

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tribute to Canadian Women Composers November 24 at The Music Gallery
PIANIST CHRISTINA PETROWSKA QUILICO PERFORMS WITH
JACQUES ISRAELIEVITCH & THE KOFFLER CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Toronto, ON, September 24, 2013 – Pianist Christina Petrowska Quilico, one of Canada's leading interpreters of contemporary music, joins the Koffler Chamber Orchestra and conductor Jacques Israelievitch for *Music She Wrote: A Tribute to Canadian Women Composers*.

The concert, featuring two piano concertos and two works for orchestra, takes place Sunday, November 24 at 7 p.m. at The Music Gallery, 197 John Street. Tickets and info are available via www.kofflerarts.org or by phone at 416-638-1881 x4333. Advance Tickets are \$20; Students \$15. At the door, tickets are \$25, students \$20.

For the program, Christina Petrowska Quilico joins the Orchestra and Maestro Israelievitch for piano concerti by two Canadian women composers: *Piano Concerto No. 3 for piano and strings* by Heather Schmidt; and *Divertimento for Piano and Strings* by Violet Archer (1913-2000).

As well, the Koffler Chamber Orchestra also performs two orchestral works: *Webster's Spin* by Ann Southam (1937-2010), and *A Prayer* by Larysa Kuzmenko.

It is interesting that Christina Petrowska Quilico has been connected with the music of all four composers. She gave the North American premiere of the Archer concerto in the 1980s. Heather Schmidt wrote her second piano concerto for Petrowska Quilico. It was Petrowska Quilico's CD performances of piano concerti by Schmidt and Kuzmenko, as well as her CD of Southam's *Glass Houses* that garnered JUNO nominations for the three composers.

The concert is the first in the 2013-14 season of the Koffler Chamber Orchestra. The Koffler Chamber Orchestra is the only one of its kind in Toronto, comprising some of the city's best-regarded professional musicians, who perform with community members and music students under the direction of acclaimed violinist and former TSO Concertmaster Jacques Israelievitch.

CHRISTINA PETROWSKA QUILICO – www.petrowskaquilico.com

Hailed by the New York Times at 14 for her "promethean talent" after making her orchestral debut along with Murray Perahia, Christina Petrowska Quilico has appeared at Carnegie, Alice Tully and Merkin Halls. She has also been soloist with the Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver and Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestras, Kindred Spirits Orchestra and the National Arts Centre Orchestra, as well as with orchestras in the U.S. and Canada, Taiwan and Greece; and with leading Canadian smaller ensembles. Juilliard-trained, she studied in Europe with famed composers, and has long been one of Canada's leading interpreters of new music – premiering 16 piano concerti and recording numerous contemporary works – four earning JUNO Awards nominations – as well as standard repertoire. Among her 30-some recorded titles are eight piano concerti. This current season, Petrowska Quilico tours Canada's East Coast, playing the music of Ann Southam for Toronto Dance Theatre's acclaimed production, *Rivers*; tours Greece, performing *Visions*, the music of Constantine Caravassilis (released in 2013 on Centrediscs); and releases a new two-CD set, *Tangos Brasileiros*, on the Marquis label (MAR 81519).

Since 1987, she has been a Full Professor of Piano and Musicology at York University.

JACQUES ISRAELIEVITCH

Internationally renowned violinist Jacques Israelievitch is one of the most distinguished concert artists in North America. Born in France, Mr. Israelievitch made his debut on French National Radio at the age of 11 and graduated from the Paris Conservatory at just 16, upon which he was a prizewinner at the

Paganini International Competition. At age 23, he was appointed by Sir Georg Solti as Assistant Concertmaster of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. In 1978, he became Concertmaster of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. The 2007-2008 season marked Mr. Israelievitch's 20th and final year as Concertmaster of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra – the longest such tenure in the ensemble's history. His time in Toronto has been highlighted by annual appearances as both soloist and conductor. As a conductor, Mr. Israelievitch has led the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic, Windsor Symphony Orchestra, and other ensembles in France, North America, and Japan. Since 2005, he has been the Music Director and Conductor of the Koffler Chamber Orchestra. In 1995, Jacques Israelievitch received a knighthood from the French government, which inducted him into the Order of Arts and Letters. In 2004, he was promoted to the honorable status of Officer, one of France's highest cultural honours.

Since the fall of 2008, Mr. Israelievitch has been a full-time professor in the fine arts faculty at York University. He also taught for many years at the University of Toronto and Royal Conservatory of Music. Mr. Israelievitch has taught and given master classes at the New World Symphony, Manhattan School of Music, Eastman School of Music, Cleveland Institute of Music, University of Michigan, McGill University, Central Conservatory in Beijing, and the Toho School of Music in Tokyo, among others.

As violinist and pianist, Jacques Israelievitch and Christina Petrowska Quilico have given a number of duo recitals, in music ranging from Mozart to modern.

KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS

Koffler Centre of the Arts is Canada's only multidisciplinary, contemporary Jewish cultural institution. It has a broad mandate to welcome all and present a wide range of artistic programs, through a global lens, in a distinctly Canadian context.

The Koffler programs around the City of Toronto at several locations. Koffler Gallery exhibitions and related programs and the Koffler's administrative offices are based at Artscape Youngplace, in the vibrant downtown West Queen West art and design district (opening November 2013). Koffler visual art and ceramic classes for all ages are held at the Prosserman JCC on Sherman Campus and at the Schwartz/Reisman Centre on Lebovic Campus in Vaughan. Koffler multidisciplinary programs take place across the GTA at various venues.

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