



Western
Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

**FRIDAYS AT 12:30 SERIES
SYLVESTRE-PARK DUO**

Friday, January 19, 2024

12:30 p.m., von Kuster Hall and [via livestream](#)

Stéphan Sylvestre, *piano*

Angela Park, *piano*

Fountains of Rome, P115

No. 4 : La fontana di Villa Medici al tramonto

O. Respighi
(1879-1936)

Symphony No. 2 in D major

Allegro non troppo

Adagio non troppo

Allegretto grazioso: quasi andantino

Allegro con spirito

J. Brahms
(1833-1897)

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Stéphan Sylvestre ranks among the most sought-after Canadian pianists. Compared by critics to Artur Schnabel for his natural talent and flawless technique (La Presse, Montreal), he has given performances in numerous countries throughout North and South America, Europe, the Middle East and Russia. He performed five solo recitals in the Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), he appeared with top Canadian orchestras and in Canada's leading international festivals, and played live for the BBC. One of Canada's most praised chamber musicians, he regularly collaborates with internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles such as James Campbell, James Sommerville, Ransom Wilson, Martin Beaver, Susan Hoepfner, Rivka Golani, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the Penderecki, New Zealand, and New Orford string quartets, as well as with first chairs of the Israel Philharmonic, Toronto Symphony and Montreal Symphony orchestras. His recordings have been hailed by critics. His Brahms solo recordings were placed alongside Murray Perahia's interpretations by *WholeNote* magazine, and the internationally famed *Strad Magazine* in the U.K. recently gave a stunning review of his recording of the works of Szymanowski for violin and piano with member of the Penderecki String Quartet, Jerzy Kaplanek. He regularly gives master classes around the world and he has sat on juries of prestigious competitions such as the Montreal International Piano Competition, the Montreal Symphony Competition and the Canadian Music Competition. He also regularly adjudicates for prestigious institutions including the Glenn Gould School and the Conservatoire de Montréal, among many others. Stéphan Sylvestre has been Associate Professor and head of keyboard studies at Western University Canada since 2005. He is one of the most respected pedagogues of the new generation and highly sought-after by young pianists around the world. His teachers have included Leon Fleisher, John Perry, Marc Durand and Marek Jablonski.

JUNO Award winning pianist **Angela Park** has been praised for her "stunningly beautiful pianism" (Grace Welsh Prize, Chicago), "beautiful tone and sensitivity" (American Record Guide), and for performing "with such brilliant clarity it took your breath away" (Chapala, Mexico). Angela's versatility as both soloist and chamber musician has led to performances across Canada, as well as in the United States, Europe, Japan and Mexico. She has performed for such notable series as Montreal's Pro Musica, Ottawa Chamberfest, Toronto Summer Music Festival, Parry Sound's Festival of the Sound, Winnipeg Virtuosi, Debut Atlantic and Prairie Debut Tours, Orchestra London Canada, Sinfonia Toronto, Stratford Symphony, and the Northern Lights Music Festival in Mexico.

Angela developed a passion for chamber music early on in her music studies, and this has led to a varied career as a chamber musician. She has developed a longstanding collaborative partnership with violist Sharon Wei, both as a duo, and as former founding members (2006-2022) of the renowned Ensemble Made In Canada. Their work together reached across every province and territory across Canada, culminating in a JUNO Award for their Mosaïque Album in 2021. They have also toured as a duo for Debut Atlantic and Prairie Debut, and continue to collaborate regularly with other musicians across the country.

Cellist Rachel Mercer and Angela have also forged an important duo partnership since their first performance in 2006. As the Mercer-Park Duo, they have performed and recorded a vast range of repertoire for cello and piano with a focus on Canadian contemporary composers. Rachel and Angela have been privileged to work with violinist Yehonatan Berick as the AYR Trio (2010-2020), with Mayumi Seiler as the Seiler Trio, and with Scott St. John as the St. John-Mercer-Park Trio.

Angela was previously a pianist for Piano Six - New Generation, an organization that toured remote communities across Canada. In 2019 she joined pianist Stéphan Sylvestre to form a piano duo, focusing on the complete Brahms Symphonies in their four-hand versions. Among other collaborations, Angela has performed with such international artists as violist Rivka Golani, violinist Martin Beaver, clarinetist James Campbell, soprano Leslie Fagan, and leading members of the Montreal and Toronto Symphonies.

Past and future highlights include a world premiere of John Burge's Second Piano Concerto with Sinfonia Toronto, solo recitals for Confluence Concerts in Toronto and Consortium Aurora Borealis in Thunder Bay, tours with Prairie Debut and Debut Atlantic, performances with Lyrica Baroque in New Orleans, Louisiana, collaborative recitals at the Interlochen Center for the Arts, and Ensemble Made In Canada tours of Canada and the United States. Angela has recorded independent solo albums, and collaborative discs with cellist Rachel Mercer and Ensemble Made In Canada for labels including NAXOS Canadian Classics, Centrediscs, and Enharmonic Records. She is also featured on a recording of Srul Irving Glick's Suites Hébraïques with clarinetist James Campbell, saxophonist Wallace Halladay, and violinist Barry Shiffman.

In 2010 Angela earned her DMA in Performance from the Université de Montréal, and previously received her MMus and BMus degrees from the University of Toronto. From 2011-2014, Angela was Visiting Assistant Professor of Collaborative Piano-Woodwinds at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. Angela has been Assistant Professor of Piano and Collaborative Piano at Western University since 2019.