

SERATA 2022

PERFORMER BIOS

CLAUDETTE CARON

Pianist Claudette Caron completed advanced studies with Alma Brock-Smith at the University of Manitoba, both as a solo pianist and with duo-piano partner Paulette Price. In their graduating year, the Caron/Price duo won the Canadian Music Competition Finals, Ensemble category, and that fall toured fifteen centers in Western Canada as winners of the Young Artist competition. Further duo studies were with Phyllis Sellick in London, as well as private coaching with Leonard Isaacs in Winnipeg and Jean-Paul Sevilla in Ottawa.

When she moved to Brandon, Claudette resumed her interest in solo piano performance, travelling to study with pianist Robin Harrison at the University of Saskatchewan. She pursued her interest in chamber music in the Ford/Caron flute and piano duo with flautist Robert Ford from 1989 to 2010. These years saw the release of a CD dedicated to the works of composer Siegfried Karg-Elert in 2000, and the premiere of a commissioned trio for piano, flute, and violin by Kenneth Nichols in 2003.

She returned to Winnipeg in 2018 and has established a new and thriving class of enthusiastic piano students. She is especially proud of the relationship she has developed with her students over the years, and the role she has played in making music a joyous part of their lives.

JOANNE DIPLOCK

Joanne Diplock has enjoyed a career teaching Piano, Suzuki Piano, and Early Childhood Music for over 45 years. She currently maintains an active studio from her home in West Kildonan and loves to explore new and creative ways of teaching and playing music. Besides music, Joanne enjoys quilting and embroidery and loves to incorporate music pedagogy into her works.

COREY FRANCIS

Corey began playing piano at the age of 9, studying with Gloria Matthies and Loren Hiebert. From 2010-2014, Corey studied at Brandon University under Megumi Maskai, graduating with a Bachelor of Music, the Level 10 RCM Piano Certificate, and the Silver Medal for the highest GPA in his program.

From 2013-2017, Corey volunteered with the charitable organization “Artists in Healthcare, MB” raising over \$32,000 and creating their largest rural branch. Over the years, 1,000+ live music concerts were performed for residents in personal care homes in Souris & Brandon, MB. In 2018, Corey became a Registered Music Teacher and started “Piano Expressions with Corey” in Winnipeg. For about a year, Corey taught part-time while juggling his full-time management and church musician positions. He made the leap to quit his day job in June 2019, reaching his goal of 40 students by September.

When Covid-19 hit, Corey's students recorded over 300 performances, sending a 30-minute virtual recital to every personal care home across Manitoba for each month of 2021, bringing intergenerational music to around 10,000 seniors! With 80+ piano students (and a waitlist of hopeful students), two incredible teachers: Annette Hay and Annie Koop have joined his teaching team!

NAOUM GOMON

Shortly after receiving his Master of Music at the Russian Academy of Music in Moscow, Mr. Gomon joined the Big Theatre Opera and Ballet in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

A year later, Mr. Gomon joined the National Symphony Orchestra as rotating principal clarinet from 1975 to 1992. During his tenure he performed throughout Russia and the Baltic Republic: Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and in the Middle Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan. He also toured Georgia and Armenia, as well as in Asia with performances in Hong Kong and Thailand.

In 1992, due to the political climate and upheaval in the Soviet Union, Mr. Gomon and his family immigrated to Canada and made Manitoba their new home. While establishing himself in Winnipeg, Mr. Gomon held the position of principal clarinetist with the Manitoba Conservatory Symphony Orchestra, the Mennonite Community Symphony Orchestra, the Winnipeg Chamber Ensemble, and the Winnipeg Wind Ensemble from 1994-2011.

Recent performances include participation in a program of ensemble music for the Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association in 2018 and in 2019. Naoum Gomon has been a valued sessional clarinet instructor for the Desautels Faculty of Music since 1994. Mr. Gomon is also the owner of Accord Musical Instrument.

STEPHEN HAIKO-PENA

Stephen Haiko-Pena is a performer, composer, and teacher in Winnipeg. He holds a Bachelor of Music from Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba where he studied voice and piano.

He's performed extensively in Winnipeg as a solo musician and with various groups: Manitoba Opera, The Little Opera Company, Underground Opera, The Gilbert and Sullivan Society and Canzona. Some of his creative output includes an intermediate piano suite, two children's musicals and a choral work centering on a famous Manitoba UFO sighting.

LEANNE HIEBERT and LISA PENNER

Leanne Hiebert studied with Lydia Wiebe and Dr. Kenneth Nichols. She is a graduate of Brandon University with a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and holds an ARCT in Piano Pedagogy and Performance. She is the current Past President of the MRMTA and is grateful for the opportunities and professional development she has gained through the organization. She enjoys teaching students of all ages and levels and plays regularly for choirs and soloists in Winnipeg.

Lisa Penner has an ARCT in Piano Pedagogy and manages a thriving teaching studio through Winnipeg Mennonite Elementary School as well as Westgate Collegiate where she is the collaborative pianist for their choir program. Lisa studied with Ms. Jean Broadfoot at Canadian Mennonite University and Pedagogy with Mrs. Julianna Enns. She enjoys playing with her kids and friends for fun.

Lisa and Leanne's lives have intersected over the years through church, kids, sports, and teaching each other's children. They have played many ensembles together over the years including a duet performance at their ARCT pedagogy graduation recital. As for off the bench activities, Lisa is a much faster triathlete, and Leanne can probably beat her at tennis (challenge this summer!). Thanks for organizing Serata so that friends have reason to make music together and show their students that they too need to practise!

LORI JEDE

Lori holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music from the University of Winnipeg/Concord College as well as a Flute Performance diploma from the Western Board of Music. She is a certified teacher with the Manitoba Registered Music Teachers Association and the Royal Conservatory of Music for flute, piano, and theory, and is an adjudicator with Associated Manitoba Arts Festivals. Other professional development has been received through Noa Kageyama's Beyond Practicing Course and the RCM piano pedagogy courses.

Lori currently enjoys teaching in her home studio, in addition to being the treasurer of the Syrinx Flute Festival and the Secretary Treasurer on the executive of the MRMTA.

Her pandemic passions have been composing music for her students and co-founding the Manitoba Flute Association.

She lives in Winnipeg with her husband, two daughters and four pugs.

KRYSTENA KRAHN

Born and raised in Winnipeg, Krystena has been an active participant in the music community for over 20 years. Beginning violin at the age of four with Joanne Martin, later adding viola and piano, she currently teaches students as young as three up to adult. She holds a Bachelor of Music from CMU as a student of Daniel Scholz; is a member of the MRMTA, an RCM Certified Teacher and a Board Member with the Wpg. Music Festival.

Krystena has twice been awarded the Gold Medal from RCM and is working toward becoming an Examiner through their Certification Program.

Her passions include sharing her love of music through performing, adjudicating and teaching - including helping her own two kids to Twinkle.

ELSIE MACHOVIC

Pianist and teacher Elsie Machovec has taught longer than her 43 years as an active member of the MRMTA. Teaching students such as Chantal Kreviazuk and Adrian Bronson who went on to professional music careers has been abundantly satisfying for her and she is delighted that many of her former students keep in touch.

From the 1970s through to the 1990s, Elsie, the performer, was often heard on Christian radio and television programs as well as at a “lot” of churches. Performing remains a pleasure.

Elsie is the proud mother of two amazing musical children, Rod and Karen.

TETYANA NOVYTSKA

Tetyana Novytska graduated from the National University of Music and Arts (Ukraine) with a master’s degree in piano performance and education. Novytska has more than 25 years of experience teaching in the National Academy of Culture in Ukraine. There she performed with orchestras and was a highly sought-after accompanist.

After moving to Canada in 2006, Novytska established her practice as a music teacher and accompanist. She teaches students from beginners to university advanced levels. Her students have won various awards for provincial and national competitions. Novytska’s personal piano performances are also warmly received at various Winnipeg community events.

DALE ROGALSKY

Dale Rogalsky, pianist, organist, teacher, and accompanist is a prairie girl who, besides being a member of MRMTA is also affiliated with the Royal Canadian College of Organists. She served as the Music Director at St. Anthony of Padua for 12 years and is now the organist for St. Ignatius’ Saturday afternoon mass.

As an accompanist, she has worked with the Jewish and Ukrainian choirs in the North End and is currently the pianist for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet Professional Division, their Company classes, as well as for the Contemporary Dancers’ and for ballet exams.

Dale enjoys collaborating with other artists. For Anchorage Classical Ballet, she co-composed with Richard Grieg for the ballet Aurora Borealis. Locally, Dale arranged and performed “Botho” for the RWB’s First Steps, a competition for youthful choreographers, winning the People’s Choice Award. She continues to have a rewarding musical career.

ELIZABETH ROTOFF

Elizabeth Rotoff, mezzo-soprano, has had a multi-faceted career.

She has been an independent voice teacher for over 25 years, teaching students of all ages. Her voice students consistently perform well in exams, music festivals and other competitions. Many of them have gone on to professional careers in the disciplines of classical music, musical

theatre and jazz. She is an active member of The National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), and the Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association. She is sought after as an adjudicator and clinician.

As a singer she has performed across Canada and in England in opera, musical theatre and recital. Some favourite roles include Sesto in La Clemenza di Tito, Dorabella in Cosi fan tutte, Prince Orlovsky in Die Fledermaus, Baba in The Medium and Lalume in Kismet.

In addition to her love of the arts, Elizabeth has a strong passion for helping singers optimize their instruments. As health coach and founder of The Fit Singer., she has taken this expertise to Resonanz Opera in Ohio as a wellness consultant and as a presenter at NATS National Conferences in 2018 and 2020 and the 2019 CFMTA Conference.

LEE HOUGHTON-STEWART

Lee Houghton Stewart has studied collaborative piano at both Brandon University and McGill. Her teachers have included Lawrence Jones, Tom Plaunt and Michael McMahan.

Lee returned to Winnipeg from Ontario where she taught piano, theory, and history both as an instructor at Nipissing University and in her own private studio. She performed frequently with groups such as the Sudbury Chamber Singers and the Rapport Singers of North Bay. Her duo, In Tandem, traveled to perform in small communities in Ontario.

In Winnipeg, Lee maintains a private studio, teaches at the Winnipeg Conservatory of Music, works as a festival adjudicator, and is Director of Music at Westwood Presbyterian Church. She is privileged to perform often with singers and instrumentalists and especially enjoys her collaboration with Manitoba Underground Opera.

VIKTORIYA TUZ

Victoria Tuz graduated from the Lysenko Lviv Music Academy in Ukraine with a master's degree in a piano performance and education. For 18 years she worked as an accompanist at the Academy of Music in Ukraine.

In 2009, Viktoriya moved to Winnipeg. She worked at a music school for 2 years. Now she teaches all ages and levels providing private lessons in her music studio. Her students have won festivals, provincial competitions, and online competitions.

As an accompanist Viktoriya participates at some music events and concerts.