

Jean Desmarais
Senior Piano

In constant demand as a soloist, chamber musician and pianist, Jean Desmarais earned his Masters degree and Premier Prix in Piano and Chamber Music at the Conservatoire in Montreal and continued his studies in Paris , Berlin and in the USA . He studied with Monique Collet-Samyn, Anisia Campos, Monique Deschaussées, Johanna Stieler and Dalton Baldwin. He has been a member of the new Canadian music Pierrot Ensemble and premiered over 50 works written by Canadian composers.

Mr Desmarais has been guest soloist of many orchestras including: National Arts Centre Orchestra, Philharmonic Orchestra of Brasov (Romania), Philharmonic Orchestra of Stettin (Poland), Philharmonic Orchestra of Chihuahua (Mexico), I Musici of Montreal, Les violons du Roy and many others.

He has collaborated with artists such as Kiri Te Kanawa, Ben Heppner, Amanda Forsyth, Pinchas Zukerman, Donna Brown, Tracy Dahl, Kevin McMillan, Robert Cram, Ian Clarke, James Thompson, Timothy Hutchins, Ted Baskin, Bob Becker, Alain Trudel, Denis Lawlor, Joel Quarrington, Charles Hamman, Joanna G'Froerer, Jessica Linnebach, Kimball Sykes, the Quatuor Arthur-Leblanc and many more.

Recently he was hired as a coach for the Canadian Opera Company for its production of Verdi Don Carlos (Original 1867 French version). This april he is returning to coach the production of Pelléas et Mélisande by Claude Debussy. In November, he was the only Canadian pianist performing in the 50th Anniversary Concert Celebration of the famous recital given by Glenn Gould in 1957. This concert took place at the Tchaikowski Conservatory in Moscow . This fall he played Ravel Piano Trio and Messiaen Quatuor pour la fin du Temps for a Radio-Canada production with Jessica Linnebach, Amanda Forsyth and Kimball Sykes.

This present season, he will be performing in recital with flutist Susan Hoepner, violist Steve Dann, cellist Tao Ni and many others.

As an international performer, he has embarked on a collaboration with Barytone Denis Lawlor that enables him perform art songs and chamber music on restored historical instruments in Berlin . He has performed in Canada , France , Germany , Italy , Mexico , Romania , Poland , Switzerland and the USA .

Mr Desmarais is the music director and resident pianist for the popular Lectures-Midi series organized by the NAC French Theatre; he will be performing some 30 Scarlatti Sonatas this season. He has performed for many concerts broadcast on SRC/CBC, at the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival and for the chamber music series Music for a Sunday Afternoon (NAC).

Mr Desmarais has been on the faculty at the National Arts Centre Young Artists Program and Young Conductors Program, the University of Ottawa (Guest professor), Carleton University , the International Music Academy of Nice and the International Neil Semer Vocal Academy in Germany

. Many of Mr. Desmarais' former students have gone on to study at La Sorbonne in Paris , the Cleveland Music Institute, and the University of Montreal .

Mr. Desmarais in duet with violinist David Lefevre won the second prize at Concours International de Musique Chambre Française du vingtieme siècle. Prix Henri Sauguet France , 1991. They also won the Grand laureate Prize of the Yehudi Menuhin Internation Foundation.

Mr Desmarais has received the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of Canada for his remarkable contribution to the arts.