



McGill



Schulich School of Music
École de musique Schulich

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

New Faculty Hires at the Schulich School of McGill

For immediate release

Montreal, September 10, 2012 – In September 2012 three new faculty members will take up their posts at the Schulich School of Music. In the words of Dean Sean Ferguson, "As we enter an exciting period of academic renewal in the Schulich School of Music, I am delighted to welcome these three outstanding new colleagues. Each of them will play a key role in expanding the Schulich School's leading position as one of the world's top music schools."



Robert Hasegawa, Professor of Music Theory, joins the Schulich School of Music after several years on faculty at the Eastman School of Music. He completed his Ph.D. at Harvard University and his scholarly interests include the music of György Ligeti, French 'spectralist' composers Gérard Grisey and Tristan Murail, transformational theory and the history of music theory. His doctoral dissertation 'Just Intervals and Tone Representation in Contemporary Music,' explored how research on the psychology of aural perception can inform the analysis of music by composers as varied as Debussy and La Monte Young. Other recent projects include a study of Hans Zender's recent microtonal music (published in *Perspectives of New Music*), an article on atonal theory for the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, a chapter on extended just intonation for the forthcoming book *Théorie et composition musicales au vingtième siècle*, and editing a special issue

of *Contemporary Music Review* on the American composer James Tenney.

"For a composer and theorist interested in contemporary music, Montreal is an exciting city to work in, with one of the most dynamic new music cultures in the world. McGill's combination of a strong performance conservatory and an academic research department gives me the opportunity to teach contemporary musical techniques to both the performers who will be premiering new works, and also to work with scholars and composers exploring innovative musical languages."

In addition to his theoretical work, Robert is an active composer with recent compositions having been performed by White Rabbit, cellist Frances-Marie Uitti, Stephen Drury and the Callithumpian Consort.



Jacqueline Leclair takes up the post of Assistant Professor of Oboe and Chair of the Woodwind Area at McGill University's Schulich School of Music. Formerly, she was the oboe professor at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, and was on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music. She has presented solo and chamber music concerts internationally and can frequently be heard performing in New York City and elsewhere. Prof. Leclair is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and SUNY Stony Brook. She is the oboist for Sequitur and Ensemble Signal. She specializes in the study and performance of new music, and is the editor of Luciano Berio's "Sequenza VIIa Supplementary Edition." She has recorded extensively, and has premiered over 100 works. *The New York Times* has reviewed Prof. Leclair's performances as "astonishing" and as having "electrifying agility," and the *New Yorker* has referred to her as "lively" and "wonderful."

"I am thrilled to be joining the stellar faculty of the Schulich School of Music here in the heart of Montreal. It will be a great pleasure getting to know everyone, especially the students. I look forward to learning the history of this whole area, learning French well (especially considering my name!) and enjoying my new role at this great School."

Jacqueline Leclair's solo recital on January 29th, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in Tanna Schulich Hall is part of the Schulich Professional Concerts Series. More information about Prof. Leclair can be found on her website www.nuoboe.com



German violinist **Axel Strauss** is the Schulich School of Music's newest Professor of Violin. Prior to moving to Montreal he served as Professor of Violin and Chamber Music at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Mr. Strauss won the international Naumburg Violin Award in New York in 1998. Later that same year he made his American debut at the Library of Congress in Washington DC and his New York debut at Alice Tully Hall. Since then he has given recitals in major US cities. In 2007 he was the violinist in the world premiere of a new work written for him by Pulitzer Prize winning composer Aaron Jay Kernis.

Mr. Strauss has performed as soloist with major orchestras in North America, Europe and Asia, and has also served as guest concertmaster of the Berlin Philharmonic as well as the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. His recordings include the Brahms violin concerto (BPOlive), and for the Naxos label Mendelssohn's "Songs without Words", the 24 Caprices by Pierre Rode and the last three violin concertos by Rodolphe Kreutzer. His recording of the complete works for violin and piano by George Enescu with pianist Ilya Poletaev is forthcoming. Mr. Strauss studied in Germany with Petru Munteanu. In 1996 he began working with the late Dorothy DeLay at The Juilliard School and became her teaching assistant in 1998. He performs on an outstanding violin by J.F. Pressenda, Turin 1845, on extended loan through the generous efforts of the Stradivari Society in Chicago.

“Not even the prospect of having to endure winter in Quebec could keep me from giving up life in California to join one of the most prestigious schools in the world. Having grown up in Europe, I am excited that, as an added bonus, I get to live in the cosmopolitan city of Montreal. “

His upcoming concert at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) on Sunday, October 14, 2012 at 6PM PST can be streamed live on the Internet by following this link: <http://www.lacma.org/event/strauss-le-van>

More information about Professor Axel Strauss can be found on his website: www.axelstrauss.com

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