



Biography

Made up of pianists Amélie Fortin and Marie-Christine Poirier, Duo Fortin-Poirier have distinguished themselves with fiery four-hand interpretations, remarkable for their vitality and wit. A close affinity between their playing styles along with a sharp, shared sensitivity fuel their extraordinary ensemble playing.

Since their inception in 2005, Duo Fortin-Poirier have made waves both in Canada and abroad, garnering scholarships, prizes, and other distinctions (1st prize the Canadian Music Competition; 2nd Prize at the 2013 Concorso Pianistico Internazionale Roma; finalists at the 2009 Concours international de piano à quatre mains de Valberg and the 2011 Liszt 200 Chicago International Duo Piano Competition; Special Jury Mention at the 2010 International Edvard Grieg Piano Competition; and scholarships from the arts councils of Montreal, Québec and Canada).

Very active on the North American scene, in 2008 they premiered Vingt doigts et un piano, the first classical concert to be chosen for Loto-Québec's Entrées en Scène. Their critically acclaimed concert Mémoires has been performed over a hundred times across Canada, the Western United States and Mexico.

Their performance of the concert Mémoires at the Festival de Musique de Chambre Concerts aux Îles du Bic (August 2017) earned them two nominations at the Opus Awards 2018. The albums, Vingt doigts et un piano (2013) and Mémoires (2017) are broadcast regularly on Espace Musique and ICI Radio-Canada Première. Their new concert Nuit Blanche, a creation made unique by the dazzling repertoire, live projections of the duo's four-handed ballet and imaginative stage lighting design, will be on tour starting 2021.

NUIT BLANCHE

Following the success of their concert Mémoires, which received critical acclaim and earned two nominations at the Opus Awards 2018 and performed across Canada, the United States and in Mexico, the Duo Fortin-Poirier is back with a brand new concert entitled Nuit Blanche. It is a concert with a dazzling repertoire, performed with all the flair, sensitivity and complicity the duet is known for. Every facet of what night represents is explored: doubt, anguish, passion, celebration, love and dreams come together through works written for four-hand piano by both famous classical composers and contemporary composers. The ballet of the duo's dancing four hands continues to amaze with a live projection, enhanced by imaginative stage lighting designs signed by Alexandre Péloquin.



As the sun dips below the horizon, at that precise moment when the golden light of twilight courts the deep blue of the sky, we can feel the night slowly creeping in. At the first delicate notes of Ravel's Rapsodie Espagnole, an atmosphere of magic sets in: it is the prelude to a night that promises to sooth any troubled souls.

In the magnificent Ballet from Orpheus and Eurydice, we hear a heartbreaking melancholy, a lullaby full of sorrow leading us into the murky waters of resigned fate. Next, Borodin's famous Polovtsian Dances will immerse the listener into a dreamscape of thrilling and lavish dances.

The second part of the concert is devoted to the works of living composers, whose many atmospheres reflect all that a sleepless night can be: anguish, celebration, love, fantasy.

From the start, Fazil Say transports us into an nightmarish, oppressive darkness with his composition Night, followed by Maggie Ayotte's Entre la veille et le sommeil, evoking the ever oscillating state of semi-conscience. Then, the incredible Enamorada by Victor Simon explores the theme of passionate love while Alfonso Peduto's Clockwork is reminiscent of our helplessness in the face of passing time. Finally, unbridled revelry burst forth as well with Shaun Choo's stunning Fiestravaganza.

Let yourself be transported through a concert that weaves revery with reality, where fun flirts with folly, where celebration and darkness mingle in a Nuit Blanche that proves to be utterly magic!

Click to see our promotional video





Program

M. Ravel : *Rapsodie espagnole* (1875-1937)

- 1 Prélude à la nuit
- 2 Malagueña
- 3 Habanera
- 4 Feria

C. W. Gluck : Ballet from *Orphée et Eurydice* (1714-1787) arr. Greg Anderson

A. Borodine : *Prince Igor – Danses polovtsiennes* (1833-1887)

- 1 Presto Dance of the Polovstian Maidens
- 2 Andante Gliding Dance of the Maidens
- 3 Allegro vivo Wild Dance of the Men
- 4 Allegro Group Dance
- 5 Presto Dance of the Boys



F. Say: Night (Born in 1970)

Maggie Ayotte : Entre la veille et le sommeil* (Born in 1992)

Victor Simon: Enamorada

(born in 1966)

Alfonso Peduto: Nachtmusik (excerpt) (born in 1987)

Clockwork

S. Choo: Fiestravaganza (Born in 1991)

*Canadian piece

Press

Part of the duo's success is their ear for approachable, lively pieces that sound a lot betterwith four hands. Fortin and Poirier are fabulous. We were all astonished with delight.

A concert of four-hand piano is uncommon enough, but the performance of the Quebec duo of Amelie Fortin and Marie-Christine Poirier on Sunday at the Denman Community Hall went way beyond anybody's expectations.

Their performance was a tour de force in dexterity and acrobatic coordination. This was reinforced by an ingenious use of an overhead cam that projected the keyboard on a screen so everyone could see what was happening. It added a lot of drama as well as insight into the playing. But far more important was the choice of a wide-ranging, engaging repertoire featuring some contemporary, unfamiliar works.

The Islands Grapevine : Anthony Gregson

The moment pianists Amelie Fortin and Marie-Christine Poirier stepped on stage as the effervescent Duo Fortin-Poirier, the atmosphere crackled with energy.

It is clear Duo Fortin-Poirier understands the inherent drama of music, the subtext of each musical thought and the essence of the composer's message

Oliver Chronicle : Anita Perry

They were like one person with four hands. It was simply amazing.

The Observer: David Nichols

I just listened to your performance of my GAZEBO DANCES and really loved it. Your attention to detail and musicality make my piece sound as I envisioned it. Thank you for playing my work, and for making such beautiful music out of it.

John Corigliano, compositeur

Tantôt tout en douceur, tantôt dans une folle frénésie musicale finement orchestrée par ces deux jeunes pianistes, le piano semblait tout heureux d'être en de si talentueuses mains.

Dansnoslaurentides.com : Pierre Lauzon





Technical requirements and contact informations

Concert lenght:

- Short version: 60 minutes
- Full-length concert: 1 hour and 40 minutes with a 20-minute intermission for two-part concert

Necessary material for a concert:

- Piano
- Two adjustable benches (if possible)
- One microphone for the presentations
- Lighting: please refer to lighting plot and cue sheet

When it is possible, we project live video of our hands playing on the keyboard. In that case, we will need*:

- Projector with HDMI, DVI-D or VGA input (our video feed is 1080p, but we can work with lower resolution)
- Screen (should be behind and above the piano)
- The video is sent from the stage directly to the projector by HDbaseT (we will provide cables, camera and HDbaseT system)

*If you have any technical question about video and projection, please contact Thierry Gauthier: info@thierrygauthier.com

To join us:

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Marie-Christine Poirier: 514-647-8099

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