

# HEALING THROUGH MUSIC

## A Fundraiser for Ukraine

Featuring Stanislav Pronin and Anna Sagalova  
with special guest Rachel Krehm

A benefit concert co-produced by Canzona Chamber Players and Pickle Underground  
in support of Help Us Help Ukraine

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023, 7:30 PM

Arts & Letters Club of Toronto

*Fantasia, Op.28*

Felix Mendelssohn  
(1809-1847)

*Two Etudes*

Viktor Kosenko  
(1896-1938)

*Burleska*

Myroslav Skoryk  
(1938-2020)

*Invention No 3*

David Jaeger  
(b. 1947)

*Amhráin Chaointe (Keening Songs)*

- I. Caoineadh Eibhlín (Eileen's Lament)
- III. Caoine Magaidh (Joking Lament)

Anna Pidgorna  
(b. 1985)

### INTERMISSION

*Violin Sonata in G minor (Devil's Trill Sonata)*

- I. Larghetto ma non troppo
- II. Allegro moderato
- III. Andante
- IV. Allegro assai - Andante - Allegro assai

Giuseppe Tartini  
(1692-1770)

*Violin Sonata No. 2 in A major*

- I. Allegro mabile
- II. Andate tranquillo - Vivace - Andante - Vivace di più -  
Andante - Vivace
- III. Allegretto grazioso (quasi andante)

Johannes Brahms  
(1833-1897)

*Tzigane*

Maurice Ravel  
(1875-1937)

## STANISLAV PRONIN

Stanislav Pronin began his violin studies in Israel with his grandfather, Veniamin Pronin, a student of Pyotr Stoliarskiy and former Professor at the Odessa Conservatoire. He continued his studies at Indiana University with Nelli Shkolnikova and Jaime Laredo, and later at the Hochschule für Musik Köln, Germany, with Professor Zakhar Bron.

Stanislav's professional career began following his solo debut in Israel at the age of 10. He has performed as soloist and chamber musician at many festivals including Verbier Festival and Interlaken Classics in Switzerland, Banff Festival and Stratford Festival in Canada, Kronberg Festival in Germany, Skanderborg Festival in Denmark, etc. He performs regularly in USA, Canada, Europe, Scandinavia and Asia in such venues as Berliner Philharmonie, Carnegie Hall, National Arts Centre Ottawa, Perlman Theatre in Philadelphia, Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels, Guangzhou Grand Theater, Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, Wuxi Grand Theater (China), KKL Luzern, Salzburg Festspiele, Paris Philharmonie, Royal Festival Hall and Royal Albert Hall in London, Shanghai Oriental Arts Center, Semperoper in Dresden, and so on. He has collaborated with numerous conductors including Daniel Barenboim, Teodor Currentzis, Leonard Slatkin, Tobias Ringborg, Antonio Mendez, Sigiswald Kuijken, Michael Schonwandt, Lior Shambadal, Leif Segerstram, Marc Soustrot and Joshua Weilerstein. As chamber musician, he has collaborated with Jan Lisiecki, Jaime Laredo, James Campbell, Mark Kaplan, Pavel Vernikov, Jeanne Marie Conquer, Barry Shiffman, Bion Tsang, Orion String Quartet, Victor Danchenko, Julian Milkis, Alexander Zemtsov, Jan-Erik Gustafsson, Anton Nel, Emille Naoumoff and Lera Auerbach.

In addition to solo and chamber music, Stanislav is an experienced orchestra musician. He has been invited to perform as Concertmaster with Aarhus Symphony Orchestra and Odense Symphony Orchestra in Denmark, Austin Lyric Opera in the USA, Berliner Symphoniker, Beethoven Bonn Orchestra, Oldenburgisches Staatsorchester and Freiburg Philharmonic in Germany, Musikkolegium Winterthur in Switzerland, Estonian National Symphony Orchestra in Estonia, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in the UK and Singapore Symphony Orchestra. Additionally, he often tours with the West Eastern Divan Orchestra at the personal invitation of Daniel Barenboim, and most recently with Utopia Orchestra at the invitation of Teodor Currentzis.

An avid music educator, Stanislav regularly teaches violin and chamber music masterclasses worldwide. He has been Guest Professor at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theater since 2014. Additionally, he had held an Artist in Residence position at the University of Texas at Austin, and had given masterclasses at regular visiting Professor at the Royal College of Music in London, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, WWU Munster, Stoliyarski School of Music in Odessa, Lübecker Musikschule, Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance in Israel, assisted Professor Zakhar Bron at the Kronberg Academy, and had been guest faculty at such festivals as Summit Music Festival (NYC), Alion Baltic (Tallinn), and Summer Talent Music Festival (Brescia) along with fellow faculty members s.a. Aaron Rosand, Steven Isserlis, Ida Haendel, Albert Markov, Dmitry Bashkirov, etc. Stanislav is also a member of Play With A Pro online teaching community.

Stanislav is a recipient of multiple awards from such organization as the American String Teachers Association, America-Israel Cultural Foundation, Canada Council for the Arts and Classical Artists Development Foundation. He plays a violin by Antonio Stradivari on generous loan by an anonymous patron, with the kind assistance of Florian Leonhard Fine Violins Fellowship.

## **ANNA SAGALOVA**

Anna Sagalova is a Ukrainian pianist displaced from her home in Kharkiv due to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and constant bombardment of her city. She is an Honored Artist of Ukraine and Associate Professor at Kharkiv I.P. Kotlyarevsky National University of Arts.

Anna is an internationally recognized artist and a laureate of many competitions in Italy, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Canada and Germany. She frequently plays as a soloist with symphony orchestras throughout Ukraine under the baton of conductors from Ukraine, USA, Switzerland, Great Britain, Austria, etc. She has given concerts at the state radio studio in Bern, the International Museum of the Red Cross in Geneva (Switzerland), the Bozendorfer Hall in Vienna (Austria), the House Museum of F. Liszt, the concert hall in Altenburg in Weimar (Germany), among others. She has taken part in a number of festivals, including the Days of Ukrainian Culture festival in Poznan (Poland), the International Music Festival in Lubostron (Poland), the International festival of chamber music in Shanghai (China), Kiev-Music-Fest (Ukraine), and Kharkiv Assemblies (Ukraine). Her performances have been broadcasted on radio and television. She has recorded two compact discs.

In 2016 Anna was elected chairman of the advisory department in the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine "Council of Young Scientists". She is also a member of the National Council on issues of cultural and art education under the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine. She took part in the creation of laws on higher artistic education: "On education" and "On scientific and technical activity".

Anna is the artistic director of the International competition of musical art "Kharkiv Assemblies", co-founder of the project "Music against cancer", and a producer of multiple events and concerts. She is a jury member in several national and international music competitions in Ukraine. Anna gives piano master-classes in Ukraine, Spain and the UK. Among her students and graduates are winners of all-Ukrainian and international music competitions.

Anna studied with the People's Artist of Ukraine T.B. Vyerkina at the I.P. Kotlyarevsky National University of Arts in Kharkiv, and completed a postgraduate course with G. Otto at the University of Music Franz Liszt in Weimar (Germany). She participated in international piano masterclasses in Ukraine, Switzerland, China and France, where she attended classes of the professors K. Steinegger, P. Soubleau (Switzerland), E. Skovorodnykov (Ukraine-Canada), N. Shtarkman (Russia), K. Hellwig, G. Rosenberg, E. Haase, M. Dorrit, G. Otto (Germany), V. Zuponchich (USA), L. Knezhkova-Hassi, (Canada), K. Zera, P. Yansen (France), B. Sokolai (Hungary), Xiao Zong (China).

## **RACHEL KREHM**

A multi-faceted artist, soprano Rachel Krehm is the co-founder and General Director of Opera 5. As a performer she works in opera, new music, art song, improvisation, and voice and web-series acting. Along with performing, she is a writer and producer. In 2019, Rachel performed the title role of Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos* with Highlands Opera Studio where her performance was described as "soulful" by Opera Canada. She has performed Poulenc's *La voix humaine* multiple times, most recently with Toronto City Opera, where her performance was described as "a breathtaking virtuoso performance of boundless passion and seemingly limitless musicality" by Opera Going Toronto.

An avid believer in new creation, Rachel works in commissioning, workshopping, and creating Canadian art song and opera. In 2018, she premiered an orchestral song cycle by Vancouver based composer Ryan Trew on texts by her late sister Elizabeth Krehm called *Come Closer*. Rachel has now created a libretto to

expand this work into a chamber opera with Ryan Trew. The opera explores the relationship of sisters complicated by drug addiction and separated by death, and includes writing by both of the sisters weaved together through memories, dreams, and conversations. *Come Closer* saw development workshops with Pacific Opera Victoria's Artist Residency program in June 2022 and Opera McGill's Beta Lab in the spring of 2022. The commission is generously supported by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Through the pandemic, Rachel co-wrote, produced, and performed in the *Threepenny Submarine* pilot, which is Opera 5's new web series that follows puppets Lydian and Iona on deep sea adventures and combines puppetry and opera in collaboration with Gazelle Automations. Supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, eight more episodes will be created and produced in 2022. In the fall of 2021 Rachel sang Trew's *Come Closer* with the Kingston Symphony, and performed selections from Anna Pidgorna and Maria Reva's new opera *Plaything* with Société de musique contemporaine du Québec and Musique 3 Femmes. Rachel travelled to Berlin in the fall of 2022 for a complete performance and the German premiere of *Plaything* with Musique 3 Femmes and ufaFabrik. In June 2023, Rachel sang the song cycle *Come Closer* with North York Concert Orchestra.

## **HELP US HELP UKRAINE**

The Help Us Help Ukraine initiative is run by the Holy Eucharist Cathedral in New Westminster, BC, an active community hub for Ukrainians in Greater Vancouver. The church holds frequent community and arts events, and is welcoming to people of all religious and non-religious background and affiliations. Their team of volunteers works tirelessly to assist newly arrived Ukrainians displaced by the war, and raises funds to purchase medical supplies, vehicles and other non-lethal equipment badly needed to save the lives of Ukraine's defenders. All the funds raised at this concert will go towards the purchases of such supplies for Ukraine.

## **PICKLE UNDERGROUND**

Pickle Underground is a multidisciplinary arts organization based in New Westminster, BC dedicated to showcasing and developing Ukrainian art, focusing on artists working in Canada. Started by Anna Pidgorna and Korean-Canadian composer Ben Keast as an informal initiative to offer financial support to Ukrainian musicians affected by the war, we are working on becoming a registered non-profit. We collect donations and make direct transfers to individuals who have been dislocated, lost work, had their homes destroyed or even lost loved ones because of Russia's invasion of their homeland. We are also working with Ukrainian artists in Greater Vancouver, both recently arrived and well-settled, to create a sense of community, provide mutual support and develop opportunities for career advancement.

## **CANZONA CHAMBER PLAYERS**

Canzona Chamber Players is an annual classical and jazz chamber music concert series in its 20th year. It has hosted some of Canada's top musicians at various venues on Toronto Island and downtown Toronto. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Canzona broadcast recitals on YouTube.com/[CanzonaChamberPlayers](https://www.youtube.com/c/CanzonaChamberPlayers), recorded to the highest standard by Evan Mitchell and John S. Gray. The series has featured Winona Zelenka, Joseph Johnson and Jonathan Crow (TSO), Marie Bérard (COC), 2020 Juno recipient Angela Schwarzkopf, Yosuke Kawasaki and Jessica Linnebach (NACO) and many more. Canzona has raised over \$242 000 for the St. Michael's Hospital Foundation and is currently fundraising for the Kharkiv's Kotlyarivsky National University of Arts, Ukraine. Please sign up for our newsletter and enjoy our virtual recitals at [CANZONA.ORG](https://www.canzona.org)