



Leith Summer Festival

“The Little Festival with A Heavenly Sound”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LSF Board of Directors

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Appointment of New LSF Artistic Director, Dr. Jeremy Bell



The Leith Summer Festival is thrilled to announce the appointment of Dr. Jeremy Bell, violinist, as the new Artistic Director beginning immediately. Dr. Bell replaces pianist Robert Kortgaard who has retired as LSF Artistic Director after over 18 years of programming outstanding concerts.

“We look forward with optimism to the next chapter of music programming at the Leith Summer Festival,” says Pete Telford, President of the LSF Board of Directors. “With Jeremy’s artistic

leadership, enthusiasm and vision, we are confident that he will curate an excellent and appealing music program for the 2024 season. His experience as a successful performer nationally and internationally, as an educator at the university level and as an innovative musician, will ensure that LSF continues to flourish in the future.”

Dr. Bell has deep ties to the Leith Summer Festival and is very fond of its venue, the Historic Leith Church and the Leith area. Bell’s first concert at the Historic Leith Church was in 1998 just before he joined the Penderecki String Quartet and, since then, he has performed at LSF many times. In his words: “I have been enchanted by the Leith Church for over 25 years. Performing concerts in this historic space has been a highlight of my summers with the Penderecki String Quartet. As you know, there is magic to the acoustic there. I always experience a remarkable glow reverberating off the church’s 1865 wood, and the intimacy of the venue sees the eager Leith audiences nearly encircling the performers in shared reverie of great music.” As Leith Summer Festival’s Artistic Director, Dr. Bell will program five concerts per season and looks forward “to joining, sustaining, and growing the festival ... and to bringing some of the finest artists in Canada to the Historic Leith Church.”

ABOUT DR. JEREMY BELL

Born in Toronto, Jeremy Bell studied at the University of Toronto and the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where he received his Masters and Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA). Dr. Bell is a recipient of numerous grants from the Ontario Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts and is a prize winner of the Eckhardt Grammaté National competition and the Conseil Québécois’ Prix Opus. He has studied with David Zafer, George Neikrug, Joyce Robbins, Metro Kozak and with members of the Orford, Juilliard, Tokyo, and Orion string quartets. He has recorded over 25 discs and performed a wide range of music: Baroque with Consortium Aurora Borealis, Brazilian jazz with Egberto Gismonti, as well as collaborating with pipa virtuoso Ching Wong, and NYC’s DJ Spooky. In addition, Bell has performed as soloist with many orchestras in Canada, USA and Mexico, including the Toronto Symphony, the Kitchener Waterloo Symphony, and the CBC Vancouver Orchestra. Bell is Artist in Residence at Wilfrid Laurier University where he teaches violin and chamber music. From 2000-2007, he was the artistic director of NUMUS Concerts Inc. where he created several multi-media events at the Perimeter Institute in Waterloo and with Dancetheatre David Earle.

Described by the Toronto Star as a violinist who “agitates in the most intelligent and persuasive manner”, Bell has performed recently as a member of the Penderecki String Quartet, which he joined in 1999, at Arsenale Festival in Poland, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Is Arti Festival in Lithuania, MBZ Zagreb, State Museum of Music in St. Petersburg, REDCAT/Disney Centre in Los Angeles, Roxy/NOD in Prague, Fundación Juan March in Madrid, Jane Mallet Theatre in Toronto, Paris University 8, Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York City, Indiana University in Bloomington, Casalmaggiore Festival in Italy, Tovar Festival Venezuela, Virtuosi Festival Brazil, Adam Festival New Zealand, the Hong Kong Academy, the Shanghai Oriental Arts Centre, the Banff Centre in Alberta, and the Chan Centre in Vancouver. With the Penderecki String Quartet, Bell has recorded over 25 discs including the premiere Canadian recording of the Béla Bartók string quartet cycle and Marjan Mozetich’s ‘Lament in the Trampled Garden’ (winner of the 2010 JUNO Award for

composition). As guest concertmaster he has appeared with the Kitchener Waterloo Symphony, the Hamilton Philharmonic, the New Zealand National Symphony, and the Canadian Opera Company. Dr. Bell plays an 1854 A.S. Bernadel violin. (<https://jeremybell.ca/index.html>)

ABOUT LEITH SUMMER FESTIVAL (LSF)

The Leith Summer Festival is a not-for-profit organization with charitable status and strives to bring musical events of the highest quality to Leith. Over the summer months, talented musicians from various genres and backgrounds captivate audiences with their exceptional performances at five concerts. From classical chamber ensembles to contemporary jazz groups, LSF offers a diverse range of musical experiences that cater to all tastes, enriching community and nurturing the love of music. The acoustics of its venue, the Historic Leith Church, enhance the experience, creating a truly intimate and magical atmosphere for both performers and attendees. (<https://leithchurch.ca/>)

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE HISTORIC LEITH CHURCH

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, 17 December 2023, 7:30 pm

Join us in the lamp-lit beauty and warmth of Leith's "Auld Kirk" to reflect on the story of the birth of Christ in word and song.

Social Media: Join in the conversation on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/LeithSummerFestival/>