

A TRIBUTE TO

Frances
Heinsheimer
Wainwright

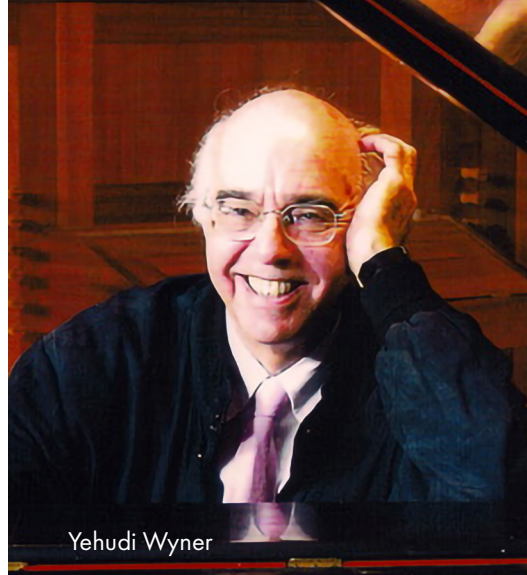


*La Bella
Strega di
Sechelt*

A LYRICAL PRELUDE BY YEHUDI WYNER



Frances Heinsheimer Wainwright



Yehudi Wyner



The Cheng² Duo

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La Bella Strega di Sechelt

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On Sunday afternoon October 15, 2023, the Cheng² Duo will premiere *La Bella Strega di Sechelt* by Yehudi Wyner, dedicated to Frances Heinsheimer Wainwright.

This tribute was inspired and organized by Claudia Sageele Cuesta, a local visual artist. It recognizes Frances's commitment to outstanding classical music programming on the Sunshine Coast. Music is Frances's greatest joy and she has an intuitive awareness for recognizing excellence.

"I am so grateful to Frances and the Coast Recital Society for feeding my soul. Each season is a surprise full of brave choices with innovative repertoire performed by magnificent musicians. I know I am not the only one who appreciates Frances's enormous and valued contribution to our community."

FRANCES & YEHUDI

Frances first met Yehudi Wyner in the 1960s when she was the pianist in the school orchestra at Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio. Yehudi was a young pianist, conductor, and composer who led a touring opera company that performed in colleges and concert halls throughout the US.

Yehudi remembers being approached at the end of one of the concerts by a student “who was red-headed, very lively, not overly tall, with a vivacity and vigor that was very appealing. That was Frances and we’ve been friends ever since.”

Yehudi was born in Calgary, grew up in New York City, and started composing as soon as he was tall enough to reach the keyboard. His father, a composer of Yiddish art songs, helped little Yehudi notate his pieces. He attended Juilliard, Yale (where he taught for 14 years), and Harvard, studying with Paul Hindemith and Walter Piston. In 2006, he won the Pulitzer Prize for Music for his piano concerto *Chiavi in Mano*, a work commissioned by the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Yehudi has also won: two Guggenheim Fellowships, the National Institute of Arts and Letters Award, the Rome Prize, the Brandeis University Creative Arts Award, and the Elise L. Stoecker Prize, given by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center for “a lifetime’s contribution to chamber music.”

Yehudi enjoyed a lifelong association with Frances’s father, Hans Heinsheimer, one of the most influential classical musical publishers of the 20th century.

“LA STREGA”

When Claudia asked Frances to name her favorite contemporary composer, she immediately responded Yehudi Wyner, who was only too happy to celebrate his dear friend.

Frances and Yehudi both love Italy and the Italian language. “We’d speak Italian and Frances would sometimes identify herself as ‘*La Strega*.’ It’s really a term of endearment, so I’ve written a lyric piece, short and truly unpretentious. It has no hard edges and is devoid of drama. What’s notable for me is its gentleness, its lack of rhetoric, and its lack of harshness of any kind.”

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Yehudi’s dedication reads: “This lyrical love-offering for Frances, a lifelong friend, is conveyed ‘*con dolcezza infinita*.’ The title *La Bella Strega di Sechelt* might suggest menace or even spiteful derision, but for us it reveals a playful affection. We would often exchange pleasantries in Italian, and it

should be understood that in Italian 'La Strega' or 'La Befana' is a benign spirit of fun and beneficence, the opposite of 'wicked.' My wish is that this modest composition be heard as a love letter."

He adds, "Frances is an independent spirit with vision and intensity, and with a broad and embracing cultural outlook. She is a person who knows the world of music and understands the psychology of listeners. And from that point of view, she is more than unique: she's one of the most outstanding luminaries in the field that I've had the privilege of working with."

About Frances Heinsheimer Wainwright

On April 16, 1966, the old Metropolitan Opera House on 39th Street in New York City closed with a farewell gala. The leading stars of the opera world performed for a glittering audience made up of the city's musical and social elite.

In that audience were Frances Heinsheimer and her father, Hans W. Heinsheimer. There is a photograph of them—Frances resplendent in a gold satin gown with a radiant smile.

Today—nearly 60 years later—Frances Heinsheimer Wainwright lives in Sechelt, BC, in a house full of a lifetime's memorabilia. Her living room overlooks an art studio filled with sculptures, paintings, and prints, many by her husband, artist and teacher Barry Wainwright.

In Frances's study, you'll find a grand piano, towers of CDs, and shelves spilling over with books on music, philosophy, and history. Many photographs line the walls, featuring some of the greatest composers of the 20th century with whom her father worked: Béla Bartók, Igor Stravinsky, Kurt Weill, Samuel Barber, Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, Alban Berg, and Leoš Janáček.

Every morning Frances, now in a wheelchair, maneuvers to her office desk to attend to the day's business of being Artistic Director of the Coast Recital Society. She remains committed to carefully curating a concert series of the highest quality, and is one of the finest chamber music presenters in Canada.

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Frances with her father in 1966.

EARLY YEARS

Frances grew up in a milieu infused with old-world culture. Her parents had escaped Nazi Germany and found sanctuary in New York—a world thriving with possibility. She inherited her parents' devotion to music and shared their love of art, opera, and 20th-century musical expression.

Frances began piano lessons at age five. When she was eight, she remembers going with her father to the NBC Studios in Rockefeller Center. She perched in the gallery along with other special guests for the premiere of the television broadcast of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* by Gian Carlo Menotti.

After 12th grade, she attended boarding school on Lake Geneva as her parents thought she was too young to go to college at age 16. Her brother Thomas studied at MIT and became an astrophysicist. He lives in California. Her mother, Elsbeth, was one of the first women to practice dentistry in the US.

Next stop—Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio—a liberal arts school famed for pioneering “experiential learning” and instilling communitarian values. Frances excelled and received her BA in languages. It was during those years that she met composer Yehudi Wyner.

ADULTHOOD & THE CBC

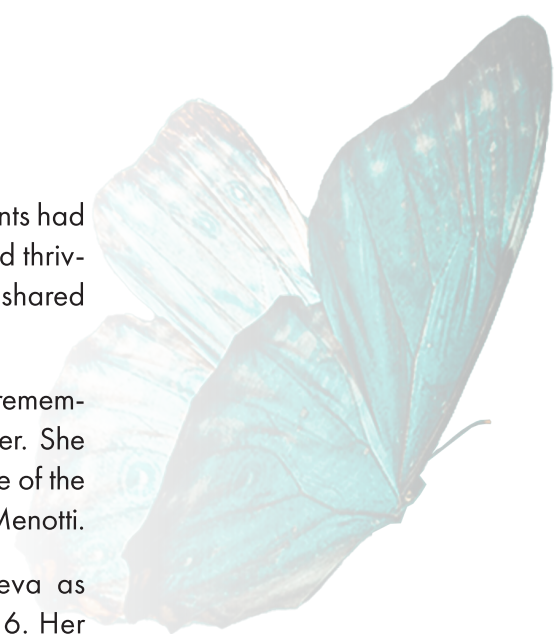
After college, Frances worked briefly at Metropolitan Opera in New York as a “girl Friday.” One evening at a dinner party she met a young artist from Montreal. Three months later, she married Barry Wainwright and moved to Montreal. It was the summer of Expo 67.

Frances obtained a master's degree in French literature from McGill University with a thesis on Elie Wiesel and soon after began producing music programs for CBC Radio. Then her daughter Carla and son Julian joined the family.

For decades, Frances was the doyenne of CBC Music—revered for her vast knowledge, admired for personal connections with great musicians, beloved for her sharp wit, her capacity for friendship, and her enthusiasm for good, entertaining stories. She valued integrity and was an exceptional radio producer.

At a time when the CBC was arguably the most important cultural institution in the country, Frances set the standard for classical music on the national airwaves. She traveled abroad, interviewing Benjamin Britten at his home in Aldeburgh, and gathered material with colleague Marilyn Powell to create an award-winning documentary on Palestrina. She shared impromptu

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discussions on the air with pianist Menahem Pressler while he was seated at the keyboard. She produced recital recordings with Murray Perahia and Radu Lupu.

In 1980, she created and produced the annual CBC Christmas “Sing-In” at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul in Montreal. The idea came from her husband Barry who reminisced about a Christmas concert he had attended in Vancouver as a teenager. The Christmas Sing-In was broadcast across Canada and around the world. The scale expanded each year, drawing wide audiences and raising thousands of dollars for charity.

BIG MOVES

In 1997, Frances and Barry retired. They sold their house in Montreal, loaded up the car and headed west with only a vague idea of where they might settle. They arrived on the Sunshine Coast, and within a few days bought a house in Sechelt, where they’ve lived ever since.

“That was on a Tuesday,” recalls Frances. “On Thursday, I’m walking around downtown Sechelt and thinking, what have I done? I’m in this little town. I grew up in New York City, lived in Montreal for years. And here we are in a small, charming town totally unknown to us.”

“At ten o’clock I showed up
and by 10:05 I was on
the board.”

That same day Frances walked into Talewind Books where she picked up a brochure of the Coast Recital Society concerts. “I thought, concerts? In this town, they present concerts?!”

The next concert featured pianist Anton Kuerti. I was stunned that Kuerti would come to Sechelt to perform. I called the phone number on the brochure and was informed that the next board meeting was at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning in the lobby of the Raven’s Cry Theatre. So, at ten o’clock I showed up and by 10:05 I was on the board.”

At that time Allan Crane was the Artistic Director. He’d overseen the acquisition of an excellent Steinway grand and put together an impressive concert series.

AT THE COAST RECITAL SOCIETY

For the past 20 years Frances has been Artistic Director of the Coast Recital Society. Concerts continue to sell out. Tickets are reasonably priced and feature performances by superb musicians. There’s a passionate audience for classical music on the Sunshine Coast.

Frances also oversees an Artists in the Community outreach program that awards scholarships to local classical music students, and presents world-renowned artists at schools and eldercare residences in the area.

Many outstanding musicians have made the trek to Sechelt's Raven's Cry Theatre for the Coast Recital Society. Past artists include Jeremy Denk, Augustin Hadelich, and Yevgeny Sudbin, who play to packed houses at Carnegie Hall. Canadian luminaries include James Ehnes, Janina Fialkowska, Marc-André Hamelin, and Jon Kimura Parker.

"I seek excellence," says Frances. "Occasionally, I ask the musicians to perform rarely heard repertoire." Recent performers included Juno award-winner Elinor Frey with a solo viola da gamba program. A performance by Filippo Gorini of Bach's *The Art of Fugue*, for an uninterrupted 90 minutes, left the audience mesmerized.

Frances credits the enormous support of the volunteer Coast Recital board of directors, and sponsors. She acknowledges that many of these artists have been possible thanks to an invaluable collaboration with Leila Getz, Artistic Director of the Vancouver Recital Society and an internationally renowned recital impresario.

"Leila has been extremely generous to the Coast Recital Society," says Frances, "encouraging us to present many of her exceptional artists."

The Coast Recital Society's astonishing success in presenting the best of the music world is an unparalleled contribution to the cultural and artistic life of the Sunshine Coast.

WRITTEN BY DENISE BALL

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Celebrating 20 years of
dedication and excellence
as Artistic Director of the Coast Recital Society



CRS Seasons curated by Frances

2004–2005

Borealis String Quartet
Angela Cheng, piano
The Osiris Piano Trio
Vlach Quartet Prague
Yegor Dyachkov, cello & Libby Yu, piano
Pascal Rogé, piano

2005–2006

Vogler String Quartet & Ian Parker, piano
Anagnoson & Kinton — 2 pianos
Jasper Wood, violin & Rena Sharon,
piano
musica intima, vocal ensemble
Janina Fialkowska, piano
Jupiter String Quartet

2006–2007

André Laplante, piano
James Campbell, clarinet & The New
Zealand String Quartet
Yevgeny Sudbin, piano
Sara Davis Buechner, piano
A Few More, chamber ensemble
Shauna Rolston, piano & Heather
Schmidt, cello
The Gryphon Trio

2007–2008

Kodály Quartet
Markus Groh, piano
Anton Kuerti, piano
Susan Platts, mezzo-soprano & Rena
Sharon, piano
Winds of the Southern Cross, chamber
ensemble
Tyler Duncan, baritone & Erika Switzer,
piano

2008–2009

Suzie LeBlanc, soprano & Robert
Kortgard, piano
St. Petersburg String Quartet
Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra
Antonio Lysy, cello & Jane Coop, piano
Robert Silverman, piano
James Ehnes, violin & Andrew Russo,
piano
Yevgeny Sudbin, piano

2009–2010

Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, Anne
Manson, conductor & Dame Evelyn
Glennie, percussion
Javier Peranes, piano
musica intima, vocal ensemble

Russell Braun, baritone & Carolyn Maule,
piano
Tokyo String Quartet
Osiris Trio — *cancelled due to travel
restrictions*
AMICI Chamber Ensemble
Avan Yu, piano

2010–2011

Anton Kuerti, piano & The Jacques
Thibaud Trio
Angela Cheng, piano
National Broadcast Orchestra, Alain
Trudel, conductor & Müge Büyükcelen,
violin
Christianne Stotijn, mezzo-soprano &
Joseph Breinl, piano
Afiara String Quartet
Richard Margison, Tenor & Kinza Tyrell,
piano
Yevgeny Sudbin, piano

2011–2012

Boris Giltburg, piano
Isabel Bayrakdarian, soprano & Serouj
Karadjian, piano
St. Lawrence String Quartet
Pentaèdre Wind Ensemble
Vancouver Chamber Ensemble, Jon
Washburn, conductor
André Laplante, piano

2012–2013

Fine Arts Quartet
Capella Artemisia
Marie-Elisabeth Hecker, cello & Martin
Helmchen, piano
Mark Fewer, violin & John Novacek, piano
Layla Claire, soprano & Brian Wagorn,
piano — *cancelled due to illness*
Narek Hahknazarian, cello & Noreen
Polera, piano
Jane Coop, piano & Afiara String Quartet
Angela Cheng, piano

2013–2014

Beatrice Rana, piano
New Orford String Quartet
Christie Reside, flute & Terrence Dawson,
piano
Raphael Wallfisch, cello & Rena Sharon,
piano
Bergmann Piano Duo
Fine Arts Quartet
Sara Davis Beuchner, piano

2014–2015

Timothy Chooi, violin & Amanda Chan,
piano
Les Violon du Roy, chamber orchestra
Doric String Quartet
Gryphon Trio
Steven Osborne, piano
Andre Laplante, piano

2015–2016

Jeremy Denk, piano
Mark Fewer, violin & John Novacek, piano
Alexander Weimann, harpsichord
Ian Parker, piano & Vogler Quartet
Philippe Sly, bass-baritone, & Michael
McMahon, piano
Janina Fialkowska, piano

2016–2017

Wenwen Du, piano
Istvan Vardai, cello & Zoltan Fejervari,
piano
Trio Berek-Mercer-Park
Nikki Chooi violin, Timothy Chooi, violin
& Wenwen Du, piano
Paul Lewis, piano
Karina Gauvin, soprano & Les Boréades

2017–2018

Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, Anne
Manson, conductor & Ariel Barnes, cello
Alban Gerhardt, cello & Steven Osborne,
piano
Phoenix Chamber Choir
Alexander Weimann, harpsichord & Pacific
Baroque Orchestra Players
Rolston String Quartet
Angela Hewitt, piano
Charles Richard-Hamelin, piano

2018–2019

Zimmerman's Coffee House: Alexander
Weimann, harpsichord, Soile
Stratkauskas, flute, Chloe Meyers, violin
& Beiliang Zhu, cello
Philippe Sly, bass-baritone & Michael
McMahon, piano
Lawrence Kayaleh, violin & Michele
Mares, piano
Zoltan Fejervari, piano
Bezjod Abduraimov, piano — *cancelled
due to storm*
Yevgeny Sudbin, piano

2019–2020

Nikki Chooi violin, Timothy Chooi, violin &
Angela Cheng, piano
Nigel North & Les Voix Humaines
Kevin Kenner, piano
Ensemble Made In Canada
Janina Fialkowska, piano
Beatrice & Ludovica Rana — *cancelled
due to COVID*

2020–2021—entire season cancelled due to COVID

Laurence Kayaleh, violin, Elizabeth Dolin,
cello & Bernadene Blaha, piano
The Young Beethoven
Zlatomir Fung, cello & Richard Fu, piano
Nicolas Namoradze, piano
Andrea Lucchesini, piano
Viano String Quartet

2021–2022

Augustin Hadelich, violin
Janina Fialkowska, piano — *cancelled due
to illness*
David Fung, piano
The Young Beethoven
Kayaleh-Dolin-Blaha Trio

2022–2023

Filippo Gorini, piano
Garibaldi Trio
Elinor Frey, cello
Zlatomir Fung, cello & Benjamin
Hochman, piano
Nicolas Namoradze, piano
Ensemble Made In Canada

2023–2024

Jaeden Izik Dzurko, piano
Cheng2 Duo, cello & piano
Charles Richard-Hamelin, piano
Sitkovetsky Trio
Garibaldi Trio
Isidore Quartet