

Mark Fewer

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-Richardson Brass Band (UK), the Melbourne Symphony (Australia), the Zapp quartet (Amsterdam), The Toronto Symphony, the McGill Percussion Ensemble, as well as appearing 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 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.

His most recent recording features the Brahms Sonatas for Violin and Piano (with Peter Longworth), released 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 Wander. In it, 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. Soon to be released (fall 2010) are the complete sonatas of Giovanni Pandolfi (17th century Italian baroque) on the Smithsonian's new Friends of Music label. As well, the sonatas of George Antheil (with pianist John Novacek) are set to be released in 2011.

The fall of 2010 will also see the premiere of a new work written by Phil Dwyer entitled Changing Seasons. A tribute to both Vivaldi and John Coltrane, Changing Seasons will feature Mr. Fewer's abilities as both a classical and jazz violinist.

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.