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OTTAWA CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Performers' picks

Musicians at this year's festival tell us who they want to see

BY STEVEN MAZEY



What are you playing, and what do you hope to hear?" The Citizen asked some of the musicians playing the 15th Ottawa Chamber Music Festival to give us some inside tips. The

festival, which opened last night at Dominion-Chalmers Church, continues through Aug. 9. For details on all performances mentioned here, visit www.chamberfest.com.

Denise Djokic, cellist

What she's performing: Djokic's concerts include Tchaikovsky's String Sextet in D minor with the Keller Quartet (July 29); a Beethoven concert July 31; and performances with the Evergreen Club gamelan ensemble (late-night at the Legion July 30 and an 8 p.m. concert July 31).

With the Evergreen Club, which performs on Indonesian percussion instruments, Djokic will perform pieces for strings and gamelan, commissioned by the ensemble. She recently performed in Halifax with the group.

"The instruments in the gamelan are beautiful, in the way they look and sound. It's a real spectacle when you see them on stage. They have a deep resonance that you feel in your stomach after you hear the note being struck."

She wants to hear: "I've heard a lot about the Tokai String Quartet (July 30, noon at St. Andrew's) but have never heard them perform live.

I'm also interested in the concert my brother Marc is

playing with pianist Kyoko Hashimoto (July 31, 2 p.m. at St. Andrew's), right after a noon concert that I'm playing. They're playing works by Japanese composers, and I don't know much Japanese music, so that will be interesting.

The Gryphon Trio is playing Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time (July 28, 8 p.m., Dominion-Chalmers), one of my all-time favourite pieces. I love the harmonies. The tension is unbelievable and the sound is unique. Messiaen really knows the instruments and captures them in their most flattering, exciting way. There's a solo clarinet movement that is to die for."

MARC DJOKIC, VIOLINIST

He's performing: Djokic's concerts include a performance with pianist Kyoko Hashimoto (July 31, 2 p.m. at St. Andrew's) of Japanese music and Beethoven.

Djokic says one of his favourites of the Japanese pieces is Somei Satoh's *Birds in Warped Time II*. "He's a self-taught composer with no strict boundaries from rules of composition. It's a whole different style of playing because I have to give up my traditional way of counting beats to bar. It's just me playing with sound and tone to the pulse and movement of a hypnotic, repetitive piano line. I keep a recording of this piece on my iPod. It has a profound effect on me every time I listen to it."

He wants to hear: "I'm really looking forward to seeing the Penderecki String Quartet (July 31). And I was looking forward to violinist Gilles Apap's concert Aug. 1, even before I found out that I'm going to be playing in the chamber orchestra that's accompanying him. From what I've searched on YouTube, Apap is a charismatic player.

"My sister plays right before I do on July 31 at the same venue, so I'll definitely be there for that.

"I'll probably be catching the late-night shows if I get a chance. At first I didn't know they were taking place in a pub (the Canadian Legion, On Kent Street). All the better, because I love beer. I wish people could BYOB to my shows. I'm quite sure some of my friends have in the past."

