Illustrious Keyboardist Andreas Staier Inaugurates EMV's New Graf Fortepiano with Mozart, Haydn, and Schubert

Modelled on an 1819 instrument, the newly built fortepiano completes EMV's collection of historical keyboards

Vancouver, BC – **Early Music Vancouver** (EMV) proudly presents the second in-person concert of its 52nd season: *Andreas Staier Inaugurates EMV's Graf Piano with Mozart, Haydn & Schubert* on **October 20, 7:30PM** at **Christ Church Cathedral** in downtown Vancouver. Staier is one of the most revered historical keyboardists, with The New York Times praising his ability to "manipulate texture and coloration in ways that elude performers on modern pianos."

"This concert is a very rare opportunity to hear the outstanding and distinguished keyboardist Andreas Staier perform on our new 1819 Conrad Graf copy" says Artistic & Executive Director Suzie LeBlanc. "The piano is made by one of the best makers in the world today and we cannot wait for Staier to reveal its rich sonorities and exceptional clarity. The addition of this early Romantic fortepiano completes EMV's collection of keyboard instruments that outline its evolution from the late Renaissance to the present."

EMV's new Graf fortepiano was built in the Czech Republic by the esteemed historical keyboard maker Paul McNulty. Thanks to the generosity of individual donors, the fortepiano was commissioned, built, and delivered in less than a year. With this addition, EMV can now offer Vancouver audiences the chance to travel back to the sound world of the early 19th century.

Graf did his most important work during the short life of Franz Schubert and by 1824 had made such a name for himself that he was granted the honorary title of "Imperial Royal Court Fortepiano Maker." Though he rose to prominence after Mozart and Haydn died, he continued the tradition of Viennese fortepianos with which they were familiar. Some of the hallmarks of the Viennese fortepianos were a light, sensitive touch, a mainly wooden construction, and a colourful singing tone.

For this concert, Staier will perform a program that highlights the fortepiano's range and timbre. Staier begins with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Fantasie in C minor, KV 475, highlighting Mozart's creative genius and improvisational spirit. Next, Franz Joseph Haydn's challenging Sonata in E flat major, Hob. XIV:49, followed by his Variations in F minor, Hob. XVII:6, considered to be one of the greatest works ever composed for the keyboard. Last is Franz Schubert's Sonata in B flat major, D 960, completed only two months before Schubert's death and often regarded as one of his best compositions.

A recording of this concert will be available to view on EMV's YouTube channel from October 27 to November 10. The concert will be free to access with donations greatly welcomed.

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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 and the use of period instruments, or faithful reproductions. 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 local, regional, and international artists. Since January 2021, EMV has been led by Artistic & Executive Director Suzie LeBlanc.

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