

August 9, 2018 • Please include in your listings/announcements

KOERNER HALL'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT SEASON OPENING FESTIVAL

**Three free concerts open the festival during Culture Days,
including the popular Koerner Hall Free for All**

**American soprano Kathleen Battle makes her Koerner Hall debut
in the Season Gala concert**

**Other Koerner Hall debuts include pianist Nicholas Angelich
and two bands from northern Canada – The Jerry Cans and New North Collective**

**Return of The Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble and
Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducting the Orchestre Métropolitain**

Koerner Hall opened on September 25, 2009, Glenn Gould's birthday, with a Grand Opening Festival that featured 10 concerts. For the 10th anniversary season **Mervon Mehta**, Executive Director of Performing Arts at The Conservatory, has planned an opening festival (as well as a closing festival in April and May of 2019) that will consist of seven concerts.

"These extraordinary concerts affirm Koerner Hall as the venue of choice for internationally celebrated performers. Its landmark 10th anniversary season will further strengthen the position of The Royal Conservatory as a leading concert presenter and global cultural hub, which has brought together more than a million Canadians through the unifying power of music," says **Dr. Peter Simon**, Michael and Sonja Koerner President & CEO of The Royal Conservatory of Music.

Mervon Mehta said: "The 10th anniversary season will be a celebration featuring some of Koerner Hall's favourite artists from the first nine seasons alongside some new faces. The finest musicians in classical music, jazz, world, roots, and folk have made Koerner Hall their Toronto home and helped us establish our global reputation. We have invited many of them back this season and left room for a few legends that, finally, will make their Koerner Hall debuts."

The 10th anniversary opening festival opens with three free concerts as part of the Bloor St. Culture Corridor hub of Culture Days:

Gábor Takács-Nagy conducts the Royal Conservatory Orchestra

On [September 28](#), Hungarian violinist, conductor, and founder of the legendary Takács String Quartet, **Gábor Takács-Nagy**, returns to conduct the RCO and violinist **Orin Laursen** in a program of Mozart's Overture to *La clemenza di Tito*, K. 621; Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D Major, op. 35; and Dvořák's Symphony No. 8 in G Major, op. 88. The concert will be preceded by a Prelude Recital at 6:45pm and Pre-concert Talk at 7:15pm.

Koerner Hall 10th Anniversary Free for All

The wildly popular Koerner Hall Free for All is back! On [September 29](#), The Royal Conservatory offers this opportunity for anyone who ever dreamed of performing on the Koerner Hall stage to do just that – for five minutes – and the schedule is always packed. Aspiring and professional performers are once again encouraged to bring their best solo piece – or an entire band – to sing a song, recite a poem, or even dance,

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and to invite their friends and family to experience their five minutes of glory. Acoustic performances will take place from 12noon to 3pm and amplified performances from 5pm to 8pm. Limited performance spots are available and deadline to apply to perform is **Friday, August 24**. Interested performers can apply and learn more at www.rcmusic.com/events-and-performances/koerner-hall-free-all.

Fern Lindzon

“**Fern Lindzon** is an engaging pianist and singer who brings an unassuming authority, an inquiring spirit and a natural grace to contemporary jazz.” (Mark Miller, jazz journalist) On [September 30](#), the jazz vocalist and pianist who has been described as “smart and smouldering” and “sublimely elegant” by *!earshot*, returns to Mazzoleni Concert Hall as part of the free [Sunday Interludes series](#).

Koerner Hall 10th Anniversary Gala: Kathleen Battle

Kathleen Battle's soaring voice has carried her to the heights of the classical music world. The range of the five-time Grammy Award winner's repertoire spans three centuries from the Baroque era to contemporary works, which she performs with symphony orchestras and in recital halls around the world. Perhaps what distinguishes this luminous soprano most is her almost magical ability to create an unwavering bond with audiences through a voice that is "... without qualification, one of the very few most beautiful in the world" (*The Washington Post*). In her Koerner Hall debut on [October 2](#), Ms. **Battle** will perform opera arias, selections from Broadway, as well as spirituals.

Proceeds from the evening support *Resounding! The Campaign for The Royal Conservatory*.

The Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble

Formed by Sir Neville Marriner in 1958 from a group of leading London musicians, the **Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble** is one of the world's best, renowned for fresh, brilliant interpretations of the world's greatest classical music. In their return visit to Koerner Hall on [October 3](#), they perform Carl Nielsen's *Serenata in vano*, FS 680; Jean Françaix's *Octet*; and Beethoven's *Septet in E flat Major*, op. 20. "Their sound is sweet and pure, their ensemble work airtight." (*The Washington Post*) The concert will be preceded by a Pre-concert Talk at 7pm.

The Jerry Cans and New North Collective

The Jerry Cans create music inspired by their hometown of Iqaluit, Nunavut, and life in the Canadian Arctic. With their unique mix of traditional Inuit throat singing and roots-rock sung in the Indigenous language of Inuktitut, The Jerry Cans offer a distinctly northern sound and infectious, high-energy performances. The **New North Collective** is an ensemble of northern Canadian performing artists from Yukon and Northwest Territories whose music is diverse and skillful, representative of a multitude of genres, including jazz, folk, new music, spoken word, and rock. While exploring and pushing musical boundaries, there is a common goal to discard the stereotypes of the region and the people who live in rural and remote northern communities. The two bands from northern Canada share the stage on [October 4](#).

Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts Orchestre Métropolitain and Nicholas Angelich

Classical music's hottest conductor returns to Koerner Hall on [October 5](#) to close out the festival. The Montreal-born **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** is Music Director of The Philadelphia Orchestra and The Metropolitan Opera in New York, and Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the **Orchestre Métropolitain** of Montreal. American pianist **Nicholas Angelich**, who has been called "spellbinding" (*Bachtrack*), makes his Koerner Hall debut playing Rachmaninov's *Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Minor*, op. 40. The rest of the program consists of Sibelius's *Symphony No. 1 in E Minor*, op. 39; and the Ontario premiere of Nicolas Gilbert's *Avril*. The concert will be preceded by a Pre-concert Talk at 7pm.

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KOERNER HALL'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY OPENING FESTIVAL

Gábor Takács-Nagy conducts the Royal Conservatory Orchestra

(also part of RCO Concerts)

Friday, September 28, 2018 at 8pm; Prelude Recital 6:45pm; Pre-concert Talk at 7:15pm | KH; Free

Koerner Hall 10th Anniversary Free for All

Saturday, September 29, 2018 at 12-3pm & 5-8pm | KH; Free

Fern Lindzon

(also part of Sunday Interludes): Sunday, September 30, 2018 at 1pm | MCH; Free

Koerner Hall 10th Anniversary Gala: Kathleen Battle

Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at 8pm | KH; \$100-\$250

For gala dinner and concert packages please call 416.408.2824 x447.

Concert-only tickets are available through the Weston Family Box Office.

The Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble

Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 8pm; Pre-concert Talk at 7pm | KH; \$40-\$100

The Jerry Cans and New North Collective

Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 8pm | KH; \$35-\$75

Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts Orchestre Métropolitain and Nicholas Angelich

Friday, October 5, 2018 at 8pm; Pre-concert Talk at 7pm | KH; \$75-\$150

Venue Legend: **KH** Koerner Hall; **MCH** Mazzoleni Concert Hall in historic Ihnatowycz Hall

**Tickets and subscriptions are available online at www.performance.rcmusic.ca,
by calling 416.408.0208, or in person at the Weston Family Box Office**

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The Royal Conservatory.**

**All concerts take place at The Royal Conservatory of Music
TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning, 273 Bloor Street West, Toronto**

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