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saison  
2020/21  
season

Bridge & Wolak  
Thalea String Quartet. Kevin Ahfat  
Aronian & Crozman. Regard Persan



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## Bridge & Wolak

Michael Bridge, accordion  
Kornel Wolak, clarinet

September 11-27, 2020

*Bilingual option*

**\$1,700**

**Kornel Wolak** (clarinet) and **Michael Bridge** (digital accordion) are an internationally acclaimed duo, pushing the limits of their instruments and musical styles into the 21st Century. Playing classical showpieces, jazz ballades, and fiery folk music, Bridge & Wolak began collaborating in 2012 and have since toured across Canada, Poland, France, and Ecuador. Fun-loving gentlemen (with seven degrees in music performance), they offer a complete suite of educational programming. With deft virtuosity, and endless wit, Bridge & Wolak have been called the “Victor Borges of the 21st Century.” In demand on three continents, they were nominated for the BC Touring Artist of the Year award in 2019. “Watch and be amazed!” —CBC

♥ **Why we love them** - *Original, dynamic & fearless*

### Technical Needs

- 2 chairs or stools
- 2 music stands
- 2 vocal mic with stand

## Thalea String Quartet

Christopher Whitley, violin  
Kumiko Sakamoto, violin  
Luis Bellorín, viola  
Titilayo Ayangade, cello

October 9-25, 2020

**\$2,500**



Top prize winners at both the 2018 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and the Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition, the **Thalea String Quartet** is dedicated to bringing timeless music to audiences from all walks of life. Formed in 2014 at the Zephyr International Chamber Music Festival, the Thalea String Quartet has been praised for their “vibrant performance” and “sincere expressivity” (SF Classical Voice). The quartet has performed recitals across Europe and North America, and were the first quartet-in-residence at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music from 2015-17. Thalea was recently named the Young Professional String Quartet at the Butler School of Music. Christopher Whitley (violin) performs on the 1700 “Taft” Stradivarius violin, generously on loan from the Canada Council for the Arts Musical Instrument Bank.

♥ **Why we love them** - *Energetic, refined and passionate*

### Technical Needs

- 1 adjustable piano bench
- 1 mic and stand
- 4 music stands
- 4' x 5' x 1' podium

# Kevin Ahfat

piano

November 6-22, 2020

**\$1,100**

*Bilingual option*



As a pianist that “leaves no question about his riveting presentation and technical finesse” (Seattle Times), Canadian-born pianist **Kevin Ahfat** is “poised to become one of the young heirs of the classical piano realm, with a bold, boundary-pushing, millennial style matched by refined execution” (Vanguard Seattle). Highlights of recent seasons include a return to the Seattle Symphony at Benaroya Hall for its first-ever Shostakovich Concerto Festival, a two-evening celebration of all six of Dmitri Shostakovich’s piano, violin, and cello concertos with violinist Aleksey Semenenko and cellist Edgar Moreau. Ahfat was named one of CBC Music’s 30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians Under 30 in 2018 and was recently awarded the Second Prize, Prize for Best Performance of the Canadian Work, and the Orford Musique Prize at the 79th Orchestre symphonique de Montréal / Manuvie Competition in Montreal.

♥ **Why we love him** - *Virtuosic, sensitive & expressive*

## Technical Needs

- grand piano
- 1 adjustable piano bench
- 1 vocal mic with stand



# Aronian & Crozman

Eva Aronion, violin  
Cameron Crozman, cello

February 12-28, 2021

*Bilingual option*

**\$1,700**

Winner of the Sylva Gelber Music Foundation Award, violinist **Eva Aronion** has performed extensively across the globe in venues such as Carnegie Hall and Montreal’s Maison Symphonique. Her performances have been praised as “a veritable how-to in balancing emotional weight and technical virtuosity” (Cultural Spot LA). Described as a “mature artist with a profound musical imagination” (Toronto Concert Reviews), cellist **Cameron Crozman** is being hailed as one of Canada’s leading young cellists. He was the youngest recipient of the Canada Council Michael Measure’s Prize and was one of 6 cellists from around the world chosen to take part in the Gautier Capuçon’s 2016-17 Classe d’Excellence at the Louis Vuitton Foundation. Aronion plays on a c. 1700 Giovanni Tononi violin and Crozman plays on the ca. 1696 “Bonjour” Stradivarius cello and the ca. 1830 “Shaw” Adam cello bow, all generously on loan from the Canada Council for the Arts Instrument Bank.

♥ **Why we love them** - *Highly engaging & superb musicianship*

## Technical Needs

- 1 adjustable piano bench
- 2 music stands
- 1 vocal mic with stand

# Regard Persan

Pooria Pournazeri, tanbour  
Ziya Tabassian, percussion  
Saeed Kamjoo, gheychak & kamancheh

March 12-28, 2021

\$2,200

*Bilingual option*



Founded by three Irano-Canadian musicians living in Montreal, **Regard Persan** is an innovative ensemble in which each member explores the sounds of Persian music through their respective instruments. Bridging the gap between tradition and modernity, the trio seeks to create contemporary music that is aurally timeless. Formed after the trio's magical concert premiere at the 2013 Garage Concerts series in Montreal, Regard has performed in Canada, Europe, and China. Regard Persan performs on the tanbour (the preferred instrument of Kurdish dervishes), gheychak (a string instrument used by the Qalandars of Baluchistan), kamancheh (Persian spike fiddle), and percussion instruments from Iran.

## Technical Needs

- 3 chairs
- 3 mics and stands

♥ **Why we love them** - Mesmerizing & beautiful

## Benefits of Booking a Debut Artist

Artistic Excellence

Programming Diversity

Education & Engagement Opportunities

Organizational Integrity

Logistical Ease

*Presenters with audience capacity of 50 seats or fewer may be eligible for alternate concert formats.*

For further information please contact:

Erin Sparks, Executive Director

902.429.6812 / [erin@debutatlantic.ca](mailto:erin@debutatlantic.ca)

For full artist biographies, audio recordings, and video links, please visit [DebutAtlantic.ca](http://DebutAtlantic.ca)

Debut Atlantic covers all direct and indirect tour-related costs: travel, accommodations, per diem, full-colour concert posters, and programs.

[DebutAtlantic.ca](http://DebutAtlantic.ca)

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