

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.

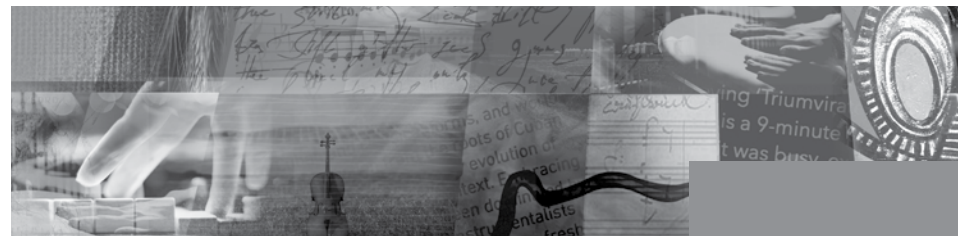
Each year, artists from across Canada apply to tour under the auspices of Prairie Debut. An independent artistic advisory panel selects the three or four artists / ensembles to tour the following season. Prairie Debut then offers these selected artists to community presenters across the Prairies and 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.

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



Avan Yu



2018 - 2019



Friday Feb 15
7:30 pm
Regina Musical Club
Westminster United Church
Regina SK

Saturday Feb 16
7:30 pm
Station Arts Centre
Rosthern SK

Wednesday Feb 20
8:00 pm
Keyano Recital Theatre
Fort McMurray AB

Thursday Feb 21
7:30 pm
Maclab Centre for the Performing Arts
Leduc AB

Sunday Feb 24
2 pm and 7:30 pm
Stettler Variety Showcase
Performing Arts Centre
Stettler AB

Monday Feb 25
7:30 pm
Horizon Stage
Performing Arts Centre
Spruce Grove AB

photo ⇒ Irène Zandel

Achieving international attention at an early stage, Canadian pianist **Avan Yu** triumphed at the 2012 Sydney International Piano Competition in Australia, winning First Prize along with nine special awards. Avan decided to pursue a life in music shortly before winning his first international piano competition at the age of fourteen. Although initially aspiring to be an astronaut while growing up in Canada, his ideas changed after opportune meetings with several important musical mentors.

He was first noticed by Pinchas Zukerman and Bramwell Tovey who invited him to perform with their respective orchestras, the National Arts Centre Orchestra and the Vancouver Symphony. Yo-Yo Ma, after hearing Avan play at the age of sixteen, invited him to perform with him in Ottawa a few years later. Since then, he has appeared with conductors and musicians such as Rafael Fruehbeck de Burgos, Christian Arming, Juanjo Mena, Johannes Moser, and the Armida Quartet. He has performed extensively throughout Europe, North America, Asia, and Australia and at venues such as the Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Philharmonie in Berlin, the Salle Cortot in Paris, and the Sydney Opera House.

Mr. Yu became front page news as the youngest competitor ever to win the Canadian Chopin Competition at the age of 17. On the world stage, he went on to win the Silver Medal and Audience Prize at the Santander International Piano Competition. Following his First Prize at the Sydney International Piano Competition, the newspaper West Australian praised him with:

“...his musical ability to probe and reveal the inner depths of whatever he plays which is far more suggestive of the real McCoy than the surface prestidigitation that too often is all that many a young, hotshot piano player aspires to.”

His teachers have included Kut Kau Sum, Kenneth Broadway, and Ralph Markham in Vancouver, and Klaus Hellwig in Berlin, where he studied at the Berlin University of the Arts. There he also studied chamber music with the Artemis Quartet and Art Song accompaniment with Eric Schneider. In Germany, he has performed at festivals such as the Rheingau Music Festival, Heidelberger Fruehling, Kissinger Sommer, and Ruhr Klavierfestival, and for the President and the Bundestag President of Germany.

He has received the generous support of the Canada Council for the Arts, BC Arts Council, Vancouver Women's Musical Society, and The Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation.

His latest recording of Liszt's Transcriptions of Schubert's *Winterreise* and *Schwanengesang*, released by Naxos, won positive reviews from critics at Gramophone Magazine, American Record Guide, *Fono Forum*, among others.

Besides playing the piano, Avan has also written for the National Post. He loves studying languages and in his spare time enjoys experimenting in the kitchen in his home in Berlin. He has just moved to New York City in September to begin Doctoral Studies at the Manhattan School of Music.

⇒ avanyu.net

PRAIRIE DEBUT PRESENTS

Journeys

Avan Yu, piano

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

Polonaise in C Major, Op. 89

Sonata in C-sharp Minor, Op. 27 No. 2 “Moonlight”

i. Adagio sostenuto

ii. Allegretto

iii. Presto agitato

Frédéric Chopin (1810–1849)

Ballade No. 3 in A-flat Major, Op. 47

Ballade No. 4 in F Minor, Op. 52

—:—
Intermission
—:—

Oscar Peterson (1925–2007)

Selections from *Canadiana Suite*

Claude Debussy (1862–1918)

Clair de Lune from *Suite bergamasque*

Danse – Tarantelle styrienne

Franz Liszt (1811–1886)

Chasse-neige from *Etudes d'exécution transcendante*, S. 139

Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12 in C-sharp minor, S. 244

A musician's voice mirrors their path through life. Travels, influences, people, and encounters combine to create a unique story. Beginning his public career at age fourteen, pianist Avan Yu captured attention with an international competition win. In this special program, Journeys, Avan shares his expeditions as a pianist and features milestone pieces from his major performances, and composers who have defined his musical growth. Demonstrating delicate nuances to great technical facilities, Avan plays with a freedom and expression learned only from his worldly experiences. His destinations are a story of their own.