



A Benefit Concert
in Support of the Daily Bread Food Bank

Featuring
Xavér Varnus, *organ*; András Weber, *cello*; Ran Kim, *piano*

May 27, 2020

*This Livestream Concert Event is presented by
St. George's on-the-hill Anglican Church, Toronto*

Programme

J.S. Bach

Preludium in C-minor BWV 549

Air on the G string BWV 1068

Choral Prelude - Christ Lag In Todesbanden (Christ lay to death in bondage) BWV 625, Organ

Joseph Haydn

Divertimento in D Major, arr. for cello & piano by Piatigorsky

I. Adagio

II. Menuet

III. Allegro in molto

Gabriel Fauré

Après un Reve (*After a dream*), transcr. by P. Casals for cello & piano

Fritz Kreisler

Transcribed by the composer & his brother, Hugo the cellist.

Liebesfreud (Love's Joy)

Andantino in style of Padre Martini

Libeslied (Love's sorrow)

Rondino on a theme by Beethoven

Shon Rosmarin (Beautiful Rosemary)

Five Improvisations inspired by the stained glass windows of St. George's on-the-Hill by Xaver Varnus, Organ

Leonard Cohen

Hallelujah, arr. for cello & piano by Brooklyn Duo

Artist Biographies

Xavér Varnus

Born in Budapest, Hungary, his first piano teacher was Emma Németh, one of the last pupils of Claude Debussy. Xavér Varnus has played virtually every important organ in the world, including those in Bach's Thomaskirche in Leipzig (2014), Berliner Dom (2013), Notre-Dame (1981), Saint-Sulpice (2006) and Saint-Eustache (1996) in Paris, National Shrine in Washington, D.C. (1985), and Canterbury Cathedral (2004), as well as the largest existing instrument in the world, the Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia (1985).



He is perhaps the most influential figure in Hungarian classical music in the early twenty-first century. Over the course of his career, Varnus has played to more than six million people worldwide, recorded fifty-one albums, made sixty concert films, and written five books.

His Quadruple Platinum Disc winning album *From Ravel to Vangelis*, released by Sony BMG in 2007, is the best-selling organ CD ever. As a Canadian citizen, Xavér Varnus resides in Berlin, Germany. "Put simply, Varnus is a monster talent, every bit as stimulating and individual as the late Glenn Gould" (The Globe & Mail).

Artist Biographies

András Weber

András Weber received his musical training in Budapest, Hungary. His teachers included Emese Molnar, Ferenc Wilhelm and Endre Lengyel. His mentor, Janos Starker, has been a major influence in his work. He has been principal cellist with orchestras in: Hungary- Vasas Symphony, National Theatre Chamber



Orchestra; in Mexico City – Orchesta Mexicana de la Juventud; and Canada – OJQ, National Chamber Orchestra, Brantford Symphony. He has given concerts in North America, Europe and Asia. He was the winner of DEBUT in Montreal where The Gazette called him a "generously gifted" musician who plays with a "nicely coloured and singing tone."

Mr. Weber has recorded in Hungary and Canada. He was the founding artistic director of the concert series 'Music Alive!', teaches at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto and King's Christian Collegiate in Oakville. He is the principal cellist of Sinfonia Toronto "premier" chamber orchestra and Canadian Sinfonietta. He is the founding member of the Toronto Piano Trio and was a member of the famed Arthur LeBlanc quartet. He is presently directing the "King's Concert Series" in Oakville.

Artist Biographies

Ran Kim

Ran Kim is the Director of Music at St. George's on the Hill. She has also been the organist and accompanist at Kingsway College School for the past 19 years.

Ran began her piano accomplishments at a very early age. Her musical talent becoming apparent by winning the Grand Prize of the Korean Radio and Television competition two years in a row. At age 13, she was already a church pianist in her native town Seoul, South Korea. After starting her musical education at the Presbyterian University and Theological Seminary in Seoul, South Korea, she moved to Canada where she studied organ at McGill University in Montreal, and Glenn Gould Professional School of Music, in Toronto. Since coming to Canada she continues to accompany other soloists and perform organ recitals in Canada, Korea, and Europe. She also studied Learning Methods in France, Sweden, and England.



Ran accredits her success not only to herself, but the influence of her teachers; Dr. Hwaeja Lee, Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto; Margaret De Gastro, McGill University, Montreal; John Tuttle, University of Toronto and Douglas Bodle, University of Toronto.

Donate!

Daily Bread Food Bank is one of Canada's largest food banks. From their distribution hub, Daily Bread supplies food to nearly 200 food programs across Toronto. With the high rate of job loss due to COVID-19, food banks are on the front lines, helping the people of our city to meet basic needs. To find out more about the need and how to help, go to www.dailybread.ca

We ask you to consider giving a free-will donation through our website at www.stgeorgesonthehill.ca/giving/, choosing "Daily Bread Food Bank" as the fund. St. George's will match donations up to \$5000.