



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 25, 2018

2019.20 DEBUT ATLANTIC ARTISTS ANNOUNCED!

HALIFAX, NS – Celebrating 40 years of bringing extraordinary classical music home, Debut Atlantic is set to wow Atlantic Canadian audiences with its 2019.20 roster of musicians! Partnering with presenters throughout Atlantic Canada, these outstanding artists will tour to communities throughout the region, giving concerts and participating in educational outreach events.

meagan&amy, Violin & Piano (September 13 – 29, 2019)

Selected for **Road Trip! A Pan-Canadian Tour**, a partnership between Debut Atlantic, Jeunesses Musicales Canada, and Prairie Debut, meagan&amy are praised for their energy, sensitivity and musical maturity. This passionate duo expresses their truly Canadian identity as they perform for audiences across the country, beginning with Atlantic Canada in September 2019.

Bev & Marc, Percussion & Violin (October 18– November 3, 2019)

Combining violin, FX pedals, marimba, vibraphone and even a musical saw, Debut Atlantic **Encore** Artists Bev & Marc are returning to Marc's native Atlantic Canada. Their combined virtuosity and a down-to-earth approach create a riveting visual and aural presence.

Daniel Wnukowski, Piano (November 8 – 24, 2019)

Performing "elegantly and with impeccable virtuosity" (Italy's Spoleto News), inspired pianist Daniel Wnukowski embraces the great classical composers and is devoted to lesser known works by composers who express diverse cultural themes, such as African American composer, Zenobia Powell Perry, whose work, "Homage" is featured in this performance.

Proteus Quartet, Saxophones (February 14 – March 1, 2020)

Listeners are taken on a high energy journey from traditional works to jazz to new music. These intriguing and emotional performances are described by *Le Voyageur* as having "incredible precision", as Proteus interprets the dynamic repertoire of the saxophone quartet in Atlantic Canada's performance spaces.

Fung-Merkelo, Trumpet & Piano (March 13 – 29, 2020)

Renowned as one of the finest trumpet players of his generation, soloist Paul Merkelo joins with prize-winning Janelle Fung to create musical chemistry. With rich international performance biographies, Merkelo and Fung bring the world to Atlantic Canada through eloquent and lyrical performances.

In addition to concerts, Debut Atlantic is committed to educational and community outreach, in order to connect with and engage youth and community members outside the concert hall. In-school performances, workshops, masterclasses, live-streamed video conferencing sessions form the core of

this activity, with pop-up performances and partnerships with community organizations rounding out the offerings.

Debut Atlantic wishes to recognize the partners and sponsors that come together to bring these incredible artists to the region in communities and venues of all sizes. Touring these artists would not be possible without the generous support of sustaining partners including the Canada Council for the Arts, Arts Nova Scotia and the Province of New Brunswick. Debut would also like to thank its educational partner the Nova Scotia Department of Education and its season partners including the Halifax Regional Municipality, The Lloyd Carr-Harris Foundation, Jack & Joan Craig, Pink Larkin and Westmont Hospitality Group (Comfort Inn).

Full details on Debut Atlantic's concert seasons and education programs can be found at www.debutatlantic.ca. **Please see enclosed artist biographies for Debut Atlantic's 2019.20 Artists.**

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One of the most respected music touring organizations in the country, **Debut Atlantic's** first season in 1979 featured then-emerging and still-unknown artists, pianist Jon Kimura Parker, tenor Ben Heppner, and Canada's Baroque orchestra Tafelmusik.

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2019.20 Season Artist Biographies

Praised for their energy, sensitivity and musical maturity, **meagan&amy** bring us a musical identity which bridges all provinces and territories as they perform across the country! "Impossible to ignore her passion in performance" (Ludwig Van Montreal), Amy is winner of the McGill Concerto Competition (2017), was artist-in-residence at La Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris (2017), winner of the Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition (2018), the Sylva Gelber Foundation Music Award, and received a doctoral fellowship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Meagan has performed as soloist on stages across the world from Canada and the U.S. to Belgium, Spain and Poland. She has appeared with the McGill Symphony Orchestra and the Edmonton Symphony and was top prizewinner of the Shean Piano Competition (2014), the CFMTA National Piano Competition (2011) and the Sylva Gelber Music Foundation Award (2017). **(Touring September 13th- 29th, 2019)**

Bev & Marc consists of percussionist Beverley Johnston and violinist Marc Djokic who create a super-energy in a completely new performance dynamic. Combining violin with FX pedals, marimba,

vibraphone, hand drums and sometimes a musical saw, the duo display their individual and combined virtuosity with a down-to-earth approach! Bev & Marc's eclectic programming embraces tonal and melodic contemporary compositions, creating a riveting visual and aural presence. Beverly is one of Canada's leading percussionists, having recorded 6 solo CDs and performing extensively throughout the world. She teaches at the University of Toronto and was named the Canadian Music Centre Ambassador in honour of her exemplary commitment to the performance of the music of Canadian composers. Marc, an Atlantic Canadian himself, is one of Canada's most prolific violinists and was awarded a Prix Goyer and a Prix Opus. He was featured in Bravo's "The Classical Now" and has just released his debut album. Bev & Marc can be heard regularly on CBC radio and both regularly commission new works by Canadian composers. **(Touring October 18th- November 3rd, 2019)**

Polish-Canadian pianist **Daniel Wnukowski** has performed throughout Europe, North America, South America and Asia in prestigious concert halls. Wnukowski was recently awarded a \$23,000 grant from the Canada Council for the Arts to perform outreach concerts for remote, Indigenous communities in Canada, together with five other pianists. He inaugurated the 2017 year in Warsaw, Poland as a special guest at the National Philharmonic Hall, performing Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" under the direction of Jerzy Maksymiuk. In November of that year, he performed a live radio broadcast for The New Classical 96.3 FM in Toronto, containing a selection of musical works by Viennese composers. He was trained at the Lake Como International Piano Academy in Italy where he worked with distinguished artists such as Dmitri Bashkirov, Menahem Pressler, Claude Frank, Fou Ts'ong, John Perry and William Grant Naboré and at the Peabody Institute of Baltimore under the guidance of Leon Fleisher. **(Touring Nov 8th-24th 2019)**

Born from a shared love for exploring chamber music together, the **Proteus Saxophone Quartet** was formed in 2011 in Paris while the members were studying in French Conservatories. Each musician is a soloist in their own right and is active as a performer and teacher in their respective communities. Living across Canada, Proteus unites throughout the year for intensive projects, which have taken them across Western Canada, the USA and France. They strive to perform music from many styles, which feature the saxophone and its diverse personas. They include works from the classical saxophone canon, popular tunes, and modern interpretations of non-idiomatic works for the saxophone. By programming eclectic concerts, they aim to entertain and to educate the public about the history of the saxophone and the saxophone quartet repertoire. Proteus Quartet strives to collaborate with both composers and performers in order to increase the reach and range of the saxophone quartet. Proteus has been fortunate to work closely with Canadian and international composers through workshops, commissions, and music festivals. **(Touring Feb 14th 2019 - March 1st, 2020)**

Recognized for his "unusual lyrical gifts" (Gramophone) and declared a "great virtuoso" (La Presse), **Paul Merkelo** is renowned as one of the finest trumpet players of his generation. Principal trumpet with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra since 1995, Merkelo is a 2016 Juno Award nominee for Classical Album

of the Year, was ranked #1 in Quebec's classical recording chart in 2000, and in 2004 was nominated by the ADISQ for "Best Classical Album of the Year". Born in Vancouver, Canada, **Janelle Fung** is a graduate of Eastman School, Juilliard and l'Université de Montréal. Winner of the 2014 BC Touring Council "Artist of the Year" and prize winner of the Concours OSM-Standard Life and the Canadian Music Competition, she has performed in over twenty countries and been featured on radio all over the world. Janelle is an active soloist and chamber musician and is on faculty at Highlands Opera Studio in Ontario. **(Touring March 13th – 29th, 2020)**