

———— Alexis Hauser, conductor ————

Axel Strauss, violin

———— Christina Thanisch-Smith, soprano

McGill Symphony Orchestra

Programme

Ludwig van Beethoven

Violin Concerto in
D Major, Op. 61

Gustav Mahler

Symphony No. 4 in
G Major



McGill

Schulich School of Music
École de musique Schulich



PlacedesArts.com

PLACE DES ARTS

Maison symphonique
1600, rue Saint-Urbain

Billetterie:
514 842-9951

↓ Place-des-Arts

Bus 24, 125

April 7, 2022

8:00 p.m.



The Schulich School of Music is built on a foundation of talent, intellect, dedication, and creativity. With these strengths, we as a community can envision new possibilities for education, performance, and research. Purpose and imagination open spaces for transformation.

For two decades, the **McGill Symphony Orchestra** has been led by Director Alexis Hauser. One cannot help but think of how many students have tuned, rehearsed, and taken a bow together in that time – hundreds of lives affected by sounds and silences, united in the intention of making music together. From the challenges of established repertoire to the discovery of new music, these young musicians open themselves to learning and growth. It is our privilege to be a place of stability and peace where their talent can be nurtured, and their skills honed.

We're excited to see how our Schulich graduates will shape and transform the future of music! But for now, let us pause in this moment and allow the young artists we will hear on stage to sustain, uplift, and transport us with their music and with their promise.

As I take my leave as Dean of the Schulich School of Music, I know that our shared desire to *bring music to life* – in every way we can imagine – will continue long after the last note has sounded.

Brenda Ravenscroft, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brenda Ravenscroft". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dean, Schulich School of Music

April 7, 2022 | 8:00 p.m.
Maison symphonique

McGill Symphony Orchestra

Alexis Hauser, artistic director and conductor

Axel Strauss, violin

Christina Thanisch-Smith, soprano

Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 61

I. Allegro ma non troppo

II. Larghetto

III. Rondo. Allegro

Ludwig van Beethoven

(1770 -1827)

Axel Strauss, violin

entracte

Symphony No. 4 in G Major

I. Bedächtig, nicht eilen

II. In gemächlicher Bewegung. Ohne Hast

III. Ruhevoll. Poco adagio

IV. Sehr behaglich

Gustav Mahler

(1860-1911)

Christina Thanisch-Smith, soprano

version française disponible

bit.ly/Programme-7avril2022



Place des Arts

McGill Symphony Orchestra

Alexis Hauser, artistic director and conductor

flute

Nikki Arsenault
Alex Huyghebaert
Prasanna Mohile
Carolyn Rathgeber
Cailin Walsh-Estabrooks

oboe

Jose Hernandez
Antonio Urrutia
Tai Yokomori

clarinet

Anjali Covill
Kailan Fournier
Thomas Shen
Tyler Song

bassoon

Katherine Mackenzie
Oisín Madden
Matthew So

horn

Nadia Côté
Katrina Dunkle
Chia-ying Lin
Michyla Nimchuk

trumpet

Brian Copeland Kyle
Jones
Bryan Tang

timpani

Manuel Lopez Tovar
Rahul Vanamali

percussion

Polly Aretakis Emilio
Biggs Rachel
Bradbury Yue Yin
Zhang

harp

Honoka Shoji

violin

Annika Bowers
Marie-Claire Cardinal
Artur Chakhmakhchyan
Elliott Davis
Melody Flores
William Foy
Alexandra Hauser
Jana Kaminsky
Justin Li
Jeanel Liang
Sam Parrini
Maria-Sophia Pera
Camille Poirier-Lachance,
concertmaster
Frédéric Pouliot
Abigail Sunde
Charlotte Van Barr
Anna Wallace
Zoey Yang
Julia Zalkovic
YiYun Zhao
Ouyang Zhixing

viola

Matthieu Girardet
Gene Hotta
Wilhelm Wagner
David Montreuil
Ryan Vis
Keisuke Yamasaki

cello

Thomas Beard
Elie Boissinot
Kyla Davidson
Matthew Fields
McKinley James
Solina Lee
Julian Shively
Wendy Yuan

double bass

Kalvin Coate
Jemma Jones
Ricardo Marzoratti
Nic Pura
Ali Remondini

Ensemble Manager and Librarian: Tyler Song

Setup Assistants: Kailan Fournier-Poteet, JuEun Lee

Performance Librarian, Gertrude Whitley Performance Library: Geneviève Beaudry

Ensemble Resource Supervisor: Christa Marie Emerson

Ensemble Resource Assistant: Bailey Wantuch

Program: Ensemble Amis Plus

This program was designed and written by the Schulich School of Music



Alexis Hauser, conductor

Born in Vienna, Austria, **Alexis Hauser** was the winner of the prestigious Koussevitzky Conducting Prize of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and recipient of the Leonard Bernstein-stipendium in 1974. His teachers included Hans Swarowsky, Franco Ferrara, and Herbert von Karajan.

Maestro Hauser has enjoyed guest engagements with leading orchestras and international festivals around the world. As a guest conductor, he has led the symphony orchestras of Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Atlanta, Minnesota, Montreal, Rochester, Toronto, Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Vienna, Rotterdam, Czech Philharmonic, Hilversum, Moscow, and Budapest. Other engagements include conducting the Radio Symphony Orchestras of Berlin, the South West German Radio, the Philharmonia Hungarica, the Bruckner Orchestra Linz, the philharmonics of Belgrade, Zagreb, Bucharest, and Ljubijana, and the Grant Park Music Festival in Chicago. He has taken part in orchestral tours of Italy, Scandinavia, and Iceland. His opera conducting debut took place at the New York City Opera (1975) with Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* and in Europe at the Zurich Opera House (2005) with the premiere of the opera *Kalkül* by Werner Schulze (music) and Carl Djerassi (libretto).

Since 2001, Maestro Hauser has served as the Artistic Director of the McGill Symphony Orchestra, with which he toured to Toronto's Koerner Hall and Kingston's Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts. He is also Artistic Director of the Montreal-based chamber orchestra Pronto Musica, which he co-founded in 2013. During a recent sabbatical, he arranged an orchestral suite of Harry Somers' opera *Louis Riel* which will see its world premiere in Montreal during the 2023-2024 season.

Maestro Hauser's special interest in working with young musicians and conductors has led to guest professorships and masterclasses at The Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music in New York, the Civic Orchestra Chicago, the Kunstuniversität in Graz, Austria, the Kunitachi Music University in Tokyo, Japan, and the Glenn Gould School of Music in Toronto. Since the summer of 2013, he has worked with Les Orpheistes Festival Orchestra in Vienna. In June 2019 he gave a masterclass for young conductors in Hamburg, Germany, in conjunction with the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra.

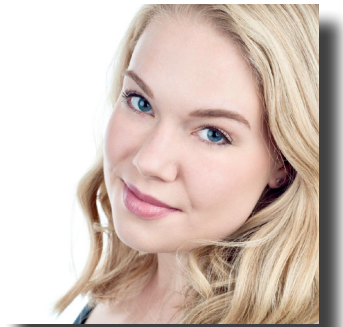
Before arriving at Schulich, Maestro Hauser's former positions include Music Director of Orchestra London Canada and KCM Orchestra Tokyo, Principal Guest Conductor of the Budapest Philharmonic, Principal Conductor of the Festival Mozart Romana, and Principal Conductor of the (contemporary music) Festival Nieder sterreich International. Since 1999, he has had a close association with the Ensemble Wiener Collage (including members of the Vienna Philharmonic), which he has conducted frequently. Soloists he has worked with include violinists Itzhak Perlman, Ida Haendel, and Young Uck Kim, pianists Stefan Askenase, Rudolf Buchbinder, Jean-Philippe Collard, Philippe Entremont, and Anton Kuerti, cellists Leonard Rose, David Geringas, and Matt Haimovitz, and singers Maureen Forrester, Jane Archibald, Joseph Rouleau, and Michael Schade.

Maestro Hauser's work can be seen and heard on numerous CDs and DVDs, as well as on television and radio broadcasts throughout Europe, Japan, and Canada.



Axel Strauss, violin

The first German artist to ever win the international Naumburg Violin Award in New York, **Axel Strauss** made his American debut at the Library of Congress in Washington DC and his New York debut at Alice Tully Hall in 1998. Since then he has given recitals in major North American cities, including Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles and San Francisco. In 2007 he was the violinist in the world-premiere performance and recording of *Two Awakenings and a Double Lullaby*, written for him by Pulitzer Prize winning composer Aaron Jay Kernis. Axel Strauss' discography includes the Brahms violin concerto, the three last violin concertos by Kreutzer, the complete Caprices for solo violin by Pierre Rode and the complete works for violin and piano by George Enescu. Axel Strauss has performed as soloist with orchestras in Budapest, Hamburg, New York, Seoul, Shanghai, Bucharest, San Francisco and Cincinnati, among others, and has toured widely throughout the world as a recitalist and chamber musician. He has also served as guest concertmaster of the Berlin Philharmonic and the Montreal Symphony. In 2012 Axel Strauss was appointed Professor of Violin at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University, where he also serves as Chair of the String Area. Prior to that he served as Professor of Violin at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.



Christina Thanisch-Smith, soprano

Praised for her “exquisite and ethereal presence with a lovely lyric coloratura” (GigCity), **Christina Thanisch-Smith** is quickly making a name for herself as one of Canada's up-and-coming young singers. Born in Fredericton and raised in Winnipeg, Christina now resides in Montreal as she works towards a MMus in voice performance at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University under the tutelage of Professors Dominique Labelle and Michael McMahon. Christina completed her BMus (vocal performance) at the University of Manitoba with Monica Huisman in 2020.

This season, Christina has performed the roles of Thérèse/Tirésias in Poulenc's *Les mamelles de Tirésias* with Opera McGill, and will be returning as Hero in the ongoing workshops of *Much Ado!*, written by James Garner and Patrick Hansen.

Other credits include Lily in *The Secret Garden* and Mariane in *Tartuffe* with Opera NUOVA, and Soprano 4 in Ana Sokolović's *Six voix pour Sirènes*. Competition credits include: winner of the Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg Scholarship Competition ('21, '19) and semifinalist in their international McLellan Competition ('19, '22), winner of the Lawrence Genser Competition ('19), and the youngest winner of the Zita Bernstein German Lieder Competition ('17).