



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 16, 2020

EMV Launches Free Digital Concert Hall, Showcasing More Than 20 Original Recordings of Period Performances

Hosted by Beloved CBC Alumni Bill Richardson, Each High Definition Film Programme Includes Live Performances and In-depth Interviews on the Repertoire

Vancouver, BC – Pivoting in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Early Music Vancouver (EMV) announces the creation of its extremely ambitious **Digital Concert Hall**, debuting on **Wednesday September 30, 2020 at 7:30pm**. Taking the place of its 2020-21 programming, **this “virtual season” will be free to the public and will include more than 20 online concerts**, released on a bi-weekly basis until June 2021. While access to the concerts is free, donations are appreciated. The programming will also launch EMV’s new series **Passports**, which expands the classical music organization’s scope by exploring early music traditions from cultures around the globe.

The Digital Concert Hall is filmed exclusively for EMV in High Definition, with recording of the first eleven concerts taking place from July 21-26 at the Chan Centre for Performing Arts with Pacific Baroque Orchestra, Alexander Weimann, Krisztina Szabó, and more. Subsequent filming will take place in September 2020 and April 2021 at The Chan Centre, Christ Church Cathedral, and the Orpheum Annex in Vancouver. Each concert features in-depth interviews between the artists and host Bill Richardson, author and beloved former CBC radio host of shows including *Saturday Afternoon at the Opera* and *In Concert*.

“While online concerts can never replace the in-concert experience, I am tremendously excited by the unique opportunities that these online concerts present,” explains outgoing Executive & Artistic Director, Matthew White. “Music lovers all over the world will be able to enjoy these events for free in HD and with spectacular sound from the comfort of their own homes. The intimacy that we can offer through digital concerts will provide audiences with a very different perspective on the work of these great artists.”

Almost all the musicians featured in the first half of our Digital Concert Hall season call BC home, providing viewers with the chance to hear and see some of the province’s best musicians in cinematic quality - as well as providing the artists with vital work during a challenging time. **The second half of the Season will be announced in early December 2020** and will include appearances by Angela Hewitt, Elisa Citterio from Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, Suzie LeBlanc, Ensemble Constantinople, Jeanne Lamon, Marc Destrubé, and many more.

As part of its Digital Concert Hall, **EMV will debut a new series called “Passports: Early Music From Around the World”**. Originally planned as a part of the 2020-21 season, this series offers four musical odysseys to four different continents, giving our audience the opportunity to transcend borders and explore music across the globe. Based on the study of original manuscripts and historical sources, each of these concerts is designed to create a compelling soundscape and new connections to the rich cultural histories of our neighbours. This series has been co-curated with Kiya Tabassian, Artistic Director of Montreal’s Ensemble Constantinople.

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FALL SCHEDULE AND CONCERT DESCRIPTIONS:

All concerts at 7:30PM

Wednesday September 30, 2020

Orchestral Dance Suites from 18th Century Germany feat. The Pacific Baroque Orchestra

Filming Location: Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Musicians: Alexander Weimann (harpsichord, music director), Chloe Meyers (violin), Christi Meyers (violin), Mieka Michaux (viola), Joanna Hood (viola), Diederik van Dijk (cello), Natalie Mackie (violone), Christina Hutten (harpsichord, portativ organ)

Enjoy the opening concert of EMV's 51st season with the Pacific Baroque Orchestra performing ravishing dance suites. German composers Dietrich Becker, Johann Caspar Ferdinand Fischer, and Georg Muffat combine the French and Italian musical styles of the day, balancing simplicity and grace with daring harmony and unbridled virtuosity.

Wednesday October 14, 2020

In Search of Music from the Qajar Dynasty feat. Saeed Farajpouri, Amir Koushkani and Hamin Honari

Filming Location: Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Musicians: Saeed Farajpouri (spike fiddle), Amir Koushkani (Iranian tar), Hamin Honari (tombak-goblet drum)

Saeed Farajpouri is among the greatest performers of the Iranian kamanche (spike fiddle). For this performance he is joined by Doctor Amir Koushkani, who is a researcher and master performer of the Iranian tar (long-necked lute) along with Hamin Honari on the tombak (goblet drum). These musicians come together to present Iranian music in a manner that is faithful to the style of music which would have been presented during the Qajar Dynasty of Iran (1789-1920).

Wednesday October 28, 2020

Wondrous Machine – Organ Recital feat. Alexander Weimann

Filming Location: The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Musicians: Alexander Weimann (organ)

Join the PBO's Music Director and one of Canada's finest organists, Alexander Weimann, for an organ recital filmed on the magnificent instrument at Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria, BC. Built by Hellmuth Wolff & Associés Ltée of Montreal in 2005, all the composers on this programme hail from a Southern German/Austrian tradition of organ composition and were chosen because they are a perfect fit for the design of this particular instrument. Works by composers including Johann Kaspar Kerll (1627-1693), Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612), Georg Muffat (1653-1704), Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706), Johann Jakob Froberger (1616-1667), and ending with Johann Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's (1756-1791) *Andante für eine Walze in eine kleine Orgel, KV 616*.

Wednesday November 11, 2020

Musical Offering: Transcending Time

Filming Location: The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Musicians: Soile Stratkauskas (flute), Chloe Meyers (violin), Natalie Mackie (gamba), Alexander Weimann (harpsichord)

J.S. Bach's *Musical Offering* was initiated in 1747 when Frederick the Great of Prussia, himself a superb flutist, gave to Bach a complicated theme upon which the composer improvised to the astonishment of all present. Within the next few weeks Bach perfected and presented to Frederick a composition which exhibits Bach's boundless imagination and profound depth of expression in a brilliant set of canons and fugues, and a trio sonata that is without parallel in 18th-century chamber music, all based on this royal theme. Jocelyn Morlock's "Revenant" is based on reversing the theme from Bach's *Musical Offering*.

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Wednesday November 25, 2020

Origins - Music of the Tang Dynasty featuring: Qiu Xia He and Silk Road Ensemble

Filming Location: Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Musicians: Qiu Xia He, (pipa/voice), Yun Song (erhu), Zhi Min Yu (ruan), Zhong Xi, Wu (suona/sheng/guanzi), Charlie Lui (dizi/xiao), Min Lin (guqin/guzheng), Andre Thibault (percussion)

All of the works on this programme are taken from traditional Chinese repertoires and feature traditional Chinese instruments with a special focus on music from the Tang Dynasty. This programme is designed as an introduction to Chinese classical music for EMV's audience. Though the Vancouver-based musicians of the Vancouver-based Silk Road Music Ensemble are not playing on period instruments, in collaboration with EMV, they have begun to explore the notion of historically informed performance practice for future seasons.

Wednesday December 9, 2020

Haydn's Ariadne Auf Naxos feat. mezzo soprano Mireille Lebel and Alexander Weimann

Filming Location: Orpheum Annex

Musicians: Mireille Lebel, mezzo-soprano and Alexander Weimann, fortepiano

Ariadne/Arianna was performed in London in February 1791 by the soprano castrato Gasparo Pacchierotti, with Haydn accompanying on the harpsichord. At the time a prominent critic wrote: "It abounds with such a variety of dramatic modulations—and is so exquisitely captivating in its larmoyant passages, that it touched and dissolved the audience." Join one of Canada's most promising young singers, mezzo soprano Mireille Lebel for a riveting account of one of Haydn's most spectacular works for voice.

Wednesday December 23, 2020

An Italian Baroque Festive Celebration feat. The Pacific Baroque Orchestra and mezzo soprano Krisztina Szabó

Filming Location: Christ Church Cathedral

Musicians: Alexander Weimann, music director, Krisztina Szabo, mezzo soprano, Pacific Baroque Orchestra

The riches of the West Coast's early music scene continue to develop year after year, and the PBO is thrilled to welcome long-time collaborator, mezzo soprano Krisztina Szabo, to join them for a programme of baroque music for Christmas. Krisztina has recently been appointed a full professor at the University of British Columbia which will allow for many more innovative and exciting collaborations in the coming years. Music in this festive concert includes Arcangelo Corelli's *Concerto fatto per la notte di Natale*, Alessandro Scarlatti's *Cantata pastorale per la Natività* and Georg Frederick Handel's *Concerto Grosso op 6 no 8*.

SIMPLE STEPS FOR TUNING IN

ONLINE:

1. Choose your device and your favourite place to watch and listen
2. Go to our website: www.earlymusic.bc.ca
3. Click on the link on our homepage

TV:

Telus Optik subscribers can enjoy the premieres on channel 710

If people cannot attend the premiere times, concerts will be left up online on EMV's website as well as on EMV's YouTube and Vimeo pages. [You can click here for a season preview trailer.](#)

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DONATIONS IN LIEU OF PURCHASING TICKETS

Thanks to the support of our donors and government partners, our virtual season will be available for free. EMV is asking people to **consider making a tax-deductible donation to EMV at each of these virtual concerts** in lieu of purchasing tickets.

ABOUT EARLY MUSIC VANCOUVER (earlymusic.bc.ca)

Founded in 1970, Early Music Vancouver (EMV) has a long-standing international reputation for the presentation, production and study of classical and traditional repertoires using “historically informed performance practices”. Historically informed performance is based on two key aspects: the application of the stylistic and technical aspects of performance, known as performance practice; and the use of period instruments which may be reproductions of historical instruments that were in use at the time of the original composition. EMV now offers the second largest program of its type in North America, presenting and producing an average of 40- 50 concerts per year featuring internationally-renowned local, regional and guest artists. EMV has a Main Season that runs through the Fall, Winter, and Spring as well as a growing annual summer festival that was re-branded as the Vancouver Bach Festival in 2016. It also has substantial education and outreach programmes including the Baroque Orchestra Mentorship Programme and BC Scholarship Programme.

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