

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

CLINICAL SCIENCES DIVISION

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Boris Zarankin and Inna Perkis
Off Centre Music Salon

Dear Boris and Inna,

I would like to congratulate the two of you for the recent Off Centre Music Salon of Tears and Laughter that you and your company of amazing musicians had performed. For me, this Salon was one of the most interesting, intensely emotional, educational and extremely enjoyable Salons that I attended, although, all the Salons have been of the utmost highest standard. What impressed me and many of my friends who had attended was the stark contrasts in the programming that you demonstrated between the first and second parts of the program. The works of Shostakovich, many of which we have never had the opportunity to hear before, were performed eloquently so that we could feel the mood and terror that prevailed in the Soviet Union at the time. Contrasting the almost naïve performance of the Kabelevsky by the excellent young pianist William Leathers with the at times politically subversive and terrifying Seven Romances really demonstrated the arch of possibilities demonstrated by the Russian school. These performances plus the informative and enjoyable narration by Dr. Beckwith made for an unforgettable and educational experience. Who knew that Lenin loved Beethoven so much? The bold programming of a Schubertiad in the 2nd half showed us the variety of emotional and intellectual experiences that are possible with music. I have been talking about this recent salon to many of my friends and colleagues and I hope that, in particular, to get many more young people to attend these concerts. I teach at the University of Toronto, and I will definitely encourage my students to try to discover these wonderful music programs that the two of you present. We in Toronto, really are fortunate to be given the opportunity to see such musical programming by such high caliber artists at the Glenn Gould studio. It is to me a travesty that the CBC does not record these Salons for posterity and for the education of the public, and instead broadcast mediocre music played from bars in the Yukon. I am excitedly waiting for the next Salon....

Sincerely yours and best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Ostrowski".

Mario Ostrowski