

Jean-Samuel Bez & Antoine Laporte

Violin-Piano Duo

The fruit of a musical encounter in November 2018, in Montreal, the duet is composed of the violinist Jean-Samuel Bez and the pianist Antoine Laporte. Their repertoire puts the accent on the great virtuoso sonatas of the XIXth and XXth century, Enescu, Poulenc, Schumann, Fauré, César Franck...

In 2019-2020, the duo is presenting a "*Fantaisies*" program, introducing french composer Gabriel Pierné (Doctorate topic of our pianist at Paris Conservatory) with pieces from Schönberg, Messiaen, Enescu and Kreisler, but also new pieces from french and canadian composers.



Born in Pontarlier (France), the **violinist Jean Samuel Bez** started playing the violin thanks to Krystina Mugica. Attracted pretty early by chamber music, he very soon became a regular of the local scenes and has been playing in various festivals. Showing already a deep interest in the contemporary creation, he was the dedicatee, in 2005, of *Bichromie*, quintet by Guy Leclercq.

In the following time, he would be awarded unanimously first prizes of excellence and virtuosity in the Conservatory of Music of Rueil-Malmaison before integrating the Royal Conservatory of Music of Brussels (Belgium) in the class of Veronique Bogaerts. There he passed his diplomas with High Distinction and was granted the Pappaerts Prize in 2016, as a reward for an exceptional academic path. He perfected then in the Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Vienna (Austria) with Michael Frischenschlager.

Jean Samuel is the laureate of numerous prizes, scholarships and international competitions including the Jury Prize in the International Music Competition in Malta (2015), the Hanseez-Castilhon and Horlais Dapsens Prizes in Brussels (2016), the 1st Prize in the Svirel International Music Competition (Slovenia, 2017) and 1st Prize in the Luigi Zanucoli International Music (Italy, 2017). He has played several times as a soloist : with the Ensemble Orchestral of Dijon (France), the University Orchestra of Burgundy (France), the Budweis Philharmony (Czech Republic) and the Sotiropoulos Camerata of Brussels (Belgium), interpreting among others the concertos of Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Tchaikovski and Wieniawski.

His passion for chamber music, strengthened at the contact of eminent musicians such as Manfred, Danel and Pražac quartets, brings him to play regularly within various groups throughout the world (Belgium, Austria, France, Switzerland, Poland, Italy, Scandinavia, Russia, Canada, China, Taiïwan...) During the last few years he had the opportunity to play side by side with Jean-Claude Vanden Eyden, Hagai Shahan, Gil Sharon, Istvan Varga, Michel Lethiec or Marc Grauwels.

Sensitive to the importance of the creation and the spreading of the contemporary repertoire, Jean-Samuel intensely invests himself in the work with the composers. In 2015, he was the laureate of the Young Bozar Project within the Alternative Violin Duet 2Väinö. With this duet he focuses on searching new alternative formulas to traditional concerts, mixing arts and means of expression. In a rather different domaine, he also plays regularly within the Icelandic group Arstidir. Besides he has done a training course of composer, specially studying Harmony, Counterpoint, Analysis and Fugue; he was unanimously awarded three Firt Prizes and one special Prize of the SACEM.



Known for his sensitive playing and his expressive qualities, Antoine Laporte is also praised for both his introspective interpretations and for his technical brilliance. Recently, he has been accepted at the Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Paris (CNSMDP) in partnership with Sorbonne Université to pursue doctorate studies under the guidance of the pianist Denis Pascal and his research focuses on the piano works of the less-known French composer Gabriel Pierné (1863-1937)

He is 3rd Prize winner in the famous Prix d'Europe Competition in Montreal. He is also First prize winner of the North York Festival Concerto Competition in Toronto and was invited to perform with the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra in October 2017. Antoine is also a 2nd prize winner of the Bradshaw and Buono International Competition in New York and a 3rd Prize winner in the Festival-concours Pierre-De-Saurel. In 2017, he was invited to the Suzhou Jinji Lake Piano Competition in China.

As recitalist, he counts among his notable performances the Musical Sundays at the Mount Royal Chalet (Montreal), a performance at Koerner Hall and at the Orford Festival. He performed at the Nine Sparrows Arts Foundation/Yorkminster Park Baptist Church Rising Stars Recital in Toronto (Canada). Antoine made his début at Carnegie Hall in March 2017 as part of the Adamant 75th Anniversary Concert.

He has participated in master classes with such great pianists as Leon Fleisher, Louis Lortie, Anton Nel, Bertrand Chamayou, John Perry, Stephen Kovacevich, Michel Béroff, André Laplante, Nicolai Lugansky and Robert McDonald. He participated in summer academies in Canada, such as the Orford Academy and Domaine Forget, and outside the country such as the Beethoven Bootcamp at the Irish Academy of Music in Dublin, the Adamant Music School (USA), summer course in Poitou (France) with Jean-Paul Sevilla, and the 19th International Piano Week in Wavre, (Belgium) under the direction of Diane Andersen to pursue research on the French composer Gabriel Pierné.

Antoine Laporte attended the Montreal Conservatory of Music, earning his undergraduate degree under the tutelage of Suzanne Goyette and, his master's degree in music (with Le Prix) under the guidance of renowned pianist Richard Raymond. Antoine completed in May 2018 an Artist Diploma from The Glenn Gould School with Irish pianist and teacher John O'Connor under a full scholarship offered by The Weston Family.