

Carissa Klopoushak, violin

Carissa Klopoushak has made a name for herself as a curious, creative, and versatile violinist. A charismatic and engaging performer, Carissa's playing has been described as the complete package of sensitive musicianship and effortless technique. Carissa proudly joined Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra in September 2014, after having performed with the group for a number of years, including many of their national tours and their 2013 tour of China.

Carissa considers all of Canada to be her home. She has toured the country extensively, performing recitals for Debut Atlantic and as the winner of the 2009 Eckhardt-Grammatté National Music Competition with Canadian pianist Philip Chiu. Carissa has been featured at both the Ottawa Chamberfest, Montreal Chamber Music Festivals, and Toronto Summer Music. Carissa performs with many chamber groups in Ottawa and Montreal, including the newly-formed Ironwood Quartet, Ensemble Mooncrest, Warhol Dervish, and Portmantô. She spent much of 2014 performing with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, whom she joined for a series of tours and recordings, including a residency at The Banff Centre.

Carissa grew up in the small prairie city of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Still active in the prairie music scene today, Carissa is an Artistic Director of the Ritornello Chamber Music Festival, an annual event that aims to provide Saskatchewan audiences the opportunity to hear innovative, fresh concerts performed by young, engaging Canadian musicians who are currently pursuing professional careers across the country and around the globe.

Carissa is the lead singer and violinist in the Ukrainian band Tyr i Tam (pronounced Toot ee Tahm). Established in 2003, the band has recorded three albums, performed at the Toronto, Montreal, Dauphin, and Vegreville Ukrainian festivals as well as in Sydney, Australia. The band recently released their fourth full-length album, *Obriad*, in the summer of 2015.

Carissa has taught violin and chamber music at McGill University where she also recently completed a doctorate in violin performance, focusing on the little-known violin repertoire by Ukrainian composers. She now coaches chamber music at the University of Ottawa School of Music. Her recent recordings include chamber works of the Second Viennese school with Gruppo Montebello and *Pierrot Lunaire* with Ensemble Mooncrest. Her debut recording with Philip Chiu, *SOUNDWORLDS*, was released in November 2016. A laureate of the 2012 Canada Council of the Arts Musical Instrument Bank Competition, Carissa performed on the 1869 Jean Baptiste Vuillaume violin (with Vuillaume model bow). She now plays on a 2009 violin by Mark Schnurr of Flesherton, Ontario. She also occasionally performs on the viola. When not performing, rehearsing, or traveling, Carissa can be found expanding her love of coffee in some little café, somewhere...

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