

Boyanna Toyich Memorial Concert Series



Concerts will feature Boyanna's students and colleagues performing music representing her multifaceted career in teaching, mentorship, and collegueship.

Boyanna Toyich 1948-2019

Boyanna's musical genius was discovered at age 5 by her kindergarten teacher. At age 13, she was the youngest person in Canada to receive an ARCT diploma and at age 16, she entered the Faculty of Music as a first year piano performance student. After graduation, Boyanna worked for the Royal Conservatory of Music and the Faculty of Music for over 40 years, creatively and joyfully teaching piano and pedagogy. She designed and taught the Faculty of Music's acclaimed Performance Skills course, and created the first ever Community Outreach Adult Piano Master class, a weekly class that has run for over 20 years.

Boyanna's achievements and contributions extended far beyond the teaching institutions. She created and presented workshops, adjudicated music festivals and exams across Canada, and published many music education volumes.

Uniquely innovative in her desire to bring music into the broader community, she organized and produced the Toronto-Rome Monster Concerts, piano orchestras with 20 players at 10 pianos. These popular events first took place in 2003 just outside the Vatican and at the Castel Sant'Angelo in Rome, Italy at the invitation of the Mayor of the Historical Center of Rome. She then successfully twinned the cities of Rome and Toronto and produced the same event in Nathan Phillips Square with both mayors in attendance. Monster Concert success continued with an invitation for the piano orchestra to accompany the horse dressage performance at Toronto's Royal Agricultural Fair – a first-time ever spectacle!

In order to give university students international educational opportunities, experience and exposure, Boyanna created her own not-for-profit corporation Toyich International Projects (TIP) and in 2008 launched an acclaimed summer music program, RomeSMARTS in Rome, Italy. This program continues today in partnership with the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto and the University of UPTER in Rome, Italy and has provided advanced music instrumental and vocal music students an unforgettable and beneficial professional experience.

Through these inspired and ongoing initiatives as well as a scholarship in her name, her legacy and contributions to her profession will continue as it is passed on to the next generation. This was her wish!

Piano Sonata in E flat major, Op 31 #3
IV. Presto con fuoco

L. van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Tricia Moon, piano

Consolation No. 3 in D flat major, S. 172

F. Liszt (1811 – 1886)

Fabian Fulsom, piano

Tucker's Secret Life
Jingle Bells

N. Faber and R. Faber
Traditional Arr. W. Palmer

Cameron Woloszczuk, piano
Mimi Ke, piano

Speaker: Cameron Walter, Director, Toyich International Projects

Pleurs d'ors

G. Fauré (1845-1924)

Nathalie Paulin, Anika-France Forget, sopranos
Steven Philcox, piano

Clair de Lune

G. Fauré (1845-1924)

Nathalie Paulin, soprano
Lydia Wong, piano

Un adieu

G. Scelci (1905-1988)

Stephen Clarke, piano

Overture to Barber of Seville

G. Rossini (1792-1868)
(arr. For six hands)

Mimi Ke, Nicole Agostino, Joy Lee, piano

Closing: Lilian Toyich



Repertoire on today's program

Each selection on today's program has a special and meaningful connection to Boyanna, as do most of the performers

The opening Bach aria translates as "Last hour, break forth, to press closed my eyes! Let me gaze upon Jesus' joyous glow and His bright light, let me be like the angels!" and speaks to Boyanna's personal faith and convictions.

Kyrie is a common name of an important prayer of Christian theology, and has been set to music many times over, and in numerous languages, in styles ranging from Gregorian chant to folk. The composer, who graduated on June 20, 2019, was Boyanna's piano student, and one of the recipients of Boyanna's final congratulatory message to her graduating students. The piece is posthumously dedicated to Boyanna.

Sibelius: "One of our local friends in Rome, Giuseppina Matera, held a lovely soiree for the RomeSMARTS participants when we were there in 2018. Her genuine love of music and its place in her life inspired me to prepare some solo repertoire to play for her soirees in the summer of 2019. I came upon this lovely Sibelius Impromptu and planned to include it with other pieces. Unfortunately we never made it to Rome last summer. When I received the message that Boyanna had just passed, my first instinct was to sit down at the piano in our shared office and play for her. This was the piece that came through my fingers as I grasped the realization that she would no longer be with us. A few weeks later, as I was helping the family take care of Boyanna's apartment, I began to sort out her piano scores. One of the first scores I pulled off her shelves was an original volume of the very same Sibelius Impromptu. This score now has a permanent spot on my piano at home."

Many of the following piano pieces, performed by Boyanna's Adult Outreach Master Class students would have been pieces they performed in class under Boyanna's guidance.

Cameron will share pieces that he has leaned and practiced on Boyanna's piano, of which he is now the proud owner.

Boyanna was an extraordinary mentor to so many a great lover of fine art. Fauré's *Pleurs d'or* ("Tears of gold") carries on Boyanna's example of mentorship as Nathalie Paulin performs with her young student, Anika-France Forget. The text of Fauré's "Clair de Lune", written by the 19th century French poet Paul Verlaine, describes the scene in one of the well-known paintings of the French Rococo painter, Antoine Watteau.

Boyanna's connection to Rome was undeniable. She traveled to Rome more than 25 times, and was an articulate self-taught speaker of the language. Participating in RomeSMARTS, witnessing her work and interaction there, one was convinced that she was a native spirit.

Scelsi, the Italian composer of "Un adieu" lived in Rome from 1950 to the end of his life. The manuscript of "Un Adieu" was given by Scelsi to Swiss pianist Marianne Schroeder in 1988. He asked her to premiere it at his funeral, which she did. The piece is undated and still unpublished, according to the composer's wishes. Stephen performed this gentle and mysterious composition in a recital in Rome at Scelsi's house, now a museum, in 2011.

One of Boyanna's incredibly successful life projects were the Monster concerts (10 pianos!) produced both here in Toronto and in Rome. We do not have 10 pianos today, but six hands at one piano give us a hint at the spectacular celebratory sounds those concerts had!

Celebrating a life lived to the fullest, we close our program with three representative students of Boyanna's – each from different streams of her influence, performing one of the world's most famous works, Rossini's Overture to the Barber of Seville.

Performer's biographies

Cameron Woloszczuk: Eight year old Cameron, is the youngest member of Boyanna's family. Having tested and recognizing his talent early on, she left him her baby grand piano, and asked that one of her gifted former students Mimi Ke be his teacher, to which Mimi wholeheartedly agreed. Cameron has only been taking lessons for 3 months, and he is a smart and very fast learner! He loved his special Aunt Bo, and cherished the time spent with her.

Barbara Landry studied with Dorothy Morton in the Piano Performance Program at McGill University. After graduating from McGill, Barbara taught piano in Cuernavaca Mexico for 10 years. When she returned to Canada in 1983, Barbara had a career teaching ESL in Toronto. In 2013 she joined Boyanna's Community Outreach Master Class, delighted to take up piano studies again in such a supportive and encouraging group. Barbara credits Boyanna with a teaching style that showed great love for both the music and her students, and she loved that Boyanna affectionately called her "Barbie Doll"!

Katharine Petkovski (b. 1997) is a first year student completing her Master's Degree in Composition at the University of Toronto. A recipient of the William Erving Fairclough Graduating Scholarship, her music has been performed by ensembles such as Tapestry Chamber Choir, *Sehnsucht* (Mississauga Summer Chorale), MacMillan Singers and RESOUND Choir. She holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Composition from the University of Toronto, and currently studies composition with Dr. Norbert Palej.

"Boyanna was my private teacher for four years at the University of Toronto, but words cannot describe what she meant to me. Our weekly lessons were so important, and I learned so much - about music - but mostly about myself. Boyanna believed in me from the first lesson that I met her. She had the ability to see the greatness and potential in each of her students, and ceaselessly cheered them on. I am truly grateful for the impact Boyanna has had on my life, and am forever changed having known her. "

Stephen Clarke, pianist, has performed in festivals in Europe, Canada, the U.S., South America and China. He has appeared as soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic New Music Group, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Esprit Orchestra, New Music Concerts and the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. In 2011 Clarke played at the Museo Casa Scelsi in Rome at the invitation of the Fondazione Scelsi. He performs regularly with Arraymusic, Esprit Orchestra and New Music Concerts and is collaborative pianist for the saxophone studio at the University of Toronto. Stephen studied with Boyanna at the RCM from 1987-93.

Mario Ostrowski is an infectious diseases physician and researcher at University of Toronto. He has participated in Boyanna's community outreach master class and RomeSmarts program over the past 7 years. Boyanna's impact on his musical life has been immense, such as, endowing us to play 'con fideles'.

Erika Yost: Composer, mezzo soprano and pianist Erika Yost studied piano, pedagogy and performance skills with Boyanna and participated in the Toronto-Rome monster concerts as player, composer and conductor. She attended the very first RomeSMARTS program in 2008, which inspired the music of her solo piano CD "Roma". "Boyanna's creative spirit will always be with me."

Nathalie Paulin, soprano has established herself in the United States, Canada, Europe and the Far East as an interpretive artist of the very first rank. Winner of a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Opera Performance, she has collaborated with internationally renowned conductors on both the concert platform and in opera. Nathalie Paulin has been teaching voice as well as French Mélodie for undergraduate students, and Advanced French Lyric Diction for graduate students, at the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto since 2008. Nathalie has also been on faculty at VISI (Vancouver International Song Institute), Orford Music (Quebec), the Barachois Musical Summer Academy (New Brunswick) and at the Stratford Summer Music Vocal Academy. "Boyanna was such a generous soul — always ready to greet you with a smile, and generous with advice when advice was sought. Her love for young musicians and their individual development was exemplary. She made a better musical world. We will miss her."

Lydia Wong, one of Canada's most sought after collaborative pianists, appears regularly with the world's pre-eminent performers. Venues across the globe from Carnegie Recital Hall in New York City to London's Wigmore Hall have featured her expertise. Active in New Music Ms. Wong has enjoyed a particular association with Krzystof Penderecki performing his works around the world. She can be heard on Naxos, Centrediscs, Marquis Classics and Phoenix Records. Ms. Wong teaches at the University of Toronto and is Chair of the Piano department.

"I have known Boyanna for over 10 years. Boyanna and I went from colleagues sharing a studio to colleagues from across the hall. Brief hallway chats became the norm and she was always filled with positivity and words of encouragement. She is missed dearly."

Mimi Ke studied with Professor Boyanna Toyich during her undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto on a full-tuition scholarship; she also participated in Toyich International Project's RomeSMARTS program in the summer of 2017. She is grateful for Boyanna's never-ending support, guidance, and encouragement, and will always regard Boyanna as a lifelong inspiration. Mimi is currently pursuing her master's degree in Piano Pedagogy and Performance at the University of Toronto.

Kyrie Ensemble: Faculty of Music students in the Oratorio and Piano Vocal classes of Mia Bach, and colleagues of the Kyrie composer Katharine Petkovski, and former students of Boyanna, who have generously shared their time and talent to honor her.

Clare Scholtz has enjoyed a long and varied career as an oboist in Toronto, performing with groups both large and small, in repertoire ranging from the Baroque period to music newly composed. She has performed with the National Ballet Orchestra in Toronto, the United States, Europe and across Canada, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra, the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, the Hamilton Philharmonic, the Esprit Orchestra, Opera Atelier, Soundstreams, Arraymusic, Toronto Operetta Theatre, and the Toronto Wind Quintet. In a parallel and complementary universe, Clare has been very active in commercial music, theatre and recordings on both oboe and english horn.

“When I think of Boyanna, I remember our many beautiful moments together in Rome as part of T.I.P.’s RomeSMARTS project.”

Olivia Spahn-Vieira is a third year voice student at the University of Toronto. She will always treasure the time that she spent with Boyanna in Rome, during summer 2017, at RomeSMARTS. Boyanna’s passion, kindness, and zest for life will never be forgotten.

Tricia Moon studied piano performance at the graduate level and competed nationally in the U.S. After study in Banff, she settled in Toronto to raise a family, resulting in a 14 year absence from the piano. She joined Boyanna’s Masterclass in 2000 and was a private student until injury in 2006. She returned to Boyanna’s class in 2018. Musical activities are centered on performing new repertoire in the Masterclass and joining new adult groups. Boyanna’s approach and personal attention totally reprogrammed my entire approach to music; allowing me to enjoy the process of learning and performing without the negative judgement that grew out of earlier experiences. I am so grateful to her for this gift.

Fabian Fulsom received his Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Acadia University in 1997. He moved to Toronto in 1998 and studied with Boyanna Toyich at the RCM for 5 years participating in her Masterclasses and Class Recitals. Fabian was the recipient of the CBSO/Optimist Club of Scarborough Award during his time with Boyanna giving his debut performance of Addinsell’s Warsaw Piano Concerto with the CBSO. Fabian enjoyed all the performing opportunities that Boyanna offered with her Monster Concert Series, including the stage at Nathan Phillip Square, the Royal Winter Fair Dressage and the first 2 tours to The Vatican City. “Boyanna’s incredible opportunities brought a whole new level of confidence in my performance capabilities and I am so thankful to her for this.” Fabian is currently attending Boyanna’s weekly Masterclass at the University of Toronto.

Lyse Ward: After studying at the Conservatoire de Musique in Montréal during the sixties, Lyse Ward went on to further studies in languages and literature, and a career in translation. Several years ago, she returned to piano with renewed passion, and in 2013 became a member of Boyanna’s community master class where she benefited from Boyanna’s gift for pinpointing the very element likely to improve each person’s interpretation and technical ability. Her weekly class at the Faculty of Music was also the place to meet wonderful people with a shared interest in music. This is how Lyse started doing piano four-hand. She also loves to dig in the Faculty library for more répertoire in this musical genre and to play and sight-read with the good friends she made at Boyanna’s class.

Nicole Agostino completed her Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of Toronto, and completed her Associate Diploma (ARCT) in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music. She is currently completing a Masters of Music Performance in Applied Music and Health Degree, at the University of Toronto. Complimentary to her studies, she has studied at the Orford Musique summer festival and has performed in Rome, Italy at the Conservatorio di Musica “Santa Cecilia”, as a part of the RomeSMARTS summer music festival, where she met and was mentored by Boyanna Toyich. She has also worked and performed with Boyanna’s Community Outreach Performance Masterclass, providing insights to the students’ performances. Nicole will always hold Boyanna in her heart, and considers her as a mentor, teacher and life-long friend, whose enthusiasm for music and life was deeply inspirational

Joy Lee, pianist enjoys a multi-faceted career as a collaborative pianist, teacher, soloist, and scholar. She is a passionate advocate of music and has performed at various events and venues in Canada and U.S.A. Joy is on faculty at the Tyndale University & Seminary and Claude Watson School for the Arts. She is currently in the DMA Programme at the University of Toronto, studying with Head of the Collaborative Programme, Steven Philcox, and is the winner of the prestigious Gwendolyn Williams Koldofsky Prize in Accompanying (2018). “It is my honour to be a part of this celebration of Boyanna’s legacy. Her kindness, loving and positive attitude to those around her during RomeSMARTS 2018, while she was enduring pain, taught me a lesson to take for the rest of my life. I miss you, Boyanna.”

Stephen Philcox has been heralded by The Globe and Mail as “a superb piano partner...gorgeously accompanied”, and is regarded as one of Canada’s finest collaborators, a frequent partner of Canada’s vocal elite performing in concert halls across North America where he continues to garner the reputation as one of this country’s most expressive and colorful interpreters. Steven is regularly invited to mentor young artists at many of Canada’s prestigious institutions and summer programs. Recent highlights include Opera on the Avalon, Toronto Summer Music, Vancouver International Song Institute, and the Centre for Operatic Studies in Italy. Steven is co-founder of the Canadian Art Song project. Inspired by a passion for Canadian music, and art song in particular, its mission is to build on the rich legacy of Canadian song through the creation of new music. Steven is currently Associate Professor and head of Collaborative Piano studies at the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Music.

Dr. Bina John is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto. She teaches undergraduate/graduate courses in Music and Urban Engagement, Psychological Foundations, Keyboard Skills, Curriculum, and Music in Childhood. Currently, Dr. John is working on two collaborative projects; one is to bring music education to vulnerable and at-risk youth in the Greater Toronto Area. As a successful co-applicant for a CIHR Grant, she will be developing a music curriculum for a mixed reality video game to provide early childhood music education for children with cerebral palsy. Dr. John is the organist and choir director at Lakeview Gregorios Indian Orthodox Church. Her choir had their debut DCINY performance of Handel’s *Messiah*, on December 1st, 2019 at Carnegie Hall, New York City. The moment Bina and Boyanna realized that they both belonged to the Orthodox Church, they became spiritual sisters. Boyanna loved and supported Bina’s children as if they were her own children. She is sorely missed.

Stephania Turyk, a fourth year student at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Kinesiology, Stephania is an inducted member of the R. Tait McKenzie society for undergraduate students in the top ten of their class (Kinesiology Award), and has also held a TA position in Anatomy for 1st year kinesiology students since her second year. She has also been an annual recipient of the USports Academic All Canadian Award (awarded to varsity athletes who maintain an 80 or above academic average) since her first year in the program. Stephania has been a member of the Varsity Blues Women's Soccer Team at U of T throughout her undergraduate studies (goalkeeper position) and is a Varsity Blues anthem singer. Currently she is also participating as a practice student for future vocal instructors in the Vocal Pedagogy program at the Faculty of Music. Stephania has known Boyanna through her mother, Mia Bach, and both families have shared memorable moments together.

Mia Bach Her expertise and experience spans the spectrum of a professional pianist: junior to advanced piano pedagogy; concerto appearances with orchestras, recitalist; chamber musician; touring soloist; instrumental, choral and vocal accompanying and coaching. Following a decade spent as a scholarship student at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., Ms. Bach simultaneously pursued two Master of Music degrees, in performance and accompanying, at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA. Since 1995 Ms. Bach has been affiliated with the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music. Her musical and teaching gifts have positioned her as a much-valued instructor and collaborative pianist for art song/oratorio classes, studio lessons, recitals, and instructor for young pianists.

"I have known Boyanna for the past 15 years as a professional colleague, true friend and incomparable office mate. A daily greeting from Boyanna simply made one's day better. Even though I knew her in the latter part of her life, her generosity and soulmate qualities made it feel like a lifelong friendship. The abundance of her generosity in this friendship was boundless."

June 19, 2019

Message from Don McLean

Dean of the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto

It is with profound sadness that I inform you of the death this morning of our dear friend and colleague Boyanna Toyich. A longtime piano teacher among our sessional faculty, Boyanna was an inspiration to us all. Her infectious enthusiasm for our students and for the music learning experience would lift all spirits in even the most challenging situations. As I reflect, I realize that I have known Boyanna for at least 45 years, during our time together at the Royal Conservatory of Music and UofT Music and again over the past few years after my return to Toronto in 2011. She was always amazing: a beacon of positivity, a focused mentor, an innovator with many great ideas. She taught piano, pedagogy, performing skills, performance anxiety management, professional development, musicianship, and classes for advanced amateurs. She was Artistic Director and CEO of Toyich International Projects (TIP) which included the RomeSMARTS (Rome Summer Musical Arts) two-week summer program in Italy. She was so loved by her students, colleagues, and all members of the music community, because she gave such love first, and back, and always. We will miss her deeply.

The Boyanna Toyich Leadership in Music Scholarship

Created at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto, in honour of esteemed alumnus, incredible teacher and beloved colleague, Boyanna Toyich.

Boyanna's passionate mentorship enhanced and changed innumerable lives through more than 40 years of teaching. Her sincere wish was to have an ongoing music scholarship to support students with excellent academic standing who show exemplary commitments to innovation and leadership in musical arts.

This scholarship will be awarded each year to a graduate student who exhibits qualities of leadership, academic engagement, as well as creativity, innovation and community outreach.

We ask for your support in this worthy project to honour and remember Boyanna.

Donations

Tax deductible donations can be made to the "Boyanna Toyich Leadership in Music Scholarship" in one of several ways:

- 1) By filling out a pledge form, available at the concert.
- 2) By cheque to "Toyich International Projects", mailed to Lilian Toyich, 20 Prince Arthur Avenue, Suite 8D, Toronto, ON M5R 1B1.
- 3) By credit card, as a one-time lump sum or monthly for up to 60 months (i.e. 5 years), online through the University of Toronto at <https://donate.utoronto.ca>, select "Faculty of Music" and then "Boyanna Toyich Leadership in Music Scholarship", or by phoning the Faculty of Music Development Office at 416-946-3580.
- 4) University of Toronto employees can make payroll deductions online through the University of Toronto at <https://donate.utoronto.ca>, select "Faculty of Music" and then "Boyanna Toyich Leadership in Music Scholarship", or by phoning the Faculty of Music Development Office at 416-946-3580.

(Note: Tax receipts will be issued for all donations over \$25.00.)

Special Thanks

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