



Media Advisory
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Photo of François Koh: <http://markethall.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/francois-headshot1.png>

Photographer: Sophia Cho

Market Hall and city's Orchestras announce 2014 RBC Emerging Artist!

Market Hall Performing Arts Centre and the Kawartha Youth Orchestra are proud to announce François Koh as their RBC Emerging Artist for 2014.

The **RBC Emerging Artist program** is a collaboration amongst four community arts partners: Market Hall, the Kawartha Youth Orchestra, Peterborough Symphony Orchestra and RBC Royal Bank, in a unique opportunity to train conductors who are graduating or just launching their careers.

Mr. Koh answered and won the national call for applications, sent out in August, inviting qualified graduates of music to apprentice under the experienced and professional guidance of KYO/PSO music director, Michael Newnham and senior orchestral staff.

A native of Seoul, Korea, Mr. Koh received his Bachelor's degree from Kyung-won University in Classical Guitar and Musicology. He has since studied in France at Conservatoire Nationale de Dijon, in Montreal at McGill University, and lived for a time in Vancouver where he founded the Vancouver Camerata chamber orchestra.

The Peterborough Symphony's "A Night at the Opera" on Saturday, February 8th 2014 at 8pm, and The Kawartha Youth Orchestra's "Music Magic" on Sunday, February 23rd 2014 at 3pm at Market Hall, will be conducted in part by Mr. Koh through the Internship project. On the following morning he will lead a concert/conducting & rehearsal workshop for students called "Orchestra Alive!" from 10am till Noon as part of Market Hall Performing Arts Centre's Youth Series program. Registration for the "Orchestra Alive!" event is free through the KYO office at (705) 931-7539 or info@thekyo.org.



For a more detailed description of the internship, contact the Program Coordinator, Patricia Thorne at admin@markethall.org or visit www.markethall.org. Tickets to "Music Magic" are available online at tickets.markethall.org.

About **François Koh:**

A native of Seoul, Korea, François Koh received his Bachelor's degree from Kyung-won University in Classical Guitar and Musicology.

His studies took him to France where he received a CFEM (Certificat de fin d'études Musicales) and DEM (Diploma d'études musicales) in orchestral conducting.

(Conservatoire Nationale de Dijon) After his studies at the Conservatory, he founded "Ensemble Orchestral de Dijon", a chamber orchestra, giving many concerts in Burgundy region until he left France. The chamber orchestra still remains active with a new music director and president.



François Koh. Photo by Sophia Cho.

In 2007, he moved to Vancouver and founded another chamber orchestra "Vancouver Camerata." He was also appointed as the music director of Sunshine Coast Concert Band and led the band until summer 2011. Mr. Koh conducted various instrumental ensembles and taught guitar in the greater Vancouver area.

After living in Vancouver for 4 years, Mr. Koh applied for the graduate conducting class at McGill University in March 2011 and was the only accepted candidate. In June 2013, he completed a master's degree in orchestral conducting in the class of Maestro Alexis Hauser.

While at McGill, he took on a variety of conducting and coaching responsibilities. He has served as the assistant conductor of the McGill Symphony Orchestra, Opera McGill and McGill Wind Symphony. His vocal coaching experiences as a choir director led him to coach the McGill University Choir as well. His participation at CIRMMIT's various sound recording experiments as a conductor enabled him to discover another music field.

Mr. Koh is also interested in promoting contemporary music. He conducted "Aftermath", a contemporary orchestral piece by a Montreal-based composer, Justin Mariner for his first conducting recital at McGill and participated various contemporary concerts by conducting new music such as "Deed" (North American premier), a chamber piece by the Swedish composer Frederik Gran's and Catalan composer Enric Riu's "Face 3" (world premier). In 2013, he participated at the international music conference "Time Forms" in Montreal by performing George Lewis' chamber music piece "Mnemosis" with the Ensemble Paramirabo. (Canadian premiere.)



Mr. Koh has been influenced by a number of teachers and conductors from around the world. His former professors include Alexis Hauser, Jean Sebastian Bereau, Pierre Cao, Frank Klassen, Morihiro Okabe, Johannes Schlaefli and Boris Brott.

About Music Director, Michael Newnham:



Michael Michael Newnham has a rich background in symphonic, opera, ballet and pops conducting through Europe, Asia and Canada. A native of Hamilton, Mr. Newnham pursued his musical education at the Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw, the Indiana University School of Music, and the University of Toronto. While still a student, he became a member of the Conducting Staff of the Warsaw

Chamber Opera, leading performances to great critical acclaim.

Along with his duties as Music Director of the Kawartha Youth Orchestra, Michael Newnham is currently the Music Director of Symphony New Brunswick, the Peterborough Symphony Orchestra. Under his leadership, these orchestras have been experiencing a period of unprecedented artistic growth. A born communicator, Mr. Newnham's informal, informative and humorous 'Meet the Maestro' preconcert chats have opened the world of music to a wide audience in Peterborough.

His passion for music education and making music with young people has been reflected in his work with various Youth Orchestras, and as a faculty member of Music at Port Milford. He has also been Guest Professor of Conducting at the Taegu Hyosung University in South Korea.

The recipient of numerous awards, including 'Best Operatic Conductor' from the East Slovakian State Opera and the Order of Merit from the Republic of Poland, Mr. Newnham was recently presented the Turzanski Foundation Award for his services in promoting Polish music and culture in Canada.

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTIONS



Market Hall Performing Arts Centre Inc. works to develop, nurture and sustain the performing arts in Peterborough's historic Market Hall. The Market Hall Performing Arts Centre is a non-profit organization, which has operated the second floor of the Market Hall as a multi-functional venue since 1998, playing host to a wide range of performing arts activities and community events.

www.markethall.org



Founded in 2002, **The Kawartha Youth Orchestra** gives young musicians of the Kawartha Region the opportunity to learn symphonic music and perform in an orchestral ensemble. Under the direction of Music Director Michael Newnham and professional instrumental coaches, the KYO offers young musicians an advanced level of instruction and a quality orchestral experience in Peterborough while enjoying the camaraderie of other young people. www.thekyo.org



The **Peterborough Symphony Orchestra** has been a cultural cornerstone of Peterborough and region for over 45 years, and has developed a reputation as one of the best community orchestras in Canada. Each season, the PSO presents a variety of programmes appealing to people of all ages and backgrounds, including its main series classical concerts, an annual holiday family concert, a yearly crossover concert featuring some of the best of recent pop/rock and roll, and educational concerts. www.thepso.org

The **RBC Foundation** believes in the power of the arts to enrich our lives and enhance our communities. Through the RBC Emerging Artists Support Project, they engage in long-term partnerships with organizations whose programs bridge the gap from academic excellence to professional careers in all aspects of the arts. The RBC Emerging Artist Apprenticeship programs support organizations offering recognition and support to apprentices and pre-professional artists.



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