



SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall, MacLaurin Building
University of Victoria

We acknowledge and respect the Lək̓ʷəŋən (Songhees and X̱wsep̓səm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands and the Lək̓ʷəŋən and WSÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

PROGRAM

The Timbral Piano

Nicholas Selig

Sam Freer, Walker Pearcey, Jordan Rosenbaum, prepared piano

up | dn no.3

Michelle Wolfenden

Magdaline Ferland, Olivia Crowhurst, Peter Meyrick, Cavan Cornelius, viola

Insomnia

Curtis Vetter

Toby Tomasic, violin I
Jun Wyatt-Vedady, violin II
Gabi Epp, viola
Curtis Vedder, violincello

The Dreamer's Waltz

Liam R. Baird

Aleksei Pankratov, accordion

Decline of a Tarantella

Matthew Stott

Ethan Lafferty, electric wind instrument
Gabi Epp, viola
Matthew Stott, electric guitar
Brian Whitman, piano



PROGRAM NOTES

The Dreamer's Waltz

for Accordion
2026, ca. 3'45"

"My God, a moment of bliss. Isn't that enough for a whole lifetime?"
-- Fyodor Dostoevsky, *White Nights*

When a profound connection ends, the silence can feel like a failure. The physical distance grows, and the belief that the bond is broken can become a trap of darkness. But can a single moment of pure connection persist beyond physical presence and become a persevering faith? *The Dreamer's Waltz* asks if this light is enough to ensure we are never truly lost.

Liam Baird

Liam R. Baird is a cinematic composer and pianist dedicated to crafting narrative-driven music rich in distinctive melodic character and emotional resonance. Deeply informed by Russian literature, particularly the works of Fyodor Dostoevsky, he fuses psychological depth with elegant orchestration to give meaning to sound and silence. As a recipient of the Dr. and Mrs. W. Clarke Horning Memorial Prize in Music and the J.B. Wood Book Prize in Russian, he has had his works featured in multiple reading sessions with the Viano Quartet, the Victoria Symphony, and the University of Victoria Symphony Orchestra. Currently, he is collaborating with Aleksei Pankratov, Russia's National Accordion Champion of 2021, on his latest piece, *The Dreamer's Waltz*.

Aleksei Pankratov

Alex Pankratov is an acclaimed accordionist distinguished by his numerous accolades on the international stage. Beginning his musical journey at just six years old, Alex quickly proved himself as a prodigious talent, securing top prizes at prestigious competitions across Russia, France, Italy, Bulgaria, and Portugal. In 2021, he claimed the title of Russia's national accordion champion. A graduate of the Gnessin Russian Academy of Music under the mentorship of the legendary accordionist Friedrich Lips, Alex is currently pursuing further studies at the University of Victoria in Canada. Known for his technical precision and depth of expression, his performances captivate and inspire audiences. Alex has had the privilege of working alongside celebrated musicians, including violist Yuri Bashmet, pianist Denis Matsuev, conductor Vladimir Shkurovsky, and conductor Valery Kiryanov. He has also performed with prominent ensembles, such as the Helikon Opera Orchestra (led by Valery Kiryanov), the Moscow Soloists Chamber Orchestra (under Yuri Bashmet), the Rossiya Orchestra (conducted by Dmitry Dmitrienko), and the Krasnoyarsk Academic Symphony Orchestra (conducted by Maxim Kachalov). In 2019, Alex presented the world premiere of a piece by German composer Valery Voronov at the XII International Winter Arts Festival in Sochi.