# CHENG<sup>2</sup>DUO

1ER OCTOBRE 2021 À 20H CENTRE CULTUREL CANADIEN

OCTOBER 1ST, 2021 AT 8PM CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTRE



# CHENG<sup>2</sup>DUO

Hailed as one of the "30 most talented Canadian classical musicians under 30" by CBC Music (Canada), the Chinese-Canadian brother-sister duo has been performing for over 17 years, presenting both classical masterpieces and contemporary repertoire.

For this evening at the Canadian Cultural Centre, Silvie and Bryan invite you into the **"Salon de Nadia Boulanger"** to pay tribute to this key figure in 20th century French classical music, as well as to her two students, Astor Piazzolla and Elliott Carter. On stage, the duo enriches its musical conversation with interpretations of another great French composer of the 20th century, Francis Poulenc, before revisiting a Beethoven sonata.



"I started playing the piano by pure chance, on a trip to the Maritimes with our parents. I was four and a half years old. Among the toys and games in the car was a little blue plastic keyboard. I kept coming back to it. At the end of the trip, I wanted to start taking piano lessons. Silvie Cheng

"My parents bought a big piano for us to play together. I wanted to have something of my own. When I was three, my mother took me to the Suzuki School in Ottawa. I thought the violin sound was too high... It was when I heard the sound of the cello that I fell in love with the instrument, and I still do." Bryan Cheng

\*This concert is generously supported by the New York Foundation of the Arts City Artist Corps Grants.

## PROGRAMME

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN 7 Variations sur "Bei Männern, welch Liebe fühlen" WoO 46

NADIA BOULANGER

ELLIOTT CARTER

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA

FRANCIS POULENC Three Pieces for Cello and Piano

Figment for solo cello

The Great Tango for cello and piano

Sonata for cello and piano, FP 143

# NADIA BOULANGER

Born in Paris in 1887 and died in Paris in 1979, Nadia Boulanger was a French pianist, conductor, composer and teacher who inspired and trained generations of musicians in composition.

Born into a family of musicians, she studied piano, composition and harmony at the Paris Conservatoire, before beginning her career as a pianist and organist. She composed her first vocal works, chamber music and a few pieces for orchestra, before devoting herself more fully to conducting and teaching.

From 1921, Nadia Boulanger taught at the American Conservatory in Fontainebleau, at the École Normale de Musique de Paris and at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Paris, where she saw several generations of composers pass through her class: Aaron Copland, Dinu Lipatti, Elliott Carter, Igor Markevitch, Daniel Barenboim, Marius Constant, John Eliot Gardiner, Philip Glass, Astor Piazzolla, Michel Legrand, Yehudi Menuhin, Quincy Jones, Lalo Schifrin, and others.

**She cultivates a modern pedagogy,** favouring the decompartmentalisation of music and integrating contemporary influences into the teaching of a classical

repertoire.

As a key figure of the 20th century, Nadia Boulanger had a major influence on the musical scene of her time. Silvie and Bryan Cheng pay tribute to her on stage tonight at the Canadian Cultural Centre.



#### Nadia Boulanger in 6 dates:

- **1903:** Becomes substitute organist for Gabriel Fauré at the Eglise de la Madeleine
- **1908:** Wins a Second Grand Prix de Rome
- **1912:** Conducts her own works for the first time in Paris
- **1948:** appointed Director of the American Conservatory of Fontainebleau
- **1977:** Receives the Légion d'Honneur
- **1983:** Creation of the Nadia and Lili Boulanger Foundation

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#### Sources :

"Nadia Boulanger, conductor and pedagogue (1887 - 1979)" on France Inter

"Without Nadia Boulanger, American composers would have continued to imitate 19th century European music", Télérama, October 2020

Nadia and Lili Boulanger Foundation

### **BONJOUR STRADIVARIUS CELLO**

Made by Antonio Stradivarius around 1696, the Bonjour Stradivarius cello is named after the 19th century Parisian cellist Abel Bonjour - who owned the instrument until his death in 1885.

After travelling from hand to hand, between Germany, Switzerland and England, the Bonjour Stradivarius was acquired by an anonymous owner in the fall of 1999, who decided to loan it to the Canada Council for the Arts.

The Bonjour Stradivarius then joined the Canada Council's Musical Instrument Bank, along with some twenty violins, cellos and bows made by master luthiers.

Every three years, a competition is held by the Canada Council to allow talented Canadian classical musicians to benefit from the loan of one of the Musical Instrument Bank's legendary instruments for three years.

In 2018, Bryan Cheng won the competition and the privilege of playing on this prestigious instrument.







for the Arts

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#### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Canadian Cultural Centre 130, rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré F – 75008 Paris 01 44 43 21 90 www.canada-culture.org

### ACCESS

The Canadian Cultural Centre is accessible to people with reduced mobility. Métro : M9 (Saint Philippe-du-Roule ou Miromesnil) – M13 (Miromesnil) Bus : 28 – 32 – 80 – 83 – 93

### **OPENING HOURS**

The Canadian Cultural Centre welcomes you from Monday to Friday from 10am to 6pm.

Free entrance on presentation of a valid health pass.