



Lyricism & Virtuosity - Saturday, October 17, 2009

Jean-Sébastien Roy, violin and Mathieu Gaudet, piano

Programme: BLOCH Nigun; FAURÉ Andante, Après un Rêve, Romance; MATHIEU Sonata for violin and piano; SAINT-SAENS Rondo Capriccioso; FRANCK Sonata in A major for violin and piano

Encore: FAURÉ Berceuse

Elixir Joyeux!

It is so rewarding to meet and hear our Quebec artists, performers "extraordinaire." Their youthful exuberance and expertise are quite astounding, remarkable indeed! Thank you Virtuosi Board & all who are responsible for this special and enriching season! **(Cynthia Coop)**

Bloch - Rich & virtuosic as well as haunting and sweet, all handled with ease and confidence.

Fauré - If this were a musical meal, this would serve as an elegant appetizer; refreshing, not too heavy, with delightful flavour that leaves us wanting more. Mathieu - a beautiful piece of Canadiana: 2 young artists and a brilliant composer. Colourful, rhythmic, exciting with wonderful collaborations between the artists. Saint-Saens - It takes a great musician to make the near impossibly difficult look easy. Super exciting and marvelous performance. Franck - A meal in itself, all courses delicious with different textures, flavours and colours, perfectly served and balanced. Then the last movement, the *crème de la crème*. Berceuse - a sweet ending. **(Virginia Heinrichs)**

I've heard many violins but none with the mellow, pleasing tones as this one. It and its owner get along well together. They and the (astounding thing!) medical student-pianist gave superlative performances. Gaudet remarked that he had recently made his first obstetrics delivery: the two of them delivered a bundle of joy to us tonight! Bring them back! **(Don Rodgers)**

A mesmerizing performance leaving the audience spell-bound. The virtuosic performance and singing tone from the violin was beautifully balanced with the pianist. Jean-Sébastien & Mathieu are amazing artists who touched the hearts of all who listened. Bravo! **(Caron Whitlaw Hiebert)**



Bloch - A fine serious piece, played with feeling and balance between the duets. Fauré - *Andante* - soft, and encouraging at the beginning, but played with different feelings through the piece. Nicely performed. *After A Dream* - A matter of serious sadness, perhaps like having a vision. *Romance* - sweet and light like an ice cream cone at first, but with sudden change in the style as though passing through a serious relationship. And back to the sweet ending. Mathieu - Played with feeling and communication through both instruments. *Rondo Capriccioso* - an amazing piece. I learned a lot from the style.

(Shuaihua Li)

Fauré - Beautiful and intimate. He has won my heart. How brave to offer up Mathieu, a new composer. The Bloch *Nigun*: If, as he says, he plays it differently every time, he would continue to open our senses each time. Passionate.

(Sandra Campbell)

RX: Elixir joyeux : i.musicians par excellence , ii great violin, iii Steinway piano
Mix: One part Bloch, four parts Fauré, one part each of Mathieu and Saint-Saens. Add liberal dose of Franck. Use PRN for attacks of melancholia.

(A virtuoso, MD)

Fabulous music making! What a joy to hear your Franck in your first performance of it. **(M. Evans)** Amazing how 2 guys from Quebec turned Ekhardt-Gramatté Hall into an "oasis". **(Terry Zdan)** As a first timer it was AWESOME. Than you! **(Connie Newman)** A very impressive pair of artists **(Lou Billinkoff)** A wonderful evening of music, beautifully played. **(Alan Forrest)** Definitely a sensational concert. **(Martin Buchwald)**

Critic's Prize

Shuaihua Li

CD — Violin Favorites; Hristo Popov, violin and Eriko Izumida, piano

Winnipeg Free Press - ONLINE EDITION Thursday, September 17, 2009

Russian cellist had Virtuosi audience at first bow stroke

By: Holly Harris

Film buffs will remember a famous line from a few years back: "You had me at 'hello.'" Well, Russian cellist Sergey Antonov quickly asserted his status as a world-class artist from the first stroke of his bow Saturday night, wowing Virtuosi Concert's opening night crowd with sublime artistry and a bundle of charm. holly.harris@shaw.ca

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<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/entertainment/arts/Russian-cellist-had-Virtuosi-audience-at-first-bow-stroke--59648247.html>

