

London Music Scholarship Foundation Competition 2019

Don Wright Faculty of Music, Western University

Guest Judges

[PIANO - Michael Berkovsky](#)

[VOICE - Russell Braun](#)

[STRINGS - Helmut Lipsky](#)

[WINDS, BRASS AND PERCUSSION - Jane Maness](#)

Biographies

PIANO - Michael Berkovsky

Canadian-Israeli pianist, Dr. **Michael Berkovsky**, made his New York debut at the David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center and has toured as soloist in Ireland, Japan, Italy, Israel, Canada, the United States and Costa Rica; as well as performed under the baton of Vladimir Feltsman, Stefan Sanderling, Leon Fleisher and William Noll. Michael regularly collaborates with chamber groups and award winning musicians, including the Jasper String Quartet and a diversified group of artists from the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Toronto Opera Company. He was a guest artist at many international festivals, including Arts Naples where he collaborated with Russian pianist Pavel Narcessian, and Music Niagara Festival. He frequents the cultural scene of his community in Toronto and has performed with Kindred Spirit Orchestra, York Symphony Orchestra and many others. A passionate and dedicated music educator as well as a highly sought after piano teacher, Dr. Berkovsky is on the faculty of the Glenn Gould School and the Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists, at the Canadian Royal Conservatory of Music. He also maintains a private studio in which a number of his students have placed highly in provincial, national and international competitions.

As a strong supporter of classical music, Michael is keen to cultivate the musical interest of the next generation in Canada. He frequently judges competitions and conducts master classes in Toronto, Kingston and Barrie. Additionally, Michael is a board member of the Canadian Music Competition as well as an advisor on the Artistic Committee of the Chinese Cultural Center Music Festival. Michael has won awards in numerous international piano competitions. He was a recipient of the America Israel Cultural Foundation Scholarships from 1994-2001. On the recommendation from Maestro Valery Gergiev, Michael was awarded the White Nights Foundation Scholarships while studying at The Juilliard School.

Born in the former Soviet Union and immigrated to Israel in 1990, Michael has studied with Nataly Litvinova and was mentored by Alexander Slobodyanik. In 2001, his family moved to Toronto, Canada. He received his Bachelor and Master's degrees from The Juilliard School where he studied with Yoheved Kaplinsky and Julian Martin. In 2011, he completed his Doctoral degree at the Peabody Conservatory of the John Hopkins University under the tutelage of Professor Yong Hi Moon.

VOICE - Russell Braun

Renowned for his luminous voice "capable of the most powerful explosions as well as the gentlest covered notes" (Toronto Star) baritone **Russell Braun** rightfully claims his place on the concert, opera and recital stages of the world. His intelligent and thoughtful portrayals of Chou En-lai, Billy Budd, Prince Andrei, Figaro, Papageno, Count Almaviva, Don Giovanni, Pelléas, Eugene Onegin, and The Traveller have captivated audiences at the Metropolitan Opera, Opéra National de Paris, Wiener Staatsoper, the

Royal Opera, Covent Garden, the Los Angeles Opera, Teatro alla Scala, and at the Salzburg and Glyndebourne festivals.

This season will feature two important role debuts for Braun, first as Don Alfonso in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* at the Canadian Opera Company, then as Peter in *Hänsel und Gretel* with Michigan Opera Theatre. In concert Braun will return to the Proms in London with the baritone solo in Britten's *War Requiem*, a piece he will reprise with the Atlanta Symphony and the Toronto Symphony. Other concert engagements include *Messiah* with the Montreal Symphony, and the baritone's collaboration with director Tim Albery on *Hanns Eisler's Hollywood Songbook*, *Hell's Fury*, which will be seen at the Luminato Festival. Future projects include a return to the Canadian Opera Company.

Last season included a return to the Salzburg Festival as Pentheus in Henze's *The Bassarids*, to the Theater an der Wien for Alfred III in *Der Besuch der alten Dame* and to the Calgary Opera as Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. In concert, Russell performed Mahler's Symphony No. 8 with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra and the Montreal Symphony, Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem* with the Houston Symphony, *Messiah* with the Grand Philharmonic Choir as well as in recital at Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music.

The highlight of Russell's 2016-2017 season was the title role of the Canadian Opera Company's new production of *Louis Riel* in Toronto at the Four Seasons Centre and in Ottawa with the National Arts Centre Orchestra presented as part of the celebrations surrounding Canada's 150th Anniversary. In an intense concert season, Russell reprised Peter Eötvös's *Senza Sangue* in Rome and London, Brett Dean's *Knocking at the Hell Gate* with the BBC Symphony in London, and Kaija Saariaho's *Cinque reflets de l'amour de loin* with the Radio-Sinfonieorchester in both Stuttgart and Freiburg. He also performed *Carmina Burana* with the Montreal Symphony, Fauré's *Requiem* and Brahms's *Four Serious Songs* with the Toronto Symphony at Roy Thomson Hall, *Elijah* with Chorus Niagara, and Handel's *Messiah* with the Nashville Symphony.

Recent seasons have included performances of Brahms's *Vier Ernste Gesänge* arranged by Detlev Glanert and Fauré's *Requiem* with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Vaughn Williams's *A Sea Symphony* with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, reprisals of Peter Eötvös's *Senza Sangue* in Bergen (Norway) and Göteborg (Sweden), a work he premiered in May 2015 with the New York Philharmonic in Cologne and New York, his role debut as Pentheus in Hans Werner Henze's *The Bassarids* with the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma and appearances as Count Almaviva in the COC production of Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Other highlights include debuts as Ford in *Falstaff*, as the Duke of Nottingham in *Roberto Devereux* and as Conte di Luna in *Il Trovatore*, all with the Canadian Opera Company, as Chou En-lai in John Adams's *Nixon in China* and as Olivier alongside Renée Fleming in *Capriccio*, both at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. He has appeared in the title role of *Don Giovanni*, in *Iphigénie en Tauride* and *l'Amour de Loin*, also with the COC, as Lescaut in *Manon Lescaut* at La Scala and the Metropolitan Opera in New York, where he also appeared in a new production of *Faust*.

His discography features the GRAMMY-nominated *Das Lied von der Erde* (Dorian), JUNO winners Mozart Arie e duetti (CBC) and Apollo e Daphne, and JUNO nominee Winterreise (CBC). His most recent release is Dietch's *Le Vaisseau Fantôme* with Les Musiciens du Louvre Grenoble on the Naïve label. DVDs include the Salzburg Festival's *Romeo et Juliette* and the Mark Morris dance adaptation of *Dido and Aeneas*, his much-lauded portrayal of Chou En-lai in Adams's *Nixon in China* (Nonesuch) and *Capriccio* (Decca) at the Metropolitan Opera (released on DVD as part of the company's Live-in-HD series) and Alexina Louie's comic opera *Burnt Toast*.

STRINGS - Helmut Lipsky

Born in Germany, **Helmut Lipsky**, grew up in Switzerland, where he studied violin with Concertmaster Abraham Comfort of the Winterthur Collegium Musicum Orchestra at the Zurich Conservatory in Switzerland, graduating with a bachelor and a concert diploma in performance and pedagogy. As a member of the Collegium Musicum Orchestra, he toured Switzerland and France, under the baton of, and accompanying, the pianist Géza Anda. He then, at the age of 19, continued his studies in New York, working for three years with Professor Ivan Galamian. Later he was a pupil of the international acclaimed violin soloist Itzhak Perlman at the Brooklyn Conservatory, where he obtained a Master's Degree of Arts under his tutelage. He was awarded the Presidential Scholars Award from the Council of the City of New York for his merits as a violinist and his academic work. Shortly after he toured the US with chamber music ensembles (The New York Players, The Masterplayers), and as a soloist with orchestras in Switzerland and the United States.

Resident of Montreal, Québec, Canada, since 1980, Helmut Lipsky established here his creative musical platform, the MELOSPHERE with a consortium of outstanding musicians, with which he still collaborates today on a multitude of projects for the stage, CD, television, radio, film, multimedia, theatre and dance productions.

Lipsky is very active on the national and international music scene as a violinist, composer, improviser and teacher in the realms of classical music, jazz, tango, world and contemporary music. He has taught at several universities and colleges – including Université de Montréal, McGill and Concordia University – and is now professor at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal for violin, chamber music and string improvisation. During the summer, he has taught, among other summer schools, at the Domaine Forget International Festival, the Camp musical des Laurentides, Camp musical de Lanaudière, the Thüringische Sommerakademie in Germany as well as the Interharmony – Sulzbach-Rosenberg International Music Festival and the Interharmony International Music Festival in Italy. In the summer of 2016, he cofounded the ground-breaking Clazz International Music Festival, where classical music, Jazz, crossover styles and improvisation are being taught side by side. Many of Lipsky's former students have distinguished careers as performers and/or play in major Symphony Orchestras around the world, founded or are members of renowned ensembles in a variety of musical genres or participate in Cirque du Soleil productions.

As violinist and composer, Helmut Lipsky has recorded many radio and television programs and has participated with his own ensembles – mainly under the name MELOSPHERE – at numerous important festivals in North America, as well as touring regularly in Europe, where he performed with his group, among many other venues in Berlin, Bruxelles, Budapest, Zurich, Milan etc. and as part of the prestigious "New Jazz" Series at the Montreux International Jazz Festival in Switzerland. A regular participant at the Montreal International Jazz Festival, he opened with MELOSPHERE shows of artists like Miles Davis, Dave Brubeck (Lanaudière International Music Festival), Stéphane Grappelli (Québec International Music Festival) and Toots Thielemans (Royal Palace of Brussels). He has also written music for cinema, presented at and winning top prizes in Festivals around the world, the theatre, multimedia exhibitions as well as for special occasions, like his Harbour Symphony for violin, ship sirens and church bells performed at Montreal Harbour or his Concerto for Violin and Chainsaw as the opening event of the Third Symposium en art de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue in Amos, Québec, Canada. In December of 2015, he participated as composer and performer in the Memorial Concert for the Euthanasia victims of the Castle Grafeneck in Germany. His duets for two violins "Voyage à deux" Vol. 1 and 2 and various chamber orchestra works are very popular with students and professionals of any age group and are

being played in many countries and were presented at the ASTA (American String Teacher's Association) in 2017. His works have been published by Les Éditions Doberman in Canada, by Ovationpress in the US and by Müller & Schade in Switzerland.

Helmut Lipsky recorded many critically acclaimed CDs under his and his ensembles' name and has collaborated with renowned artists like Andreas Vollenweider, David Darling, Angèle Dubeau and her ensemble La Pietà, Jeremy Cohen's Quartet San Francisco, André-Gilles Duchemin, Gilles Vigneault, Claude Léveill , Karen Young, Michel Donato, James Gelfand, Matt Herskowitz and Fran ois Richard on various projects. He has won several prestigious awards: among others the coveted Prix OPUS for his album Helmut Lipsky – M LOSPH RE – Tempi con Variazioni, featuring the well-known soprano Suzie LeBlanc in 2011, and First Prize at the International competition of the worldwide community of French language radio stations. Proclaimed member of the "Ordre de la musique fran aise", he was three times nominated for Best Album at the Felix Awards, twice for Best Concert of the Year by Les Prix OPUS, Best Violinist by the National Music Awards in 2006, and was invited several times as Presenter at the well-known Idea City Conference of Moses Znaimer in Toronto. Helmut Lipsky has received several funds from the Canadian Arts Council and the Quebec Cultural Ministry.

Since the summer of 2017, he is now also a member of the popular ensemble Quartango, which has recorded many albums, has won several distinguished prizes (among others a Juno Award for Best Album) and has toured internationally.

WINDS, BRASS AND PERCUSSION - Jane Maness

Jane Maness received an Honours BMus degree in performance from the University of Toronto, where she studied tuba with Chuck Daellenbach. Jane has taught tuba at Wilfrid Laurier University since 1983 and also teaches at the University of Waterloo. Jane has been Principal Tuba of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra and the Canadian Chamber Ensemble since 1975. She has been a member of the National Youth Orchestra and was formerly Principal Tuba of the Canadian Opera Company. She has taught at the Inter-provincial Music Camp, Southampton Summer Music and at the Banff Festival of Youth Orchestras. Jane revised the Royal Conservatory of Music Tuba Syllabus and was the Brass Adjudicator at the Ontario Music Festivals Association Provincial Finals.