



Newsletter #163

January 2015

Around Town (1) – Pacifica String Quartet with Menahem Pressler

The Friends of Chamber Music continue their winter season with quartets by Haydn and Shostakovich and Dvorak's Piano Quintet.

Recognized for its virtuosity, exuberant performance style, and often daring repertory choices, for two decades the Pacifica Quartet has gained international stature as one of the finest chamber ensembles performing today. In 2006, they won an Avery Fisher Career Grant and in 2009 Musical America named them Ensemble of the Year.



Playing Dvořák, a defining program highlight, you will hear features of traditional Czech folk elevated to high art. Menahem Pressler led the Beaux Arts Trio for more than 50 years. Now over 90, he continues a sparkling career as a soloist and guest artist.

The concert is at the Playhouse at 8pm on January 13th.

Around Town (2) – VSO New Music Festival

Their new music festival made its debut in 2014, and it promises to be an annual event. In 2015 it will run from January 15th until January 18th. The festival aims to showcase works by contemporary composers from Canada and abroad. This year the VSO welcomes back acclaimed contemporary ensemble Standing Wave to once again open the festival, and Vancouver's own Phoenix Chamber Choir makes their VSO debut.



Core VSO musicians Christie Reside and Nick Wright will also be featured playing progressive concertos by Canadian composers, including works by the VSO's composer-in-residence, Jocelyn Morlock.

Around Town (3) – When Sky was Sea

If modern visual art is amongst your interests, you may want to head to the Contemporary Art Gallery before January 11th, when the current show by Japanese artist Shimabuku closes. Previous shows of his have included *Swansea Jack Memorial Dog Swimming Competition* and *Then, I Decided to Give a Tour of Tokyo to the Octopus from Akashi*.



This will be the first North American retrospective of his opus.



Around Town (4) – PuSh International Performing Arts Festival

This is one of Vancouver's signature events. Produced over three weeks each January, the PuSh Festival presents groundbreaking work in the live performing arts.

The PuSh Festival expands the horizons of Vancouver artists and audiences with work that is visionary, genre-bending, multi-disciplined, startling and original. The Festival showcases acclaimed international, Canadian and local artists and mixes them together with an alchemy that inspires audiences, rejuvenates artists, stimulates the industry and forges productive relationships around the globe.



The Festival is a broker of international partnerships, a meeting place for creative minds, a showcase of Canada's best and an incubator of brilliant new work.

Events include theatrical performances, movie shows, concerts, dining events and art displays.

More details will be announced nearer to festival launch, which takes place on January 24th. It runs until February 8th.

Around Town (5) – Ice Skating at Robson Square

It's a Vancouver winter tradition. It's time to stroll on down to Robson Square with your ice skates flung over your shoulder. Ice skating at the rink is back, and will be available until the end of February. Skating is free, skate rentals are \$4, helmets and ice cleats rent for \$2.



Ice skaters can enjoy the rink from 9am – 9pm Sunday – Thursday, and from 9am – 11pm on Fridays and Saturdays. Though the rink is open-air, it's covered by a clear dome, so you can enjoy the downtown lights while still being protected from the rain. It's fun for all the family.

Around Town (6) – Emily Carr and Landon Mackenzie at the Vancouver Art Gallery

Over the past three decades, Vancouver-based painter Landon Mackenzie has produced an impressive body of large-scale painting that addresses the way we situate ourselves in the world. This exhibition traces correlations between different bodies of her work and the paintings of Emily Carr, an artist who has been a touchstone for Mackenzie throughout her career.



Taking its title from images in both artists' work, the exhibition uses the wood chopper as a metaphorical figure who "clears a path" for those to come and the monkey as an emblem of the sense of loss and whimsy that is rarely discussed in Carr's work.



Emily Carr and Landon Mackenzie: Wood Chopper and the Monkey will be accompanied by an illustrated catalogue that explores the complex relationship between the works of these two artists. The exhibition runs until March 8th.



Around Town (7) — Luis Giraldo at Curve, River Rock Casino, Richmond

Having proven his musical chops as a member of Shakira's backup band, the Vancouver native has now turned his attention to the jazz classic. He is a pianist and vocalist. He'll be performing in the Curve Lounge every Sunday afternoon until the end of February.



Around Town (8) — The Romantic Symphony

Our local band, the VSO presents Valse Triste by Sibelius, Prokofiev's Third Piano Concerto (soloist Katherine Chi), and Bruckner's Symphony No. 4 in E-flat Major. The concert is on Saturday January 31st, with a reprise the following Monday, in case you missed the first one, or want to hear it all over again!



A Little Further Afield — 2015 Motorcycle Show

The weather is cold, the roads are slick. What could be more natural than that your thoughts turn to motorcycling?

Then you should hurry down to Tradex in Abbotsford to check out all of the latest bikes and gear. The show runs from the 23rd until the 25th.

- All That Fall at the Cultch, until January 24th



Compliments of your One Wall Concierge Team:
Eleanor, Kerry and Sunny

Still Further Afield – Los Vegas

The Consumer Electronics Show is back, opening on January 6th and running until the 9th. Events over the three days are far too numerous for us to mention.



Exhibitors include all of the big names in home electronics, from Altia Systems at the front end of the alphabet to Wilson Electronics (famous for their ultra-high-end speakers) at the other.

Please see www.cesweb.org for more information.

Wrapping up soon:

- Four Seasons Festival of Trees, until January 4th
- Avenue Q at the Arts Club Theatre, until the 3rd
- Mary Poppins, also at the Arts Club until the 4th
- Chelsea Hotel: The Songs of Leonard Cohen at the Firehall Arts Centre until the 3rd