

Mark Fewer Violinist

www.markfewer.com



"Mark Fewer is one of Canada's finest violinists and is possessed with a profound and open musical mind. It's rare to find a player as comfortable in such a wide variety of musical styles as Fewer is."
– The WholeNote (Toronto)

Violinist Mark Fewer enjoys one of the most varied musical lives of his generation. Known for his relaxed style and honest interpretations, he switches easily between duties as soloist, chamber musician, orchestral leader, artistic programmer, arranger, jazz musician, and most recently, teacher.

Mr. Fewer was concertmaster of the Vancouver Symphony from 2004-2008. While there, he gave the Canadian premiere performances of works by John Adams (*The Dharma at Big Sur* for 6-string electric violin and orchestra) and Ludwig Van Beethoven (*The Unfinished Violin Concerto in C major, WoO5*). Recent appearances as soloist have included engagements with groups as wide-ranging as the Fodens-Richard-

son Brass Band (UK), the Melbourne Symphony (Australia), the Zapp quartet (Amsterdam), The Toronto Symphony, and the McGill Percussion Ensemble. He has also appeared as soloist/director with L'orchestre symphonique de Laval, 13 Strings of Ottawa, The McGill Baroque Orchestra, the Vancouver Symphony, the Newfoundland Sinfonia, and the Scotiafestival Strings. He is heard regularly on CBC (where he also frequently serves as guest commentator), RTVE, BBC Radio 3, ABC, and NPR.

As a chamber musician, Mr. Fewer is a regular member of the Duke Piano Trio, The Smithsonian Chamber Players, and Canada's SuperNova String Quartet. In March 2009, the SuperNova Quartet

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hosted an international string quartet festival in Montreal, with groups from around the world performing the entire cycle of Haydn's string quartets in 4 days. When not performing with these groups, Mr. Fewer is invited regularly to perform chamber music around the world with many of the world's best musicians.

Among his recent CD releases are the Brahms *Sonatas* for Violin and Piano (with Peter Longworth) on the Azica label. Another recent recording features a new work written for him by Bramwell Tovey for violin and brass band entitled *Nine Daies Wonder*, in which Mr. Fewer re-enacts the famous publicity stunt of Shakespeare's comedic actor Will Kemp, who morris-danced his way from London to Norwich in the year 1600. The recording won two record of the year awards from brass societies in the UK in 2009.

In the fall of 2010, the Smithsonian Friends of Music released his recording of the complete sonatas of Giovanni Pandolfi (17th century Italian baroque). His new disc featuring the sonatas of George Antheil (with pianist John

Novacek) was released early in 2011, about which the *Buffalo News* wrote, "Bravo isn't enough. Try a good lusty Bravissimo for this disc, one of the most welcome classical discs of the year."

November 2010 also saw the premiere of a new work written by Phil Dwyer entitled *Changing Seasons*. A tribute to both Vivaldi and John Coltrane, the work showcased Mr. Fewer's abilities as both a classical and jazz violinist. The same month, he also performed Brahms' *Double Concerto* with pianist Shauna Rolston with the Edmonton Symphony.

Upcoming performances include the Shostakovich *Piano Quintet* featuring Gilbert Kalish at McGill and the world premiere of Serge Arcuri's *Variations* with the Ensemble Contemporaine de Montréal. In May, 2011, he will appear with the Da Camera Society in L.A.

Mr. Fewer is the Artistic Director of the immensely successful Sweetwater Music Festival, and is chair of the string department at the Schulich School of Music at McGill University.

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Latitude 45 Arts

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