



Thank you!

Western University would like to thank the many donors who have supported the Parsons and Poole Concert and Masterclass Series in the Don Wright Faculty of Music.

A special thank you to **Dorothy Hollingsworth, BA'56**, and members of the fundraising committee for creating the Parsons and Poole Concert and Masterclass Series Fund. We are also thankful for the generous bequests from the late Joan Elaine Conner and the late Amelia Marie Cosgrove. It is because of these extraordinary leaders and the generous donors that this wonderful legacy honouring Margaret Parsons and Clifford Poole was established, thus benefitting a new generation of young musicians.

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If you would like to make a gift to the Parsons & Poole Concert and Masterclass Series Fund and continue the work of this tremendous group, please contact Allison Price at 519.661.2111 x 85695 or allison.price@uwo.ca

Support the Don Wright Faculty of Music

The generosity of donors ensures the Don Wright Faculty of Music continues to transform lives through excellence in music education, performance, and research. We envision a world in which the joy of music is a precious element of daily life.

Your gift can be directed towards any component of our faculty that is meaningful to you including awards and scholarships, visiting artists and performances, instrument needs or facilities, and contributes to the vibrancy of our student experience and the future of music at Western.

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The annual **Parsons and Poole** Concert and Masterclass featuring

Internationally acclaimed pianist

Dang Thai Son

Concert

Friday, September 20
at 7:30 p.m.

Masterclass

Saturday, September 21
at 10 a.m.

von Kuster Hall
Music Building
Western University



Photo: Isadora Vitti



Photo: Hirotoishi Sato

Margaret Parsons and Clifford Poole



Parsons and Poole Concert Program

Friday, September 20 at 7:30 p.m.
von Kuster Hall, Music Building, Western University

Nocturne in E flat minor op.33 no. 1
Barcarolle in A minor op.26 no. 1

Gabriel Fauré
(1845-1924)

Images, Book 1

1. Reflets dans l'eau
2. Hommage à Rameau
3. Mouvement

Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

Children's Corner

Intermission

Two Nocturnes in C minor and C sharp minor op. posth.

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

Barcarolle in F sharp major op. 60

Five Waltzes

- E major op. posth.
- E flat major op. posth.
- G flat major op.70 no. 1
- B minor op.69 no. 2
- A flat major op.34 no. 1

Scherzo no. 2 in B flat minor op.31

Dang Thai Son, pianist

Vietnamese-Canadian pianist Dang Thai Son was propelled to the forefront of the musical world in October 1980, when he was awarded the First Prize and Gold Medal at the Xth International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw. It was also the first time that a top international competition was won by an Asian pianist.

He began piano studies with his mother in Hanoi. Discovered by the Russian pianist Isaac Katz, who was on visit in Vietnam in 1974, he pursued his advanced training at the Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Russia with Vladimir Natanson and Dmitry Bashkirov.

Since winning the Chopin Competition, his international career has taken him to over forty countries, into such world renowned halls as the Lincoln Center (New York), Barbican Center (London), Salle Pleyel (Paris), Herculessaal (Munich), Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), Opera House (Sydney), and Suntory Hall (Tokyo).

He has played with numerous world-class orchestras such as The Philharmonia Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, St-Petersburg Philharmonic, Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal, Czech Philharmonic, Staatskapelle Berlin, Dresden Philharmonic Oslo Philharmonic, Warsaw National Philharmonic, Prague Symphony, NHK Symphony, New Japan Philharmonic, Helsinki Philharmonic,

Sydney Symphony, Hungarian State Symphony, Moscow Philharmonic, Russian National Symphony, as well as Virtuosi of Moscow, Sinfonia Varsovia, Vienna Chamber, Zurich Chamber, Royal Swedish Chamber Orchestras, and the Ensemble Orchestral de Paris.

Other career highlights include a New Year's Day concert (1995) with Yo Yo Ma, Seiji Ozawa, Kathleen Battle, and the late Mstislav Rostropovich, in a major international event produced by the Japanese Broadcasting Corporation NHK; in January 1999, a Gala-concert opening the Chopin year, where he was the only foreign artist invited to appear as soloist with the Warsaw National Opera Theatre Orchestra; concerts in Isaac Stern's last festival in Miyazaki, Japan in 2001, which included three performances with Pinchas Zukerman; a special performance in 2005 as the only guest artist at the Opening Gala Concert of the XVth International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, where he was also a member of the jury; and on Chopin's 200th Birthday, March 1st, 2010, he played at the Gala Concert the Concerto in f-minor with the Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century under the direction of Frans Bruggen at the Warsaw National Opera Theatre.

His pupils garnered top international prizes including Bruce Liu, winner of the 2021 International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, Poland.

Glamorous, talented and world-famous, the husband and wife pianists were not typical professors at Western in the 1950s. Margaret Parsons and Clifford Poole balanced performance tours as a piano duo with teaching and inspiring young musicians. They also recorded their work, created educational materials and started the Gilbert & Sullivan productions which had a long run at Western.

They came to London in 1948 to teach at the Western Ontario Music Conservatory, Music Teachers' College and Department of Music at Western. Already well known, the pair joined the staff two years after Alfred Rose, Gustav Mahler's nephew. During the next few years, the three organizations evolved, each focusing on a different level of music education. As J.R.W. Gwynne-Timothy wrote in his Western's First Century: "The concerts of the well-known piano duo, Clifford Poole and his wife Margaret Parsons, carried far and wide the name of music at Western as public relations emissaries for the college."

A group of alumni who studied with Parsons and Poole created an artist-in-residence program, called the Parsons and Poole Concert and Masterclass Series Fund to carry their names into the future. The project gives students an opportunity to study with musicians who bring the same level of acclaim and expertise as Parsons and Poole.

The benefits of the Parsons and Poole Concert and Masterclass Series Fund will go beyond the music faculty, providing opportunities for interdisciplinary scholarship and cultural enrichment for the community. This is a fitting continuation of the kind of projects the duo undertook while in London. They composed and arranged piano music for young players, and their Parsons-Poole Festival Piano Series and Poole's many pedagogical piano pieces remain favourites. The pair also established a community concert series and toured to many Ontario towns and cities, often with students to showcase their talents and gain experience in performing.

Past Parsons and Poole Performers

Yekwon Sunwoo, 2023

Louise Bessette, 2022

Jon Kimura Parker, 2021

Marc-André Hamelin, 2020

Stewart Goodyear, 2019

Sara Davis Buechner, 2018

Charles Richard-Hamelin, 2017

John O'Connor, 2016

Anagnoson and Kinton, piano duo, 2015

Angela Hewitt, 2014

Menahem Pressler, 2013

André LaPlante, 2012