

Young musicians raise money for China earthquake relief Oct. 5



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National Arts Centre Orchestra principal second violinist Donnie Deacon will make a guest appearance Oct. 5 with the student chamber ensemble he has been coaching for the past year.

In a fundraising concert to assist students affected by China's recent earthquake, Deacon will join Trio Con Brio, filling in for violinist Mitchell Gibbens-Schneider, who's out of town. Deacon, pianist Silvie Cheng, 17, and cellist Daniel Parker, 16, will perform the first movement of Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor.

Cheng says Deacon's coaching has helped the trio refine its sound and playing. The group won the top prize in the chamber music category at the National Music Festival in Edmonton in August.

"We're very lucky to work with a musician of his calibre," she said in an e-mail. "Donnie truly brings the music to life. His playing simply bursts with energy and character. He has invaluable suggestions when it comes to interpretation. Donnie has helped the string players of our trio tremendously in terms of tone production, and he's always keen on demonstrating exactly how to achieve a certain sound, and even though he's not a pianist, he still has suggestions on musicality and such. It is also very reassuring to hear him compliment you from time to time, so you know you are on the right track."

The performance is part of a concert by young Ottawa-area musicians to raise funds for musical instruments and sports equipment for students affected by the earthquake of last May.

The concert will also include Cheng performing Chopin's Scherzo No. 4 and performances by Cheng's 11-year-old cellist brother Bryan and the Stellae Boreales ensemble from SuzukiMusic (which recently toured China). The ensemble will perform the Butterfly Lover's Violin Concerto by the Chinese composer Zhan-Hao Ho. Singers Gabrielle Lazarovitz and Ben Buchanan, students of Ottawa teacher Yoriko Tanno, will perform Broadway music.

The Cheng siblings will also play a Chinese folk song, Moon's Reflection in Er-Quan Lake.

It starts at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 5 at Carleton University's Kailash Mital Theatre at Southam Hall. The suggested ticket price is \$20 general, \$10 for seniors and students.

