

'Cello Concerto'

In the 2018/19 season, the MCO released its tenth CD to date, and the third on its MCO Records label. Entitled *Cello Concerto*, it features an MCO-commissioned concerto by the same name written by Michael Oesterle, a solo performance by cellist Ariel Barnes, and musical direction from conductor Anne Manson. Joined by the rest of the MCO's musicians, these artists render a genre-bending musical statement about the Industrial Revolution.

The performance heard on the album is the culmination of a 2017 Canadian tour with concert stops in Winnipeg and British Columbia. The MCO and Barnes delivered a very fine performance at their tour-opening concert in Winnipeg, and the ensuing tour allowed them to refine their performance further and better get to know one another musically. By their end-of-tour recording session they were 'combobulating' like a well-oiled machine to render Oesterle's piece, originally entitled *The Iron Man*, with all its nuances and virtuosic demands.

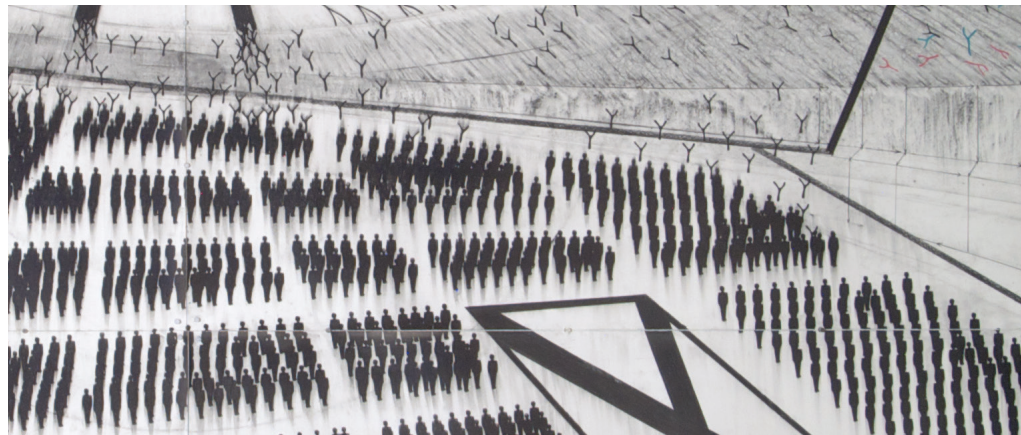
Over the next several months, Music Director Anne Manson traded notes about the recording with album producer Denise Ball, while the MCO administration prepped the CD production and design, working with esteemed Winnipeg artist Doug Smith for the cover's striking, industrial-themed illustration. The album was released in June 2019, and was praised as "phenomenally realized" by *Fanfare* in their (forthcoming) review. "Deft, imaginative and brilliantly orchestrated, there is an addictive aspect to this piece," writes *Fanfare* critic Colin Clarke.

Reviews of the CD continue to trickle in, while MCO Records endeavours to make the most of online and physical distribution opportunities as an independent label. Recently, MCO's recording projects received a high compliment in the form of a 2019 Western Canadian Music Award for Classical Ensemble of the Year, which it won thanks to the success of its 2017-released album *Mirage? Concertos for Percussion* featuring percussionist Dame Evelyn Glennie.

Manitoba Chamber Orchestra

MCO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / 23 OCTOBER 2019

MANITOBA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CELEBRATES 23 YEARS IN THE BLACK



Doug Smith, *Arena I (detail) 2013 100" x 100" Graphite, acrylic on paper.*

THE MANITOBA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA continues its third decade in the black.

For 23 years in a row, the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra has maintained balanced budgets, and the 18/19 season was not just a stable season financially, but also a strong one artistically. This and other good news was proudly presented at its Annual General Meeting on October 23rd.

Attendance figures for our evening concert series at Westminster United Church remain steady, with a slight dip from 6150 in 17/18 to a respectable 5990. The MCO performed for over 7500 people through our outreach programs and matinees.

In September and June, the MCO 'Fiddlers on the Loose' travelled Northern Manitoba by van to deliver music programming, workshops, and performances. They engaged youth and communities in Churchill (flew in), Wabowden,

Grand Rapids, Gypsumville, Rorketon, Skownan, Pine Creek, Hollow Water, and Falcon Beach. In the winter, the Fiddlers performed for 200 people at Stony Mountain Penitentiary, Rockwood Institution, and the Women's Correctional Facility, while 'Fiddlers on the Loose in the Library' played to 220 people. The Artists in Healthcare program reached another 850.

2018/19 marked Measha Brueggergosman's conclusion of her guest-artist-in-residency at the MCO, with a moving, jazz-inflected performance in May of *Strange Fruit*, among other pieces. Six other concerts featured Canadian guest artists; especially popular were the MCO's concerts with Tafelmusik and Canzona. The MCO delighted in welcoming back such international luminaries as cellist Colin Carr and harpist Emmanuel Ceysson, whose connection with Winnipeg audiences continues to grow.

Our 18/19 season was an especially strong one in terms of the presentation of new Canadian music. There were premieres of MCO-commissioned concertos by Vivian Fung and Kevin Lau through the MCO's New Concerto Project, a reprise performance of Glenn Buhr's *Three Pieces for Strings* (commissioned by the CBC for the MCO in 1992), and performances of absorbing works by Christos Hatzis and Mathieu Lussier. Between their July tour (with pianist Simone Dinnerstein) and March tour, the MCO performed Vivian Fung's Concerto for Two Violins and String Orchestra, no fewer than seven times in venues across Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Ontario. Late in the season, the MCO released *Cello Concerto*, a five-track EP featuring a concerto by the same name written by Michael Oesterle and commissioned by the MCO, and a solo performance by cellist Ariel Barnes. So

far, the album has received high praise from *Fanfare* magazine.

Fundraising efforts contributed a great deal to overall revenue. Our Heartstrings Gala was among our most successful yet financially speaking. It earned over \$50,000, together with very strong results from our auctions and Fund-a-need, which brought in \$35,000. The VINYL VAULT's hot streak in recent years continues, with the fundraising arm earning over \$15,000 in 2018/19.

MCO's Endowment Fund, administered by The Winnipeg Foundation, received more donations from supporters and matching funds from The Winnipeg Foundation and the federal Endowment Incentives Program. It now sits at \$2.1M, plus a \$375,000 life insurance policy.

The MCO Board of Directors expressed satisfaction with the year's results, and has turned its focus to the promise of the current season.

2018/19 Board and staff

Music Director

Anne Manson

Music Director Emeritus

Simon Streatfeild

President Emeritus

J.F. Reeh Taylor, Q.C.[†]

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William S. Gange, LL.B.
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Elaine Levack[†]
John Loewen
Joan Passey[†]
William S. Stewart
Paul Walsh, Q.C.
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[†]Deceased

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Systems + Design

Jon Snidal

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Karl Stobbe

Concert Manager

Boyd MacKenzie

Librarians

David Raphael Scott
Michaela Kleer

Advertising Manager

Brian Chipney

2018/19 Concerts

12 September 2018

The Buhler Concert

Anne Manson, conductor
Colin Carr, cello
Concert sponsor:

Wawanesa Insurance

Guest artist sponsor:

Elaine & Neil Margolis

10 October 2018

Aisslinn Nosky, violin & leader
Concert sponsor:

Pollard Banknote Limited

Music Director sponsor:

The Prolific Group

Concertmaster sponsor: **Paul Walsh**

6 November 2018

Karina Gauvin, soprano
Mathieu Lussier, bassoon
Concert sponsor:

Gail Asper

Family Foundation

Guest artist sponsors:

Sandi & Ron Mielitz

Concertmaster sponsor:

Coralie Bryant

5 December 2018

One-hour matinee added
Scott You, conductor
Susan Hoepfner, flute
Emmanuel Ceysson, harp
Concert sponsor: **Johnston Group**
Concertmaster sponsors:
Raymond Hébert
& **Terracon Development Ltd.**
Matinee Concertmaster sponsor:
B.A. Robinson

30 January 2019

Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra
Concert sponsors:

Drs. Elizabeth Tippett-Pope
& **Bill Pope**

Concertmaster sponsor:

Charlotte Hébert

19 March 2019

One-hour matinee added
Anne Manson, conductor
New Concerto Project Showcase
Concert sponsor: **Angela B. Ross**
Guest Artist sponsor: **Charlie Spiring,**
Wellington-Altus Private Wealth
Concertmaster sponsor:
Edmond Financial Group

9 April 2019

Canzona, Kathleen Allan
(Artistic Director)
Concert sponsor: **LBL Holdings**
Guest artist sponsor:
The Asper Foundation
Special thanks: **Foundation**
for Choral Music in Manitoba

24 April 2019

One-hour matinee added
Anne Manson, conductor
Jan Lisiecki, piano
Concertmaster sponsor: **Drs. Monika**
& **Włodzimierz Czarnecki**
Guest artist sponsor:
Stella's Cafe and Bakery
Piano sponsors: **St. John's Music**
and **Yamaha Music Canada**

23 May 2019

The Marilyn Huband Concert
Measha Brueggergosman, soprano
Guest artist sponsor: **Quadrant**
Asset Management

2018/19 Education & outreach

Fiddlers on the Loose is a troupe of MCO players which offers workshops and mini-concerts in Manitoba schools, libraries, and correctional facilities.

Pizzicato Pizza Club — reserve a spot for pizza and a 'music lesson.'

Pre-concert events — offer music lovers background info on concerts, or a spotlight on emerging musicians.

Workshops and masterclasses are offered as opportunities arise.

Matinee performances, open rehearsals and classroom visits — MCO goes to school, and the schools come to MCO!

Education & Outreach support: the **Canada Council for the Arts**, the **Manitoba Arts Council**, the **Winnipeg Arts Council**, the **Winnipeg Foundation**, the **Assiniboine Credit Union**, the **Blennerhasset Family Foundation**, the **Great-West Life Assurance Company**, the **Lloyd Carr-Harris Foundation**, **Manitoba Hydro**, **Manitoba Public Insurance**, **Manitoba School Boards Association**, **MB4Youth**, **MTS**, **Manitoba Teachers' Society**, the **Mauro Fund**, the **Musicians' Performance Trust Fund**, **Province of Manitoba Culture Branch**, **New Flyer Industries Ltd.**, **Red River Co-op**, the **Richardson Foundation**, **Rita Menzies Endowment Fund for Arts Education**, **S.M. Blair Family Foundation**, and **Sun Life Financial**.

Heartstrings

Dinner sponsor: **Christianson Wealth Advisors**
National Bank Financial

Wine sponsor: **Liquor Mart**

Reception sponsor: **Johnson Sousa Thoroski & Associates of RBC Wealth Management**, **Dominion Securities**

Music sponsor: **Payworks**

Dessert sponsor: **Birchwood BMW**

Photo booth backdrop courtesy **Dimension Display Inc.**

Auction services: **Adesa Auctions**

Tour sponsors

National Bank
Travel Manitoba

Special thanks

The Canada Council for the Arts
Manitoba Arts Council
Manitoba Lotteries
Province of Manitoba
Winnipeg Arts Council
Richardson Foundation
The Winnipeg Foundation
Sun Life Financial
Season sponsor: **CN**
Media sponsors:
Winnipeg Free Press
Canstar Community News
Prairie Public Broadcasting
Classic 107 & Golden West Radio

2018/19 Canadian repertoire

Glenn Buhr

Mathieu Lussier

Mathieu Lussier

Christos Hatzis

Vivian Fung

Kevin Lau

Strauss, arr. Greer

Meeropol, arr. Aaron Davis

Three Pieces for Strings

Spring Lullaby

Bassango

Departures, 2nd movement

Concerto for Two Solo Violins
& String Orchestra
New Concerto Project / world premiere

Writ in Water
New Concerto Project / world premiere

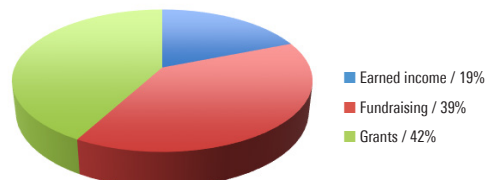
Four Last Songs, fourth movement

Strange Fruit

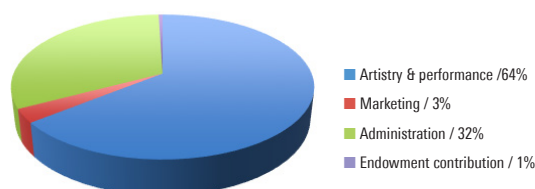
Income and expenses

Income	2019	2018
Earned income	\$221,264	\$188,008
Fundraising and sponsorships	\$442,557	\$519,123
Grants	\$480,250	\$392,405
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	\$1,144,071	\$1,099,536
Expenses		
Artistry and performance	\$733,084	\$617,365
Marketing and publicity	\$30,262	\$38,385
Administrative	\$368,223	\$348,634
Contribution to MCO Endowment Fund	\$6,015	\$57,834
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	\$1,137,584	\$1,062,218
Surplus	\$6,487	\$37,718
Accumulated surplus / deficit	\$105,547	\$68,229
Net assets invested in guaranteed cash value of life insurance	\$44,336	\$41,527
Investment in capital assets	\$3,331	\$5,568
Stabilization fund	\$9,868	\$9,868
Special projects fund	\$12,869	\$12,869
Unrestricted net assets	\$41,630	\$35,715
Net surplus	\$112,034	\$105,547

Income



Expenses



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