



Airat Ichmouratov

The music of Russian-Canadian composer and conductor Airat Ichmouratov, has been performed by a wide range of ensembles and musicians in countries around the world. Ichmouratov was named as Resident Composer 2012 at Concerts aux îles du Bic (Canada), In 2013 he was the Composer of Summer at Orford Arts Centre (Canada) and in 2015 Summer Composer at 17e edition of the Festival Classique des Hautes- Laurentides (Canada). As of 2010, Ichmouratov is the Associate Composer with Canadian Music Centre.

Born in Kazan, Russia, Airat Ichmouratov studied clarinet at the Kazan State Conservatory. In 1993, when he was appointed as Associate clarinetist of the Tatarstan’s Opera and Ballet Theatre, and of the Kazan State Symphony Orchestra, he began to extensively tour Europe. In 2000, he obtained a Master degree at the University of Montreal. He then founded the Muczynski Trio, which won first prize and the Grand Award at the National Music Festival (Canada, 2002) and First Prize at the 8th International Chamber Music Competition in Krakow (Poland, 2004). The Trio has also recorded for CBC and has given performances in Canada, China, Russia, and Europe.

In 2000, Mr. Ichmouratov joined the Klezmer group Kleztory, in which he plays the clarinet, composes, and arranges. In 2004, Kleztory recorded a very unique CD; Klezmer Music with I Musici de Montreal and Yuli Turovsky, recorded on the “Chandos” label (Great Britain). In 2007 Kleztory’s album “Nomade” won the Opus Prize. His most recent (2014) Album Arrival was nominated as Best album of the Year in the Traditional music category by ADISQ. In 2012, Kleztory won Klezmer Furth Prize at International Klezmer festival and Competition in Amsterdam, and as a result, appeared at the Furth Klezmer Festival during the following spring. With Kleztory Ichmouratov has appeared as soloist with several orchestras, including the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the Quebec Symphony Orchestra, I Musici de Montreal, Les Violons du Roy, and Brussels Chamber Orchestra and toured intensively in Canada, USA, Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica, Romany, Belgium, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, Netherlands, Germany, and China.

TOURING IN CANADA IN 2018

- January 13, Fanny Bay. BC
- January 16, Trail, BC
- January 18, Langley, BC
- January 19, Abbotsford. BC
- January 20, Parksville. BC
- January 21, Victoria, BC
- March 17, Almonte, ON
- March 18,, Port Hope, ON
- March 22, Regina, SK
- March 25, Hamilton, ON
- March 25, Kithchener-Waterloo, ON



Lafayette String Quartet (Victoria BC)

*Ann Elliot-Goldschmid, and Sharon Stanis violins,
Joanna Hood viola, Pamela Highbaugh Aloni cello*

Saguenay (Alcan) String Quartet (Saguenay QC)

*Laura Andriani and Nathalie Camus violins,
Luc Beauchemin viola, David Ellis, cello*

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Thursday March 22, 2018 - 7:30 pm

Regina Musical Club

Westminster United Church, Regina, ON

Saguenay String Quartet

The Saguenay String Quartet (formerly known as The Alcan String Quartet) has developed a reputation for excellence throughout Canada and internationally since its inception 25 years ago. The Quartet's originality, contagious enthusiasm, unique sonority, and remarkable cohesion have all contributed to its long-term success. The ensemble's list of accomplishments is impressive: 1000 concerts; over 100 live radio broadcasts, numerous television appearances; tours throughout North America, Europe, Asia; and a number of commissioned pieces and first performances.

The Quartet's recent tours have led the Quartet in Italy, France, the United States, Asia and all over Canada. Its last visit to the Lanaudière Festival, accompanied by pianist Alain Lefèvre, was hailed by more than 6,000 people and welcomed by enthusiastic critics. This concert was also awarded the Opus Prize for the concert of the year by the Conseil québécois de la musique, as well as a Félix (Adisq) prize for the recording of the same André Mathieu repertoire.

Another cornerstone in the Quartet's history, is the release of its highly anticipated Complete cycle of Beethoven's 16 string quartets as part of its 25th anniversary celebrations. In addition to its performing career, the Quartet is regularly invited to teach and conduct master classes at universities, conservatories, and summer chamber music institutes both in Quebec and abroad. The Saguenay String Quartet is based in Chicoutimi, Québec, where it receives the unconditional support of the Orchestre symphonique du Saguenay

Lafayette String Quartet

In July 1986, four young musicians, based in Detroit and just beginning their professional careers, performed together for the first time as the Lafayette String Quartet. Today the LSQ continues to flourish with its original personnel: violinists Ann Elliott-Goldschmid and Sharon Stanis, violist Joanna Hood, and cellist Pamela Highbaugh Aloni.

The LSQ's extraordinary musicianship was recognized early on. Already in 1988, it was ranked among the magazine *Musical America's* "Young Artists to Watch," and in its first years it won the Grand prize at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and prizes at the Portsmouth (now City of London) International String Quartet Competition, and the Chicago Discovery Competition. As winners of the 1988 Cleveland String Quartet Competition, the LSQ had the opportunity to study for two years with the Cleveland Quartet at the Eastman School of Music, in Rochester, New York.

In 1991, the four women became artists-in-residence at the University of Victoria's School of Music, in British Columbia—positions they still hold today. They received honorary doctorates from University Canada West and were honored with the inaugural Craigdarroch Award for Excellence in Artistic Expression in 2010 from the University of Victoria.

The LSQ has performed across Canada, the United States, Mexico and Europe, with concerts often allied with masterclasses and workshops. They often collaborate with other string quartets including the Saguenay (Alcan), the New Zealand, the Penderecki, the Molinari, the Emily Carr, and the Quarteto Latinoamericano.

Saguenay String Quartet is represented by Agence Station Bleue (stationbleue.com)
Lafayette String Quartet is represented by Lydia Kasianchuk

Programme

A mari usque ad mare

String Octet in F major op. 17 (1849)

Niels W. Gade
(1817 - 1890)

- I. Allegro molto e con fuoco
- II. Andantino quasi allegretto
- III. Scherzo : Allegro moderato et tranquillo
- IV. Allegro vivace

String Octet in G minor "The Letter" op. 56 (2017)

Airat Ichmouratov
(1973 -)

- I. Largo

M. Ichmouratov's octet is inspired by Stefan Zweig's novella "Letter from an Unknown Woman". The composition was commissioned by the Saguenay Quartet and is receiving its world premier performances during the present series of concerts in British Columbia between January 13 - 21, 2018.

—Intermission—

String Octet in E flat major op. 20 (1825)

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

- I. Allegro Moderato
- II. Andante
- III. Scherzo
- IV. Presto