



Western Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

FRIDAYS AT 12:30 SERIES AMERICAN VOICES

Friday, January 31, 2025

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

Thomas Wiebe, *cello*

Angela Park, *piano*

Sonata for Violoncello and Piano (1948)

Moderato

Vivace, molto leggiero

Adagio

Allegro

Elliott Carter
(1908-2012)

Nocturne

Jennifer Higdon
(b. 1962)

Sonata for Violoncello and Piano, op. 6

Allegro ma non troppo

Adagio

Allegro appassionato

Samuel Barber
(1910-1981)

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Cellist **Thomas Wiebe** has been heard by audiences, on recordings and radio broadcasts and via streaming throughout North America and Europe. Mr. Wiebe regularly performs as a soloist and chamber musician, including with Toronto's GRAMMY-nominated ARC Ensemble, whose upcoming engagements include a residency at London, England's Wigmore Hall, and concerts in Los Angeles, Montreal, Manchester, Glasgow, and Halifax. Mr. Wiebe has also appeared frequently with Toronto's Art of Time Ensemble, and other leading artists.

ARC's latest release on the Chandos label features chamber music of the Austrian-American composer Frederick Block. Past recordings with ARC on Chandos have included Mr. Wiebe and pianist Kevin Ahfat giving the world premiere recordings of Albert Hemsli's *Danses Nuptiales Grecques*, and *Elegy* and *Meditation* by Robert Müller-Hartmann, all for cello and piano. Other future CD releases for Mr. Wiebe include the chamber works of Omar Daniel on Centrediscs.

Mr. Wiebe has performed on numerous occasions as a guest artist with Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra London Canada. He has also been soloist with the Juilliard Orchestra at Lincoln Center in New York, and with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. He has recorded for the Chandos, CBC, Centrediscs, Doremi and Bowl labels.

Thomas Wiebe studied cello in his native Winnipeg with Julie Banton. He later studied at the Eastman School of Music with Robert Sylvester and Steven Doane, and at Yale University and the Juilliard School with Aldo Parisot. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Yale.

Mr. Wiebe is Associate Professor of Violoncello at the Don Wright Faculty of Music at Western University in London, and teaches in the summers at le Domaine Forget International Summer Music Academy in St-Irénée, Quebec.

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.