The only organization of its kind in western Canada, Prairie Debut links the best Canadian classical and world music artists to over 80 communities which are mostly rural and outside the larger centres in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Yukon. Since 1997, Prairie Debut has supported tours to communities that would otherwise have few opportunities to experience live classical and world music performances of this calibre. In doing so, Prairie Debut contributes to community enrichment, audience growth, and the career development of emerging Canadian artists.

Each year, artists from across Canada apply to tour under the auspices of Prairie Debut. An independent artistic advisory panel selects the three or four artists / ensembles to tour the following season. Prairie Debut then offers these selected artists to community presenters across the Prairies and Yukon at a subsidized fee which makes these concerts attainable to concert presenters in all locales in this vast region - from the far north to the most southerly towns, and from eastern Manitoba through to western Alberta.

Prairie Debut artists have travelled thousands of kilometres of open prairie roads with instruments as varied as harpsichords, marimbas, bassoons, accordions – and they have carried multi-million dollar violins onto small prop planes in order to reach northern towns. All this, to reach an audience of over a million Western Canadians throughout our 20-year history.

Airdrie AB Edson AB Prince Albert SK Strathclair MB Lacombe AB Altona MB Estevan SK Leader SK Quill Plains SK Swift Current SK Assiniboia SK Flin Flon MB Leduc AB Ravenscrag SK Tisdale SK Banff AB Fort McMurray AB Lloydminster AB Red Deer AB The Pas MB Barrhead AB Ft Saskatchewan Luseland SK Redvers SK Thompson MB Biggar SK Melfort SK Regina SK Unity SK Golden BC Bragg Creek AB Melville SK Rosthern SK Vermillion AB Grand Prairie AB Brandon MB Minnedosa MB Saskatoon SK Virden MB High River AB Brooks AB Moose Jaw SK Shaunavon SK Wainwright AB Haines Junction YT Moosomin SK Sherwood Park AB Watrous SK Calgary AB Holland MB Camrose AB Morden MB Snow Lake MB Westlock AB Hudson Bay SK Morinville AB Souris MB Canora SK Weyburn SK Indian Head SK Okotoks AB Carman MB Spruce Grove AB Whitehorse YT Killarney MB Consort AB Outlook SK St. Albert AB Winkler MB Kindersley SK Cold Lake AB Pinawa MB St Jean Baptiste MB Winnipeg MB Kipling SK Dawson City YT Portage la Prairie Steinbach MB Wynyard SK La Ronge SK Drayton Valley AB Stettler AB Yorkton SK



Prairie Debut thanks our generous funding partners and the numerous individuals whose support enables our organization to enrich the lives of many. Prairie Debut Inc. is incorporated in Manitoba, with adjacent incorporation in Saskatchewan and Alberta. (Charitable No. 86799 3495 RR0001) For more information, please visit: www.prairiedebut.com Po Yeh, Executive Director



























photo ⇒ Bo Huang



High River

United Church, High River AB

The 2018 recipient and first international ensemble chosen for the prestigious Cleveland Quartet Award from Chamber Music America, Canada's Rolston String Quartet continue to receive acclamation and recognition for their musical excellence. In 2016, a monumental year, they earn First Prize win at the 12th Banff International String Quartet Competition (BISQC). In that same year, the quartet's winning included Astral's National Auditions and Grand Prize of the 31st Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition. They were also prizewinners at the 2016 Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition and the inaugural M-Prize competition. There is no wonder they were named among CBC Radio's "30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians Under 30" in 2016.

On the heels of their Banff win, Rolston String Quartet immediately embarked upon the BISQC Winner's Tour, taking them to Germany, Italy, Austria, Canada, and United States. As Ludwig van Toronto states, "they performed with a maturity and cohesion rivaling the best string quartets in the world." In the 2017-18 season, they tipped the 100-concert milestone with performances throughout Canada, United States, Germany, Brussels, Italy, and Israel. Highlights included the Smithsonian, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Koerner Hall, and the Esterhazy Palace. Upcoming highlights for the 2018-19 season include debut performances at Carnegie Hall, Freer Gallery, Wigmore Hall, Chamber Music Houston, two major tours in Canada under the Prairie Debut and Debut Atlantic touring networks, and three European tours with dates in Leipzig, Berlin, Lucerne, Heidelberg, Barcelona, Graz, and other centres.

Rolston String Quartet began their two-year term as the Yale School of Music's fellowship quartet-in-residence in the fall of 2017. They have also served as the graduate quartet-in-residence at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music and have participated in residencies and fellowships at the Académie musicale de Villecroze, Aspen Music Festival, Banff Centre, McGill International String Quartet Academy, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Robert Mann String Quartet Institute, St. Lawrence String Quartet Seminar, and the Yehudi Menuhin Chamber Music Festival.

Notable collaborations include performances with renowned artists Andrés Díaz, Gilbert Kalish, Mark Morris, Arthur Rowe, Robert McDonald, Donald Palma, Jon Kimura Parker, and Miguel da Silva. Additionally, they have worked with songwriter Kishi Bashi and composers John Luther Adams and Brian Current. Primary mentors include the Brentano Quartet, James Dunham, Norman Fischer, and Kenneth Goldsmith, and the quartet has received additional guidance from the St. Lawrence String Quartet, Barry Shiffman, Miguel da Silva, and Alastair Tait.

The Rolston String Quartet – Luri Lee (violin), Hezekiah Leung (viola), Jonathan Lo (cello), and new member as of spring 2018 Emily Kruspe (violin) – was formed in the summer of 2013 at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity's Chamber Music Residency. They take their name from Canadian violinist Thomas Rolston, founder and long-time director of the Music and Sound Programs at the Banff Centre.

Luri Lee plays a Carlo Tononi violin, generously on loan from Shauna Rolston Shaw. Rolston String Quartet is endorsed by Jargar Strings of Denmark.

⇒ rolstonstringquartet.com

PRAIRIE DEBUT PRESENTS

2016 BISQC LAUREATE The Winner's Tour

Rolston String Quartet

Luri Lee, violin Emily Kruspe, violin Hezekiah Leung, viola Jonathan Lo, cello

PROGRAM

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

String Quartet No. 18 in A Major, K. 464
I. Allegro
II. Menuetto and Trio
III. Andante
IV. Allegro

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R. Murray Schafer (b. 1933)

String Quartet No. 2, Waves

- INTERMISSION -

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

String Quartet No. 13 in B-flat Major, Op. 130

I. Adagio ma non troppo
II. Presto
III. Andante con moto ma non troppo
IV. Alla danza tedesca. Allegro assai
V. Cavatina. Adagio molto espressivo

VI. Finale. Allegro



This tour is supported, in part, by The Banff International String Quartet Competition at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.