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Thirteen Strings Chamber Orchestra

Founded in 1976 by Brian Law and a group of musicians from the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Thirteen Strings is one of Canada's foremost chamber ensembles. Jean-Francois Rivest was Artistic Director from 1999 to 2006 and returns annually to conduct a subscription concert. Thirteen Strings performs a wide range of music for strings from the 15th to the 21st centuries often with Seventeen Voyces and Musica Divina. Many outstanding Canadian artists have performed with the ensemble including Gerald Finley, James Campbell, Daniel Taylor, Matthew White, Nancy Argenta, Jonathan Crowe, Donna Brown, Amanda Forsythe and Martin Beaver.

Thirteen Strings is dedicated to the excellence of artistic expression through the performance of string ensemble music from Baroque to contemporary, for audiences everywhere through concerts and recordings. Our mission is to provide audiences with the leading edge of live, classical music where sophisticated repertoire intersects with dynamic, high quality performances.

The purpose of Thirteen Strings is:

- to attract and provide a platform for highly talented Canadian professional string players to present publicly accessible concerts of music written for small string ensemble, and to create opportunities for soloists with the ensemble;
- to provide a chamber ensemble setting in Ottawa for world-class artists, both local and national;
- to encourage the development of young string players by continuing the Junior Thirteen Strings Program that runs as a complement (and not competition) to existing music programs in the region;
- to encourage the composition and performance of Canadian repertoire in the chamber orchestra genre;
- to work cooperatively with other arts organizations;
- to offer excellent music to the community at affordable prices encouraging a wider and more diverse audience;
- and to continue its record as a well governed and financially responsible not-for-profit corporation.

Thirteen Strings supports the Kiwanis Festival by providing a prize and the opportunity for a student string player to perform as soloist with the orchestra at a fundraising event.

A positive result of the founding of the Winter Ball in conjunction with the Embassy of Austria and Champions for Children Foundation was the creation of the Junior Thirteen Strings. The Junior Strings are selected through auditions, have a series of intense rehearsals and perform in the first subscription concert every September, with regular ensemble members as stand partners and mentors. The Junior Strings also perform at special events such as the Winter Ball. Many of these fine young musicians have gone on to further studies and careers in Canada, the USA and Europe

