

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS &
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March 31, 2015

High Resolution photo: [SarahHagen_press](#), [SarahHagen_press2](#)
Photo Description: The brilliant and lovely Sarah Hagen is back in Chilliwack with a solo piano performance from the heart.
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SIMPLE, SWEET, AND LOVELY: THE TALENTED SARAH HAGEN IN AN INTIMATE SOLO CONCERT

One of Canada's best and brightest young musicians is set to fill the Chilliwack Cultural Centre's Rotary Hall Studio Theatre with gorgeous piano performance on **April 17**; in the final instalment of a year-long classical music morning series, the brilliant and lovely ***Sarah Hagen*** appears in a solo concert, showcasing her infinite skill in a casual and intimate presentation.

Over the course of the morning, Sarah will take the audience on a journey through the work of a single composer in a concert equal parts conversations and music. Audiences could be in for a morning of Mozart or Debussy, Chopin or Bach - an exploration of a single talent and the narratives behind the music.

While Sarah has yet to finalize which composer she'll feature in this lovely solo piano performance, she can guarantee it will be a wonderful concert - filled not only with spectacular music, but the stories that power it.

“It’s a chance to live with one composer for an hour - it’s sort of cozy,” Sarah says with a soft smile. “It brings the composer’s life right into the composition - you can see the transition from how a composer wrote when they were young, or how their music changed after certain events in their life.”

Together, Sarah and the music tell a story, leading the listeners through the life of the composer in a combination of lecture and concert. The result is a beautifully informal event - a chance to talk about the people behind the music as well as the music itself.

This style of performance is an ode to the humble beginnings of Sarah’s classical music morning concerts, which first began with audiences coming to her home to listen to her performance.

“Initially they were just in my living room,” Sarah says with a laugh. “I started doing this in my home because I knew people in my town didn’t want to drive at night, and it seemed extra-casual to do it on a Wednesday morning, or a Friday morning. So when I took it to the main theatre for the first season, I wanted to keep that.” She’s tried to preserve that same intimacy, even in the larger venues, and Chilliwack has proven to be the perfect community.

“I can see the audience growing with every performance, but also becoming more and more relaxed,” Sarah says. “I start seeing familiar faces in the audience, sharing inside jokes with them, sharing the coffee beforehand. You can really feel the community developing through this.”

The series kicked off in the fall and has seen Sarah duet with flautist Krzysztof Kaczka, soprano Anne Grimm, and violist Tawnya Popoff. Each artist brought something new to the series, Sarah says - a taste of other cultures, a survey of seldom-played pieces and an introduction to casual classical music. Even familiar works spring to life in a brand new light with Sarah’s illuminating talent. “Her concentration and focus are extraordinary,” writes the Comox Valley Record. “Her movements are strong, yet graceful.”

These intimate morning concerts are a fresh look at classical music - complete with complimentary coffee, tea, and pastries from Sardis Bakery. It's a perfect, simple way to start the day.

"You're fresher in the morning," Sarah says. "As a musician, you play differently. As a listener, you listen differently. At an evening concert, you have more that's on your mind; you're already fatigued, and you listen in a different way. But in the morning you don't carry the weight of the day with you. You're fresh to it. And the music gives you something different."

Sarah Hagen takes to the stage at the Rotary Hall Studio Theatre on **April 17 at 10:30am**. Tickets are \$22 for students, \$24 for seniors, and \$27 for adults. To reserve your tickets, call the Centre Box Office at 604-391-SHOW (7469) or visit the Centre online at www.ChilliwackCulturalCentre.ca.

Sarah Hagen - Solo Piano is generously sponsored by Sardis Bakery, The Royal Hotel, The Chilliwack Times, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the City of Chilliwack, the Province of British Columbia, and the British Columbia Arts Council.

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Additional Information

<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 organization under the Canadian Charities Directorate. (charity number 805742897 RR0001)

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