

Safari Power Saver
Click to Start Flash Plug-in



CURRENTLY:  8°C Overcast | TONIGHT:  -2°C Variable cloudiness

[Full Forecast](#) [SUBSCRIBE](#)

[My Account](#) | [Logout](#)

Winnipeg Free Press

March 12, 2015

SIGN UP FOR:
[News Alerts](#) | [Editor's Bulletin](#)

[Advanced Search](#) | [Archives](#)

[NEWS](#) | [ARTS & LIFE](#) | [BUSINESS](#) | [SPORTS](#) | [TRAVEL](#) | [OPINION](#) | [MEDIA](#) | [Homes](#) | [Autos](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Flyertown](#) | [Careers](#) | [Obituaries](#)
[ARTS](#) | [BOOKS](#) | [CELEBRITIES](#) | [DIVERSIONS](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [EVENTS](#) | [FAITH](#) | [FOOD](#) | [HEALTH](#) | [LIFE](#) | [MOVIES](#) | [MUSIC](#) | [TECH](#) | [TV](#)

Winnipeg Free Press > Arts & Life > Arts & Entertainment > Music > TRIPLE TREAT EARNS STANDING OVATIONS

MUSIC




Winnipeg Free Press - PRINT EDITION

Triple treat earns standing ovations

Victoria violinist wows Winnipeg audience

By: Holly Harris

Posted: 02/28/2015 3:00 AM | Comments: 0

 Tweet 3 |  Post 48 |  Reddit 0 |  ShareThis 65 |  Print |  Email 0

The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra served up a triple treat of orchestral works Friday night, including a world première by its former composer-in-residence, Vincent Ho.

Its latest Masterworks concert led by Alexander Mickelthwate also featured Canadian violinist Nikki Chooi performing Antonin Dvorak's Concerto in A minor, Op. 53, that proved why this up-and-comer is one to watch.

CONCERT REVIEW
Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra
Masterworks
Dvorák & Rachmaninoff
Centennial Concert Hall
Friday, February 27
Attendance: 1,005
(Four stars out of five)

The Victoria, B.C.-born violinist recently graduated from New York City's Juilliard School after completing his undergraduate degree at the Curtis Institute of Music. He first garnered national attention for winning the top prize at the Canadian National Music Festival in 2004, with his many subsequent awards including first prize at New Zealand's 2013 Michael Hill International Violin Competition. He notably performs on a 1700 "Taft" Stradivari on loan from the Canada Council for the Arts — notably 179 years older than his featured concerto — that became another treat in itself.

Chooi is an arresting performer who fearlessly tackled the demands at hand. He displayed his verve during the opening Allegro ma non troppo with fierce conviction. His stratospheric high notes were unfailingly precise, with only a few minor

intonation difficulties on the way up.

He showed his more lyrical side during the second movement Adagio ma non troppo — as well as honeyed tone from his priceless fiddle — while imbuing its sentimental themes with nostalgia born of yesterday.

Then it became time for the rollicking rondo. Here, Chooi ably captured its ebullient, folksy theme's effervescent nature, including enthralling runs and ruggedly bowed double stops. The audience sprang to its feet in a standing ovation that led to three curtain calls by the beaming violinist.

Appointed the WSO's composer-in-residence in 2007, Ho has left his indelible, creative stamp on the organization that premièred many of his larger-scale works including his critically acclaimed percussion concerto, The Shaman, composed for Dame Evelyn Glennie.

His latest, Postlude: Song of Hope, celebrates the opening of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, based on text by Chinese-Canadian writer Lien Chao, and in turn, inspired by composers Valentin

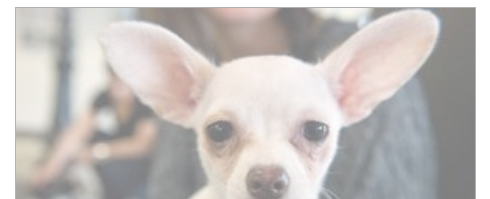
A A A Make text: [Larger](#) | [Smaller](#)

Safari Power Saver
Click to Start Flash Plug-in

Introducing Surface Pro 3.



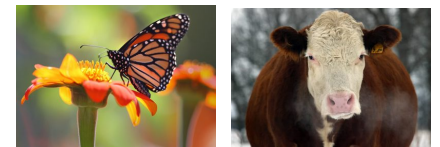

LATEST VIDEO



Indoor dog parks offer a place for pups to run year-round

[View more like this](#)

PHOTO STORE GALLERY



[View More Gallery Photos](#)

POLL

Have you licensed your cat since

Silvestrov and Arvo Part.

Ho has always been a composer of epic imagination, at his very best with intensely dramatic works such as his Shaman concerto, Dragon Realms and Arctic Symphony, among others. In his final WSO commission — at least for now — Ho seems to hold nothing back, immediately establishing an imagistic sound world that bellows and heaves with the cares of the world. His rich tonal palette pits rumbling, low brass against rising wisps of strings, as well as an effective solo performed by WSO concertmaster Gwen Hoebig.

When guest vocalist Lara Ciekiewicz — gowned and bare-footed — enters the stage, it is as though a benevolent wise woman has descended upon their midst. Her soaring soprano, climaxing on the word "hope," expands the work further (albeit at times competing with the multi-layered strings), with her radiant presence earning a standing ovation by the clearly moved crowd of 1,005.

The program also included the WSO premiere of Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 3 in A minor, Op. 44, composed between 1935-36. Under Mickelthwate's baton, its three movements ebbed and flowed, including its lushly scored, Russian-infused themes, until the final nail-biting fugato, underscored by the always chilling "Dies Irae" theme.

As expected, the audience leapt to its feet again for the third and final ovation of the night.

The concert repeats tonight, 8 p.m. at the Centennial Concert Hall.

holly.harris@shaw.ca

Republished from the Winnipeg Free Press print edition February 28, 2015 A16

SUBMIT A NEWS TIP REPORT AN ERROR

Tweet 3 Post 48 Reddit 0 ShareThis 65 Print Email 0

MORE MUSIC

Navigation bar for 'MORE MUSIC' with 'Previous Article' and 'Next Article' links. Previous article: 'Celine Dion to return to Vegas stage, but singer's rep doesn't say when; last show was in July'. Next article: 'Eric Clapton to celebrate 70th birthday with Madison Square Garden shows May 1-2'.

You can comment on most stories on winniepgfreepress.com. You can also agree or disagree with other comments. All you need to do is be a Winnipeg Free Press print or e-edition subscriber to join the conversation and give your feedback.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Be the first to comment

New to commenting? Check out our Frequently Asked Questions.

The Winnipeg Free Press does not necessarily endorse any of the views posted. By submitting your comment, you agree to our Terms and Conditions. These terms were revised effective April 16, 2010.

This Week's Flyers

Three promotional flyers: 1. HENRY'S HOVER FOR FLYER. 2. DOLL HOVER FOR FLYER featuring Dell Inspiron 15 3000 Series laptop. 3. Visions ELECTRONICS SUPER SALE! featuring various electronics deals.

Winnipeg's bylaw came into effect this year?

- Yes.
Not yet, but it's on my to-do list.
No, and I don't plan to.
I don't have a cat.

Submit my Vote

View Results

Manitoba Music Radio

MOST POPULAR

MOST VIEWS MOST COMMENTS

TODAY | WEEK | MONTH

- 1. Local violinist earns Juno nomination
2. Toronto prog legends Rush discuss band's long history with charity, Junos
3. \$7.4 million verdict in 'Blurred Lines' case likely to ripple through music, legal industries
4. New Music
5. Julie Andrews 'proud' of Gaga's 50th anniversary tribute to 'The Sound of Music'
6. 'Blurred Lines' - Trial provided the inside story of the making, and unraveling, of a hit song
7. Celine Dion to return to Vegas stage, but singer's rep doesn't say when; last show was in July
8. Facts you oughta know about Alanis Morissette heading into Juno weekend
9. Edmonton group wants Kevin Bacon to party in Taber in protest of new law
10. In life and music, motherhood hits home for singer Kelly Clarkson

ADS BY GOOGLE

Custom Invites - 40% Off
Customize Online For Any Occasion. Limited Time Offer. Sale Ends Soon!