



**Western
Music**

Don Wright Faculty of Music

**FRIDAYS AT 12:30 SERIES
NORTHERN WINTER:
A RECITAL OF CANADIAN REPERTOIRE**

Friday, January 9, 2026

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

Bethany Hörst, soprano

Marianna Chibotar-Rutkevich, piano

Selections from Singing in the Northland (2008)

Grey Rocks and Greyer Seas

Lady Icicle

Severance

Rainfall

Martha Hill Duncan

(b. 1955)

Cinq Chansons (1984)

Demain, des l'aube

Le vin des amants

Simple desirs de femme

Paris at Night

Air vif

Ramona Luengen

(b. 1960)

Love Songs (1980)

My love for you

Aspects of Winter

There is a quiet time

Gary Kulesha

(b. 1954)

Selections from Minstrelsy (2019)

Winter

L'hiver a cesse

Jeff Smallman

(b. 1965)

THE ARTISTS



Equally comfortable in concert and opera, **Bethany Hörst** has sung with orchestras and major choirs across Canada. She has won several international competitions including the Lyndon Woodside Oratorio Competition at Carnegie Hall in New York City. She was twice honoured as a District Winner and Regional Finalist at the Metropolitan Opera National Auditions. She has received the Encouragement Award at the Met Regional Finals and also the Palm Beach International Opera Competition. Hörst is a recipient of Brian Law Opera Scholarship and the Jacqueline Desmarais Opera Grant.

Hörst holds a Master of Music degree in Literature and Performance from Western University, where she currently teaches voice. She is in high demand for masterclasses and adjudicating throughout Canada. Hörst Studio students frequently appear with Mirvish Productions, Drayton Entertainment, and the Shaw and Stratford Festival Theatres.



Marianna Chibotar-Rutkevich is an accomplished Concert Pianist, holding a Master's degree in Piano Performance and Literature and Musicology, and a Post-Master's degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the State University of Kishinev in Moldova, where she also held studio as an Associate Professor of Piano. She has been privileged to have studied with some of the most internationally renowned piano masters and legendary pedagogues from Russia, the Ukraine, Romania, Germany, Holland, Brazil and Australia.

Having performed internationally playing numerous solo recitals, concertos, and chamber music, Marianna has honed her talents as a pianist and has further developed her special commitment to music. As an accomplished performer she has received many awards and scholarships recognizing her musicality, technical virtuosity, and subtle artistry; and has been praised in newspapers for her unique sound quality. The most noteworthy international competitions and festivals include those held in Prague (Czech Republic), Athens (Greece), Rotterdam (Netherlands), Bucharest (Romania) and Etlingen, (Germany), Moscow (Russia).

While maintaining an active performing schedule, she is also a dedicated teacher. Marianna is currently on the piano faculty at, the Don Wright Faculty of Music, University of Western Ontario, as a Piano Instructor and Collaborative Pianist, performing as a piano soloist, and chamber music soloist. Highly demanded for collaborating with vocalists and instrumentalists she holds respect as a teacher, a mentor to her students and as a pianist. Her students have distinguished themselves at the national and international levels, winning top prizes in a number of national competitions, and being accepted into prestigious universities and graduate schools.

Recently, she has been honoured to perform live for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Radio and Television, to appear as the official Pianist for the Canadian Music Competition, and the Provincial and National Music Competitions. Frequently requested to participate as a Conservatory Examiner, Competition Adjudicator and clinician, she also maintains a full studio of private piano students in London, Ontario.

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