

ARTISTIC VISION

“As a starting point for this program, we wanted to ensure that there was a lot of variety. One of our criteria, since Allen plays two different sizes of a saxophone, was to include him playing selections on both the soprano and alto saxophones. We also wanted to include some solo pieces for piano.

As well as being varied in instrumentation, we wanted to play music that was very different historically. The opening piece - Le Basque - was written in the 1600's, the Marcello Adagio is from the 1700's, and works by Piazzolla, DuBois and Glick are from the 20th century. Another part of the reason for our choices is that we took into account the audiences for which we would be playing. Since our Prairie Debut tour took us through some very small communities in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, a lot of people would have never heard classical saxophone, so we wanted music that was attractive and appealing. We had to consider what we thought would be accessible to the audience. We have also included a few transcriptions. Since the saxophone was invented in 1841, most of the classical saxophone repertoire is relatively recent, so transcriptions make up a portion of the repertoire.

The final variable was the melodic range of the program. The Rachmaninoff is, of course, very romantic music. The Dubois pieces are a really wonderful little set. It's modern music without being abrasive or super avant-garde- it's tuneful and melodic, and has idiomatic writing for the saxophone as well as the piano. It's just good writing. And then of course there is the Glick. We wanted to include music by a Canadian composer, and this is a beautiful sonata. So, there you have it: a great variety of styles, instruments and time periods - we hope you will enjoy the program!” (Allen Harrington & David Moroz)

A native of Saskatoon, Allen Harrington is Canada's leading young saxophonist. In November 2006, he became the first Canadian and only the second North American to ever reach the final round of the International Adolphe Sax Competition, the world's most important competition for saxophonists. He finished fourth from a field of 144 of the finest young saxophonists in the world. He has also won two of Canada's most prestigious competitions, taking First Prize at the 2004 International Stepping Stone Competition, as well as the Grand Award at the 1999 National Music Festival of Canada.

In 2006, his performances took him to the United States, Slovenia and Belgium, and in February of 2007 he gave a 7-concert recital tour of Atlantic Canada under the auspices of the *Debut Atlantic* series. Also in 2007, Harrington made his solo debut with l'Orchestre Symphonique de Quebec, and was guest soloist with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra and Thunder Bay Symphony in 2008. Presently, Harrington teaches saxophone, bassoon and chamber music at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Music.

Winnipeg-born pianist David Moroz has been twice nominated for Manitoba's *Artist of the Year*, is a frequent guest of CBC Radio and is a veteran performer at Canada's most important music festivals. Mr. Moroz was awarded a Doctor of Music degree from the University of Montréal, and holds both Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the celebrated Juilliard School in New York City. He has been Artistic Director of The Winnipeg Chamber Music Society since 1987, and served as Assistant Program Director for Music & Sound at The Banff Centre from 1995-99. He was appointed to the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Music in 1999, where he heads the Piano Department. He also serves as Coordinator of the Piano Department at The Morningside Music Bridge.

David Moroz made his debut in Shanghai in the summer of 2006, performing a recital with the acclaimed American cellist Lynn Harrell and the Dvorak quintet with the Shanghai String Quartet. Most recently, he made his debut with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, performing as solo pianist in Alexander Scriabine's legendary score *Prometheus*.

