

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS & CULTURAL CENTRE SOCIETY  
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High-Resolution photo: Francois Houle.jpg

Description: Clarinet wizard and versatile improviser Francois Houle joins the Bergmann Duo for *Classical, Cuban, Creative*, an enticing exploration of the sonic world of the clarinet.

Photo Credit: N/A

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## **An innovative musician, clarinetist François Houle joins the Bergmann Duo in *Classical, Cuban, Creative - Clarinet!***

CHILLIWACK, BC - From the romantic period to contemporary Latin-American, an enticing exploration into the musical world of the clarinet is set to hit the Chilliwack Cultural Centre on the morning of **November 17**. The dynamic **Bergman Duo** is back at The Centre for their second performance in the Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society's 2017/18 Classical Music Series, this time with the help of clarinetist

**François Houle.** Sure to be a concert full of energy and intensity, this delightful morning performance is an inspiring way to start the weekend.

**With** musical selections ranging from well-known classical favourites to contemporary jazz, to his very own compositions, Houle is a sought-after soloist and chamber musician that has actively expanded the clarinet's repertoire by commissioning some of today's leading Canadian and international composers, premiering over one hundred new works. Inspired by collaborations with the world's top musical innovators, **he** has developed a unique improvisational language, virtuosic and rich with sonic embellishment and technical extensions. He is also a prolific recording artist and has released over twenty recordings, earning him multiple Juno Award and West Coast Music Award nominations.

**Marcel and Elizabeth Bergmann** (aka the Bergmann Duo) have performed their piano concerts internationally throughout North America and Europe, have made several recordings for CBC Radio and are the founding members of the International Piano Quartet. The married couple met at Hochschule für Musik und Theater, a music university in Hannover, Germany. The two studied separately but grew into partners, establishing a new program of study for duo piano at their school. Elizabeth and Marcel have an extraordinary list of triumphs, including first prize at the International Chamber Music Competition in Caltanissetta, Italy and were honoured at The 4<sup>th</sup> Murray Dranoff International Two Piano Competition.

The morning concerts offer a very close and personal experience, with complimentary coffee, tea, and refreshments. "It is great that the series is established and we can

get to know people in each of the communities,” Elizabeth said. “A lot of people have heard us with the Vancouver Chamber Choir or the Vancouver Bach Choir or at the Orpheum, but not everyone can travel. It is wonderful to have opportunities like this and perform.”

Featuring works by Saint Saens, Bernstein, and Cuban composer and jazz-great Paquito d’Rivera, this cabaret-style morning concert will highlight an eclectic mix from the romantic period to contemporary Latin-American compositions. Is there any better way to start your weekend?

*Classical, Cuban, Creative - Clarinet* is coming to the Chilliwack Cultural Centre on **November 17 at 10:30 am**. Tickets are \$27 and can be purchased at the Centre Box Office, online at [www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca](http://www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca), or by calling 604-391-SHOW(7469).

*Classical, Cuban, Creative - Clarinet* is sponsored by: The Chilliwack Progress, the BC Touring Council, the British Columbia Arts Council, the City of Chilliwack, the Province of British Columbia, and the Canadian Department of Heritage.

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***For additional information and to arrange interviews, contact:***

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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 O'Connor Group Art Gallery. Since opening in 2010, over 315,000 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value exceeding \$4,900,000. The Centre is overseen by The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society on behalf of the City.

*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, crafts and performance studios
- Storage and Archival Resource Room

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**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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