

THE EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF THE VIOLIN

featuring

Klopoushak & Chiu



Carissa Klopoushak, violin
Philip Chiu, piano

debut atlantic

debut

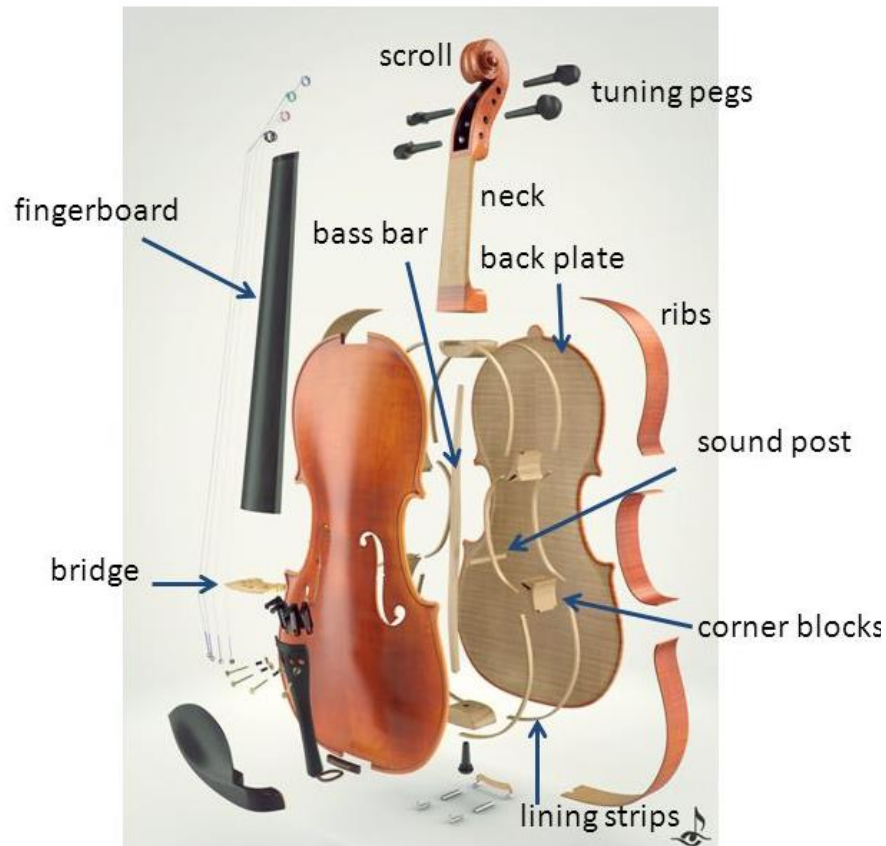
début atlantique

Meet Klopoushak & Chiu

Carissa Klopoushak has made a name for herself as a curious, creative, and versatile musician. Based in Ottawa, she is a proud member of Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra and the Ironwood Quartet. A laureate of the 2018 Canada Council for the Arts Instrument Bank Competition, Carissa performs on the beautiful Maggini model 1851 Jean Baptiste Vuillaume violin. She has recently been named Interim Artistic Director of Ottawa Chamberfest, starting in that position in mid-August, 2020. Founder and Artistic Director of the Ritornello Chamber Music Festival in her hometown, Saskatoon, the festival, now in its 12th year, strives to bring the chamber music concert experience into the 21st century through fresh and innovative programming and presentation. Carissa, with her friends in the Ironwood Quartet, serves as co-director of the Classical Unbound Festival in Prince Edward County. Carissa enjoys performing in many different styles, especially Ukrainian folk music.

An exceedingly sociable pianist, **Philip Chiu** concertizes extensively as one of Canada's most sought-after chamber musicians. Along with pianist Janelle Fung, he forms one of Canada's most exciting piano duos, the Fung-Chiu Duo. Dedicated to elevating the standard and art of collaborative piano, Philip is the creator and director of the new Collaborative Piano Program at the Domaine Forget International Festival and Academy. He is an acclaimed accompanist-/coach based at McGill University, has been an invited professor--accompanist for the Conservatoire de musique de Montreal, and regularly accompanies at l'Universite de Montreal.

violin construction



Violin or Fiddle? They are the same instrument!

- A **violin** and a **fiddle** are the same instrument. What distinguishes a violin from a fiddle is the style of music that is played on the instrument; it's all in how you play it.
- The violin is most often associated with classical music, orchestras, symphonies, and chamber music.
- The fiddle is associated with a wide variety of music styles including Cajun, bluegrass, folk, country, and a Cape Breton ceilidh and kitchen party!

CLASSICAL VS. FOLK MUSIC

C
L
A
S
S
I
C
A
L

Classical music is a very general term which normally refers to Western art music.

Originally, the term started in the 19th century to denote specifically the "Vienna classic" style (Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven), to distinguish it from (e.g.) Romantic & Baroque music. "Classical" was intended to denote the highlight of musical tradition.

It's noted for its development of highly sophisticated instrumental musical forms, like the concerto, symphony and sonata, and vocal, such as opera.

Folk music is a type of traditional and generally rural music that originally was passed down through families and other small social groups. Typically, folk music, like folk literature, lives in oral tradition; it is learned through hearing rather than reading.

The term folk music denotes many different kinds of music; the meaning of the term varies according to the part of the world, social class, and period of history.

Folk music is also more likely to be participatory than presentational.

F
O
L
K



RESEARCH



Let's investigate the violin, using a range of resources such as the internet or ask a local musician.

What is the violin/fiddle made of – body, strings, bow? _____

What are the ancestor(s) of the violin? _____

Who are some very famous violinists – today and in the past? Famous fiddlers?

Listen to a recording/video of a piece written for a violin AND folk music written for a fiddle. How does the music written for a violin vs. a fiddle sound different?

The “Modern” Violin

The violin has stayed largely the same for over 300 years!

Here are some of the most famous violin makers, called **luthiers**, whose instruments are still being played today!

Antonio Stradivari (1644-1737)



- Italian luthier who perfected the art of violin-making; his instruments are known for their beautiful, unmatched sound.
- Around 650 instruments survived, including 450 to 512 violins.
- Depending on the condition, instruments made during Stradivari's "golden period" from 1700 to about 1725 can be worth millions of dollars!

Giuseppe Guarneri (1698 – 1744)



- Italian luthier from the Guarneri family of Cremona. He rivals Antonio Stradivari with regard to the respect and reverence accorded his instruments; Guarneri's violins often have a darker, more robust, more sonorous tone than Stradivari's
- Fewer than 200 of his instruments survived
- The quality and scarcity of his instruments have resulted in sale prices in excess of \$10 million!



LISTENING



Look up recordings of Carissa Klopoushak and Philip Chiu from YouTube, listen to the media files from the Debut Atlantic website, or retrieve sound files on iTunes. Listen actively and answer the following questions.

What piece did you listen to? Name the composer and piece title.

Describe characteristics of the music (was it loud? soft? fast? slow?).

Describe the mood/character of what you listened to.

Research the composer you just listened to, name three to four facts your learned, including the musical era he/she lived in.
