

Bergmann Piano Duo

Featured performer at the Abbey Bach Festival 2019

The Bergmann Piano Duo, described as artists who present “razzle-dazzle” and “electrifyingly rendered” recitals (*The Vancouver Sun*), have touched and inspired audiences with their uniquely eclectic programs for more than two decades.

As international prizewinners, including the Dranoff International Two Piano Competition and Provincia di Caltanissetta International Chamber Music Competition, they have performed in recital and with orchestras in North America and Europe, including recent appearances at the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, and in Munich in 2013. In a recent performance at the Salkind Duo Piano Festival, the Bergmann Duo “opened with a lush reading of the Ravel reductions of Nuages and Fetes from the orchestral Nocturnes by Debussy. Rich with colors and textures, the glorious scene was presented with attention to the most minute and delicate details of the work” (*The San Francisco Classical Voice*).

Recognized in the press as “piano duo extraordinaire having keyboard skills of the first order with impeccable musicianship” (*The Calgary Herald*) they have recorded numerous CDs for the Arktos, Koch International, Brilliant Classics, Naxos and ARS labels. Their Naxos release of the two piano music of William Bolcom, reviewed in BBC music magazine, contains “delicious take-offs of Latin – American salon music, plus ragtime and cakewalk pieces.”

Their programs draw from an extensive repertoire ranging from the baroque to the contemporary and incorporate numerous arrangements and original compositions by Marcel Bergmann, who writes in a “uniquely original voice that straddles the best of the classical and jazz worlds” (*The Miami Herald*).

In addition to their performing careers, they enjoy teaching, act as Directors at the Langley Community Music School, and serve as lecturers and jury members of International competitions.

The duo studied with Arie Vardi at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater, Hannover and with Jean-Eudes Vaillancourt at the Université de Montréal.

They received first prize at the International Chamber Music Competition in Caltanissetta, Italy, and were laureates of The 4th Murray Dranoff International Two Piano Competition. They performed extensively in Germany as members of the young artists’ roster of Yehudi Menuhin-Live Music Now.

In addition to their performing careers they also enjoy teaching and working in other capacities in the music industry. Marcel and Elizabeth are Artistic Directors of White Rock Concerts and serve as Directors at the Langley Community Music School. From 2009-2013, Marcel was Professor of Music at Mohawk College in Hamilton. Elizabeth and Marcel have been on faculty at Mount Royal University and University of Calgary as well as being involved in various musical projects at The Banff Centre for the Arts. In 2004/2005, they served as Artistic Directors of The Murray Dranoff

International Two Piano Competition and Foundation in Miami. They were members of the Calgary based group Land's End Chamber Ensemble, recipients of the 2005 and 2006 Western Canadian Music Awards for Outstanding Classical Recording. Their most recent CD, American Stories on the ARS label, features Marcel's arrangements of music by Leonard Bernstein, Chick Corea, Pat Metheny, Egberto Gismonti and Astor Piazzolla.

Committed to supporting the production of new repertoire, the duo has commissioned and premiered several works by Canadian composers. Their extensive repertoire ranges from the baroque to the contemporary and includes numerous own arrangements and compositions.

(Learn more at bergmanduo.com)