

duofortinpoirier.com

NUIT BLANCHE

Duo Fortin-Poirier





Concept, production and performance:

Duo Fortin-Poirier – Amélie Fortin et Marie-Christine Poirier

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Montréal 



DUO FORTIN-POIRIER

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 Québec and Canada).

Very active on the North American scene, their concerts *Vingt doigts et un piano* and *Mémoires* have been presented more than 150 times across Canada, USA and Mexico. Among others, they've been touring in collaboration with Loto-Québec's *Entrées en Scène*, Debut Atlantic and Prairie Debut.

Their performance of the concert *Mémoires* at the chamber music *Festival Concerts aux Iles du Bic* earned them two nominations at the last gala of Prix Opus of the Conseil Québécois de la musique which took place in February 2018. The albums, *Vingt doigts et un piano* (2013) and *Mémoires* (2017) are broadcast regularly on Espace Musique, ICI Radio-Canada Première, and Radio-classique.

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A note from Amélie and Marie-Christine

As the sun slips below the horizon, as the blue-dark, enveloping sky and golden twilight begin their courtship, we feel the approach of night.

Some time ago, while we were dreaming up our next concert, both of us were grappling with significant and life-changing events. Marie Christine was welcoming her first child into the world. Amélie was enduring a separation. As contrasting as these circumstances might appear, they united us in one mutual and recurring experience: the *nuît blanche*! Indeed, we often found ourselves writing to each other in the wee hours of the morning; sometimes notes of support, sometimes just little fragments of what we were experiencing. Through insomnia and its fleet of emotions and sensations, we found our relationship to night deepening. Fatigue and anxiety alternated with waves of delight. Addled and hovering states of mind gave birth to wild reflections - sometimes profound, sometimes absurd. By the light of the night stars, a new and surprising world seemed to reveal itself to us. .

Conceived in confinement, driven by an overwhelming urge to reach out and make contact, this concert is the result of many and varied musical discoveries and an homage to all those sleepless nights. We have assembled a program filled to bursting; a blend of tradition and modernity, brimming throughout with the spirit of renewal. Not only, for example, will you hear an arrangement of our own devising, but you'll get a dash of choreography too, the integration of which has proved a fabulous challenge. We are also thrilled to be sharing a brand-new work by Quebec composer Maggie Ayotte. This magnificent piece, written especially for us, carries the evocative title: *Entre la veille et le sommeil* (*Between Waking and Sleeping*).

If we say that night brings wisdom, perhaps insomnia scatters a few seeds of magic. It was during one of our long nights that we hit upon the idea of illuminating each work with its own special light. This has become a way to further explore our inner journeys and adventures, but above all, to lift the music; an art as essential to each of us as a good night's sleep...perhaps even more so!

With that, we wish you an excellent and musical *nuît blanche* with us!

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Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) : Spanish Rhapsody
Prélude à la nuit, Malagueña. Habanera, Feria

An atmosphere of magic is evoked : the prelude to a night that promises to both upend and soothe our souls. Followed by two dances and a festive finale. All bear the signature Spanish influence of their composer, whose mother was Basque.

C. W. Gluck (1714-1787) : Ballet from Orpheus and Eurydice (arr. Greg Anderson)

Drawn from the opéra, this famous and heartbreaking melody summons us to bathe in the brackish waters of cruel fate.

Alexandre Borodine (1833-1897) : Prince Igor – Polovtsian Dances
. Dance of the Maidens 2. Mens' Dance 3. General Dance
4. Boys' Dance 5. Final Dance

From the opera Prince Igor, these five famous dances evoke the frenzied 'chassé-croisé' of a group of nocturnal revellers. The great Russian composer Borodin, in his quest to create a national musical style, drew inspiration from the folklore of his country's far-flung regions.



Fazil Say (b. 1970) : Night

A captivating, dark, even nightmarish piece by this Turkish pianist/composer and double-recipient of the Beethoven Prize for Human Rights, Peace, Freedom, Poverty Reduction and Inclusion

Maggie Ayotte (b. 1992) :

Entre la veille et le sommeil (*Between Waking and Sleeping*) *commission

A state of suspension; soft and semi-conscious. A work we commissioned from a young Quebec composer with a fertile imagination, who walks her own path, exploring points of connection between music and the body.

Victor Simon (b. 1966) : Enamorada

Argentine pianist and composer Victor Simon unfailingly reaches our hearts with his inspired, sensual and unifying tangos. Our four hands dance their way through this languid midnight of a piece upon two melodicas, disguised as a bandoneon

Alfonso Peduto (b. 1987) : Nachtmusik IV : Clockwork

An excerpt from a piano suite, both fluid and exacting, dedicated to Night and its myriad archetypal dimensions. Written by a composer who defies classification, who seeks, through his music, to shatter borders and touch our minds and hearts. Here, we venture our own arrangement, uniting our four hands in a choreography inspired by synchronized swimmers!

Shaun Choo (b. 1991) : Fiestravanganza

A joyful, dancing musical celebration with ragtime accents. No shuteye here! Because night has forever been the cradle of festivity, dancing and gathering. Because we've missed being together so much lately, we're gonna cap our 'nuit blanche' with a party! Unless...

***Secret encore**

(upon request)

...you prefer to end upon a gentler note?

Sweet Dreams!