux Îles du Bic. In summer 2009, they performed at the Westben Festival with the Adorno Quartet and, in summer 2010, at Festival Alexandria.

The quartet has been in residence at St-Jean-Baptist Church since October 2011.

Judith Ginsburg is a graduate of the University of Ottawa Faculty of Music where she studied with the internationally acclaimed pianist and pedagogue Jean-Paul Sevilla. She pursued further advanced studies in London, England, with the renowned former Glyndebourne Opera music staff member and BBC staff accompanist Paul Hamburger.

Upon her return to Canada, Judith completed the Repetiteur Training Program at the University of Toronto Opera Division. While at the Opera Division, Judith participated in extensive accompanying classes and master classes with Martin Isepp and Menahem Pressler. Since 1987 Judith has been Principal Repetiteur of Opera Lyra Ottawa, Music Director/Accompanist for Opera Lyra's operas for young audiences and Principal Pianist with the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra. She has been heard often on CBC Radio and as a frequent

performer in Ottawa's hugely successful International Chamber Music Festival, the National Arts Centre's Music for a Sunday Afternoon, the Almonte in Concert Series and the Music and Beyond Festival. Judith has worked for the National Arts Centre's English Theatre, most recently as piano coach for The Unanswered Question.

As an accompanist Judith has collaborated with many of Canada's leading artists, among them Alan Monk, Theodore Baerg, Tracy Dahl, Eilana Lapalainen, Martin Foster and Gerald Danovitch.

The **Grand ensemble à corde du Conservatoire de musique du Québec** in Gatineau was created this academic year as a required weekly ensemble class for string students in 2nd cycle and higher at the Conservatory. The ensemble is under the tutelage of Joan Milkson; the members are all students of Anne Contant, Alexandre Da Costa and Joan Milkson. As part the their learning activities, they have been performing frequently, their most recent performance having been at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum.

William Lamoureux is a 16-year-old multi-instrumentist and composer. He began classical violin studies at age 3. At 5, he took on guitar and piano at École musique Adagio, a music school owned by his mother. Soon after he added drums to his arsenal. In 2004, he was admitted to the Conservatoire de musique de Québec à Gatineau; he was then, at 8, the youngest student to be admitted.

William first studied violin with Amélie Benoit-Bastien, a Conservatoire de musique de Québec alumna; then with Laura Nerenberg (www.lauranerenberg.com); and at the Conservatoire de musique de Québec à Gatineau with Christian Vachon (www.jhu.edu/jhso/artists/vachon.html). Today, he studies with the world-renowned Alexandre Da Costa (www.alexandredacosta.com).

William is known for his presence and energy on stage. He leaves no one indifferent. Music is a passion that he hopes to turn into a career.

Among her many achievements, Quebec-born mezzo-soprano **Renée Lapointe** won the Raoul-Jobin Prize in 1990 and, as part of the 1993 Cultural Excellence Awards, the Stage Prize, both awarded by the Fondation de l'Opéra de Québec.

In concert, Renée Lapointe has become known for her inspired performances of Mozart's *Requiem*, Händel's *Messiah*, Beethoven's 9th Symphony, Berlioz' *Les nuits d'été*, and of sacred works by Bach, Mozart, Haydn and Vivaldi.

Besides her frequent appearances in recitals and oratorios, Renée Lapointe has performed frequently in opera: as Carmen and Mercedes in Bizet's *Carmen*, Mélisande in Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande*, Bradamante in Händel's *Alcina*, Hermia in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Pauline in Tchaikovsky's *La Dame de Pique*, Second Lady in Mozart's *Magic Flute*, Giannetta in Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*, Oreste in Offenbach's *La Belle Hélène*, and Frédéric in Thomas' *Mignon*.

Leading an active solo career, Ms. Lapointe has appeared with such distinguished conductors as Eduardo Mata, Kent Nagano, Bernard Labadie, Hervé Niquet, Charles Dutoit and

Yoav Talmi. She has also been a guest soloist with the Jeunesses Musicales World Youth Orchestra, the Alcan String Quartet, l'Ensemble Arion, la NEF, the Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal, l'Ensemble Anonymus, I Musici de Montréal, Quartango, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the Quebec Symphony Orchestra and Les Violons du Roy.

In 2005, Renée Lapointe performed the role of Sadia during the world creation of the symphonic rendering of the rock opera *Starmania* by Berger and Plamondon with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the Quebec Symphony Orchestra and in a series of concerts in Paris. She also toured with world-known guitarist Rémi Boucher in the recital "A Night in Seville." Ms. Lapointe is generously supported by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Kerson Leong won the Grand Prize at the Canadian Music Competition for five straight years (2005 – 2009), each time achieving the highest mark of any age group or instrument. Then, at the age of 13, he won First Prize in the Junior Category (under 16) at the prestigious Menuhin Competition in Oslo in 2010.

Kerson has appeared as soloist with many ensembles around the world, including a critically acclaimed solo debut for the Opening Concert of the 2012 Menuhin Competition in Beijing, China. Earlier this year, he was featured again with the Oslo Philharmonic in a four-concert series in Norway. He first debuted at age 10 with the National Arts Centre (NAC) Orchestra and has since returned frequently as a guest soloist. He received an invitation from Maestro Pinchas Zukerman to perform at two annual NAC Gala events. In the 2012 – 2013 season, he will make his solo debut with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre Métropolitain in Montreal and several other Canadian orchestras. A special highlight will be a performance in 2013 of the Brahms Double Concerto with his cellist brother, Stanley, and the Olympia Youth Orchestra in Los Angeles, USA.

An avid chamber musician, he has performed with such artists as Angela Hewitt, Gordon Back and Andrew Tunis, and has been an invited performer at many international music festivals in Europe, the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival and Music and Beyond. His recent debut recital with the Chamber Players of Canada has been recorded for national broadcast by the CBC.

Kerson's recent development as a violinist and artist has been largely influenced by Jonathan Crow and Laurence Kayaleh. He has participated in the NAC Young Artist Program under the direction of Pinchas Zukerman, and in violin master classes with Zakhar Bron at the Kronberg Academy. His other musical interests include conducting and playing pop and jazz on the clarinet and saxophone.

Kerson performs on a beautiful 1705 Guarnerius violin courtesy of Canimex Inc. of Drummondville, Quebec.

Stanley Leong has been a top-prize winner at the Canadian Music Competition (CMC) for seven consecutive years. After winning First Prize in Strings in 2008, he made his solo debut at the 50th Anniversary CMC Gala with the Quebec Symphony Orchestra under Maestro Yoav Talmi. At the 2009 CMC National Finals, Stanley also won First Prize in Chamber Music, performing as a duo with his younger brother Kerson.

He has performed several times with the National Arts Centre (NAC) Orchestra and I Musici

de Montreal and was a featured soloist at the 2008 NAC Gala. As a chamber musician, he is performing for the third straight year at Music and Beyond this summer and has also appeared at the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival and at Toronto's Glenn Gould Studio. At the invitation of pianist Angela Hewitt, he performed at the Trasimeno Music Festival in Italy in July 2011.

As a duo, Stanley and his brother were recently given the rare honour to perform at the Installation Ceremony of the 28th Governor General of Canada.

As a family trio, Stanley, Kerson and their mother were featured in many events such as Music and Beyond and with the NAC Orchestra under Maestro Boris Brott. The trio will be featured in Assisi, Italy, this summer and in Los Angeles next year.

Stanley started his cello lessons with Anne Contant and his development has been largely influenced by her as well as by Denise Djokic and Paul Marleyn. He has been a pre-college participant of the NAC Young Artist Program for the past four years. His other musical interests include chamber music, jazz (especially bebop) improvisation on all types of instruments, and jazz harmonization, arranging and composition. Aside from music, Stanley has a very keen interest in science, mathematics, and languages. He is also a very serious swimmer and athlete.

Daniel Parker has completed his second year at the New England Conservatory in Boston with renowned cellist Laurence Lesser. Highlights of the past year included two solo concerts at the National Arts Centre in February, a performance of Bartok's sixth string quartet in the conservatory's Jordan Hall in May, and master classes and lessons with Ralph Kirshbaum, Frans Helmerson, and Gary Hoffman. Before his post-secondary education, Daniel studied with Ottawa University's 'cello professor Paul Marleyn, earning the grand prize at the NACO Bursaries in 2009 and the first prize at the National Music Festival for Open Level Chamber Music in 2008.

Alexandre Turmel was born in 1994 in Ottawa. He began the violin at the age of 9 with Brigitte Amyot in Gatineau. At 15, he entered the Conservatoire de musique du Québec à Gatineau to study with Christian Vachon. Two years later, at 17, Alexandre is continuing his studies at the conservatory with Alexandre Da Costa and is doing a double-DEC in music and social sciences in the Cégep of the Outaouais. He has been in the Ottawa Youth Orchestra for three years and is now co-concermaster. He also took part in several musical summer camps, including two years at the Laurentian Music Centre with Christian Vachon, Josée Aidans and Johanne Arel.

Thirteen-year-old **Daniel Wade** started 'cello lessons at age 6 with Anne Contant. He was accepted at the Conservatoire de musique de Gatineau at age 8. In the summer of 2011, Daniel won third place at the National level of the Canadian Music Competition. Recently, he won the Bravissimo Competition at the Conservatory. In addition, Daniel studies Drumset and performed at Ottawa Bluesfest in the summer of 2011. He has been chosen to take part in the festival again this year. Daniel will attend the Laurentian Music Centre on 'cello in July 2012.