



**FOR RELEASE August 12, 2020**

## **Music and Beyond offers free surprise mini-concerts around Ottawa and Gatineau!**

Ottawa, Wednesday, July 12, 2020 – Cellists Julian Armour, Thaddeus Morden and guitarist Andrew Mah offered the first of many free surprise mini-concerts throughout our region for some very lucky Ottawa residents over the past two weeks as part of Music and Beyond’s newest initiative.

This initiative is supported by Mécénat-Musica, Ensemble Caprice, the Foundation of Greater Montreal and the Chagnon Foundation.

So far, almost 20,000 people have benefited from these live surprise mini-concerts in Québec and Ontario. These concerts will take place over the next 8 weeks. Upcoming concerts include guitarist Andrew Mah and flutist Lara Deutsch, recipient of the prestigious 2019-2020 Prix Goyer.

“I have to say, these concerts have been an absolute joy,” comments Julian Armour. “People are so delighted to be receiving the gift of music completely out of the blue! It is incredible to see first-hand how deeply moved people are by a live musical experience. The audiences have missed it, and we musicians have missed it too!”

The free concerts will continue on Thursday, August 13, with eight surprise mini-concerts taking place between 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm in the Hintonburg area of Ottawa. The concerts will feature cellist Julian Armour and guitarist Andrew Mah.

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**Music and Beyond / Musique et Autres Mondes | 613-241-0777 | [www.musicandbeyond.ca](http://www.musicandbeyond.ca)**

Office Address / Adresse du bureau : rue 51 William Street  
Mailing Address: Music and Beyond, Box 20585 RPO Rideau East, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 1A3 Canada  
Adresse postale : Musique et Autres Mondes, C.P. 20585, CSP Rideau est, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 1A3 Canada

For more information, please contact:

Amanda Smith – Administrative Manager: [amanda@musicandbeyond.ca](mailto:amanda@musicandbeyond.ca) / 613-241-0777, ext. 502

Dominique Saulnier – Artist Liaison: [artistliaison@musicandbeyond.ca](mailto:artistliaison@musicandbeyond.ca)

Julian Armour – Artistic and Executive Director: [julian@musicandbeyond.ca](mailto:julian@musicandbeyond.ca) / 613-241-0777, ext. 500

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## **About Music and Beyond**

Acknowledged as one of Ottawa’s top five music festivals, Music and Beyond is a classical music and multi-disciplinary arts festival that takes place in Ottawa each July. Our mandate is to link music with a wide range of art forms and cultural disciplines. Music and Beyond also places a strong importance in developing new audiences for classical music, particularly young people. In its first ten seasons, Music and Beyond has presented a total of over 900 concerts and events, as well as over 3,800 “mini-concerts”. The festival has presented some of Ottawa, Canada and the world’s greatest musicians, artists, performers and writers including legendary sopranos Kathleen Battle, Measha Brueggergosman and Emma Kirkby; world-renowned actor Christopher Plummer; saxophone superstar Branford Marsalis; conductor and harpsichordist Trevor Pinnock; pianists Garrick Ohlsson, Chilly Gonzales, Peter Serkin, Janina Fialkowska, Gregory Charles, Jan Lisiecki and Menahem Pressler; one of the world’s great tenors, Ben Heppner; violinists Sarah Chang, William Preucil, Rachel Barton Pine, Marc Djokic, Alexandre Da Costa, Martin Chalifour, Jonathan Crow and Mayumi Seiler; the Emerson, Borodin, Kronos, Auryn, Jupiter, Bennewitz, Fine Arts and New Orford string quartets; the world’s top piano trio, the Vienna Piano Trio; Milos, considered by most critics to be the world’s hottest guitarist; the Theatre of Early Music; John Rutter; the Canadian Brass; jazz pianist Oliver Jones; rock musician and classical violinist Sam Roberts; internationally renowned writers (and music fans) Vikram Seth, Sean Michaels and Peter Robinson; musical comedians P.D.Q. Bach and Igudesman & Joo; Chanticleer; the Hilliard Ensemble; the National Arts Centre Orchestra, I Musici de Montréal, Thirteen Strings and Les Violons du Roy. The festival has always had a strong commitment to Ottawa musicians, composers and other artists.

The festival has garnered consistently excellent reviews and the highest levels of audience satisfaction. According to 2019 surveys, 98.3% were satisfied with the 2019 festival, 93.2% expressing a high level of satisfaction. 98.7% said they would recommend it to others. 99.1% said they would be coming back. Almost everyone said that Music and Beyond enhanced their image of the National Capital Region.

In 2018, Music and Beyond was named “Event of the Year” at the Ottawa Tourism Awards.

Christophe Huss from Le Devoir (Montréal) called Music and Beyond “...*the most creative and interesting classical festival in the country.*”

Music and Beyond has always taken its digital presence very seriously. Our web site had visits from 146 different countries in 2019. One of our videos from 2018 has so far received 3.4 million views - this is roughly the total live audience we would get in 70 years.

Over the past 10 years, Music and Beyond has produced a number of very successful radio broadcasts with CBC and three television broadcasts for EWTN which were seen around the world in 140 countries.

The Music and Beyond staff has a strong record in presenting 10 highly-successful and critically acclaimed summer festivals.

Music and Beyond is just finishing up a very ambitious project of releasing 100 short videos which are being seen around the world. [Click here](#) to view the videos.