



Felix Galimir Chamber Music Award Concert
Friday, April 5, 2019 at 11:10 am | Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park

PROGRAM

Piano Trio in C major, Hob. XV:27

- i. Allegro
- ii. Andante
- iii. Finale: Presto

Franz Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)

Polaris Trio:

Ryan Shen, violin
Christopher Chan, cello
Michelle Lin, piano

Piano Quintet in E-flat major, Op. 44

- i. Allegro brillante
- ii. In modo d'una marcia. Un poco largamente
- iii. Scherzo: Molto vivace
- iv. Allegro ma non troppo

Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)

Xuan (Lexi) Li, violin
Thea Coburn, violin
Aaron Cheung, viola
Bryan Lu, cello
Xinyi Michelle Zhao, piano

Piano Trio No. 2 in C minor, Op. 66

- i. Allegro energico e con fuoco
- ii. Andante espressivo
- iii. Scherzo: Molto allegro quasi presto
- iv. Finale: Allegro appassionato

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

Polaris Trio:

Ryan Shen, violin
Christopher Chan, cello
Michelle Lin, piano

BIOGRAPHIES

The Polaris Trio was formed in 2018 by Ryan Shen, Christopher Chan, and Michelle Lin and is based in Toronto, Canada. They have performed in venues throughout Toronto such as Hope United Church, Yorkminster Baptist Park Church, and the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Furthermore, they have participated in masterclasses hosted by the Calidore String Quartet and the New Orford String Quartet. Within the past year, they have been named winners of the Haydn Challenge and the Felix Galimir Chamber Music Award at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music. This summer, they are excited to be competing in the chamber music category of the Canadian Music Competition. They would like to thank their mentors Annalee Patipatanakoon and James Parker of The Gryphon Trio, Lydia Wong, Marietta Orlov, Enrico Elisi, Timothy Ying, Mark Fewer, and Uri Mayer for their guidance and support.

Ryan Shen is currently a fourth-year Violin Performance student at University of Toronto Faculty of Music in the studio of Etsuko Kimura. Ryan began his musical studies at the age of four in Shanghai. At the age of nine, he emigrated to Canada and he continued taking lessons with Jessica Jia, and then Moshe Hammer. Ryan holds an ARCT in violin performance and has participated in various masterclasses at the University of Toronto. Recently, Ryan performed Bach's Double Violin Concerto in D minor with Etsuko Kimura and the Ontario Philharmonic Orchestra. A passionate orchestral player, Ryan frequently plays in various orchestras in the Greater Toronto Area and he is honoured to be the concertmaster of the University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra for their concerts this season.

Christopher Chan is a third-year student in cello performance at the University of Toronto. He is now studying under Prof. Shauna Rolston Shaw and was named the recipient of two four-year scholarships and was awarded the Laura Kinton Prize and the Gregor Piatagorsky Memorial Award. Christopher completed ARCT Cello in less than 6 years with First Class Honours with Distinction in the summer of 2016. In 2014, he finished Grade 9 Cello with First Class Honours with Distinction and was awarded the gold medal from the Royal Conservatory of Music. He has attended masterclasses with world renowned professors and cellists such as Richard Aaron, Johannes Moser, Philippe Muller, and Michel Strauss. Last year, Christopher made his solo debut at Carnegie Hall in the Weill Recital Hall. Most recently, Christopher

won the University of Toronto Concerto Competition and will be performing Shostakovich's Concerto No. 1 in E flat major in the 2019-2020 season. Christopher was previously a member of Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra and is now one of the principal cellists of the University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra this year.

Michelle Lin was born and raised in Vancouver, Canada and is currently a third-year student in the University of Toronto's Piano Performance program studying with Lydia Wong. Michelle has received top prizes in the Canadian Music Competition, the Seattle Young Artist's International Concerto Competition, and the Pacific International Youth Music Festival. Since her orchestral debut with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra as a winner of the VSO Concerto Competition, she has performed as a soloist with the Philharmonia Northwest in Seattle and the Alicante Symphony Orchestra in Italy. Most recently, Michelle won the University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition and will be performing Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 in their 2019-2020 season. As an avid collaborative musician, Michelle also performs chamber music regularly and as an orchestral pianist with the University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

Xinyi Michelle Zhao's debut performance was broadcast by NPR's notable radio show "From the Top" at age 16. Soon after she was featured as a soloist with the Interlochen Orchestra and subsequently took part in the Art of Piano summer festival – a highly selective summer program. Michelle received her Bachelor's Degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music with Yoshi Nagai and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree at the University of Toronto with Enrico Elisi.

Xuan Lexi Li was born in China and began her violin studies at the age of 6. Within five years, she successfully completed all nine levels set by the Central Conservatory of Music and then entered the middle school attached to Xinghai Conservatory. She was accepted to the Shanghai Conservatory of Music at the age of 18, where she studied with Bin Huang. She has taken many masterclasses with notable artists including Midori Goto, Sholomo Mintz, Viktor Tretiakov, Glenn Dicterow, Hu Kun, and Ning Feng. She is currently a Master's student studying with Toronto Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster, Jonathan Crow.

Thea Coburn is a third year undergraduate student in violin performance at the University of Toronto, studying

with Professor Timothy Ying. She is a recipient of the Kathleen Parlow Scholarship, the Victor Feldbrill String Scholarship, and the David and Marcia Beach Summer Study Award. She was a runner-up for the 2018 Felix Galimir Chamber Music Award. Thea enjoys teaching at a private studio as well as at the Classical Music Conservatory, and she is a faculty assistant at the Interprovincial Music Camp.

Aaron Paryce Cheung is an instrumentalist, producer, composer, educator, and street performer, based out of Toronto, Canada. Though currently studying violin performance at the University of Toronto, Aaron plays in a wide variety of styles and specializes in hip-hop, trap, and R&B. He has shared the stage with artists such as Sean Leon, Adria Kain, The Dream Warriors, and Maestro Fresh Wes. In an ensemble setting, he has performed with Roger Hodgson of Supertramp, Jim Cuddy of Blue Rodeo, Lisa Ono, and The Tenors. As a solo looping artist, Aaron has performed at festivals and corporate events across Toronto and the GTA including Canada's Wonderland, MarS Discovery District, Toronto Buskerfest, Western University, Fanshawe College, and Laurier University.

Canadian cellist **Bryan Lu** has performed at Carnegie Hall's Weil Hall, Symphony Space, and Staller Center for the Arts in New York, as well as at many festivals including the International Musical Arts Institute, the Beethoven Institute, QuartetFest@ Laurier, Orford Arts Centre Academy, and the Toronto Summer Music Festival. Bryan has collaborated with numerous acclaimed artists, including Colin Carr and members of the Emerson String Quartet. Since 2015, Bryan has been a Chamber Music Mentor at Pinchas Zukerman's Young Artist Program at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. Bryan is currently a Doctor of Musical Arts student at the University of Toronto working with Toronto Symphony Orchestra Principal Cellist, Joseph Johnson. His previous teachers include Andrés Díaz, Desmond Hoebig, Colin Carr, and the Emerson String Quartet.

The Felix Galimir Chamber Music Award needs your support!

Please consider making a gift that will help launch the careers of string students at the Faculty of Music. The Galimir Award is given annually to the most promising string or piano chamber music group enrolled in the Faculty of Music's chamber music program. The award includes a recital in Walter Hall and a cash prize. Past winners of the Award include the Tokai and Cecilia String Quartets.

The Felix Galimir Chamber Music Award was conceived and established by Scott St. John and the late Lorand Fenyves to honour the memory of the legendary violinist and chamber music coach. Felix Galimir was an influential music figure who taught at such institutions as the Juilliard School, the Curtis Institute of Music and the Marlboro Music Festival.

To learn more or to make a gift please contact Tyler Greenleaf at **416-946-3580** or tyler.greenleaf@utoronto.ca.

