

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS &
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ENCHANTING MORNING MUSIC: PIANO AND VIOLA TO WARM THE HEART AND START THE DAY

With soft morning light slowly filtering through the lobby and the scent of freshly brewed coffee floating through the air, pianist **Sarah Hagen** once again brings light and life to the **Chilliwack Cultural Centre Rotary Hall Studio Theatre** in a beautiful morning concert of classical music.

In the latest instalment of **The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society's** classical music series, Sarah and special guest **Tawnya Popoff** start the day with a charming slate of duets for piano and viola on Friday, February 27 at 10:30am.

"The audience and the artists are both very fresh," Sarah says with a smile. "These morning concerts bring out something pure in the music - it's a wonderful experience."

A superb pianist, **Sarah Hagen** is taking both the Fraser Valley and the world by storm from her home in Vancouver. She has appeared as a soloist with the **Victoria Symphony**, the **Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony**, and performed everywhere from Charlottetown to New York City. Her passion and idealism shine through her music, and her effortless performance is breath-taking; her light and clever fingers pirouette over piano keys in a mesmerizing dance.

For this concert, Sarah is joined by special guest violist *Tawnya Popoff*, a multiple award-winner and the principal violist for Vancouver Opera. Since first picking up an instrument at age five, she has played all over the world and extensively within Canada. Her love of interdisciplinary performance has seen her collaborate with dance companies and visual artists - reinventing what it means to play classical music by creating new levels within the performance.

And when two brilliant musical innovators take the stage, the program has a few surprises in store; while their planned slate of Brahms and Beethoven is full of classic pieces and well-loved duets, this pair of performers presents them in a way you probably haven't heard before.

"It's all stolen music," Sarah says with a laugh. "There aren't a lot of pieces for piano and viola, so we steal music from other instruments."

Tawnya will play music originally written for clarinet, cello, and a variety of other instruments, bringing a new spin to these immortal pieces.

"The viola fits really well in these duos, but also brings something new to it - a warmth and a richness, a different tone," Sarah says with a smile.

The warm tone of the viola makes it a perfect concert partner for piano, and this enchanting duo has a gorgeous line-up of classics to showcase their instruments perfectly.

Combine this lovely line-up with fresh pastry from Sardis Bakery and complimentary tea and coffee, and the latest installment of this classical music series becomes a picture-perfect way to start the morning.

This is the third concert in Sarah's morning music series, following duet performances with flautist *Krzysztof Kaczka* and soprano *Anne Grimm*. Now Tawnya brings something new to the stage with the viola - this lesser known instrument often blends into the background of string orchestras, but in this cozy performance the viola stands in the spotlight.

"It's such a wonderful switch from violin," Sarah says. "I love the richness of the sound."

Sarah and Tawnya have played a variety of concerts together over the past few months, becoming more in tune with each other every time.

"When you play together you want to communicate without words as much as possible - through nuances in the music," Sarah says. "Tawnya just gives me so much to play off of - she's one of the loveliest people I've ever worked with."

Although Valentine's Day will be long over by the time this charming duo performs, this musical offering continues in the theme of gentle winter romance.

“It’s a pretty romantic program: lots of emotion, plenty of colour. The music tells a story,” Sarah says.

The result is a wonderful morning of classical music; it’s a performance like no other, and one that musicians and audience alike enjoy immensely.

“It’s such a warm and welcoming experience. I really feel a sense of community developing within the audience,” Sarah says. “I think having everyone relaxing with their coffee around table helps create a wonderfully intimate atmosphere. The exchange between artists and audience in the setting in Chilliwack becomes really magical!”

“It’s starting to feel kind of beautifully familiar,” she concludes. “We absolutely can’t wait to play.”

These fantastic musicians take to the stage at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre on Friday, February 27 at 10:30am. Call the Centre Box Office at 604-391-SHOW (7469) or visit chilliwackculturalcentre.ca to reserve your seats: tickets are \$22 for students, \$24 for seniors, and \$27 for adults.

Sarah Hagen with special guest Tawnya Popoff is proudly sponsored by the Chilliwack Progress, British Columbia Arts Council, The Royal Hotel, the Government of British Columbia, the Department of Canadian Heritage, Sardis Bakery, and the City of Chilliwack.

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Additional Information

<http://www.afarcry.org/tawnya-popoff/>
<http://sarahhagen.com/>

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Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Owned by the City of Chilliwack, the Cultural Centre houses two unique performance venues, an art gallery, music instruction studios, arts and crafts studios, meeting rooms, offices, and is home to the

Chilliwack Academy of Music and the Chilliwack Art Gallery. Since opening in 2010, over 188,000 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value exceeding \$2,600,000. The Centre is overseen by The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society on behalf of the City, and boasts The Chilliwack Academy of Music, The Chilliwack Visual Artists Association, The Chilliwack Players Guild, The Chilliwack Symphony Orchestra, and the Chilliwack School of Performing Arts as partners.

Chilliwack Cultural Centre highlights:

- 597 seat performance theatre
- 168 seat recital hall / rehearsal space / dance studio / meeting space
- Chilliwack Art gallery (22-foot high display area)
- 21 music instructional rooms
- Arts and crafts studios
- Storage and Archival Resource Room

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Chilliwack Symphony Orchestra and Chorus

Chilliwack Visual Artists Association

The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society is registered under the British Columbia Society Act as a not-for-profit society (society number S-54973), and is a registered Canadian charitable

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