



**Metis Island Music** is launching the first recording of the **Bednarz-Hiratsuka** duo in a work by Karol Szymanowski, the Sonata for violin and piano in d minor opus 9.

MONTRÉAL, MAY 1ST 2013 — Metis Island Music is proud to announce the digital release of the Sonata for violin and piano opus 9 by Karol Szymanowski, with violinist Frédéric Bednarz of the Molinari String Quartet and the Japanese-American pianist Natsuki Hiratsuka. Influences of German romanticism and French textures found in this work, are highlighted by the incisive and warm tone of Bednarz, as well as the silky touch of Hiratsuka's piano.

Described as 'a stunning and marvelous violinist' the violinist **Frédéric Bednarz** has played recitals in North America, Central America, Europe and Asia. He has performed concerts in New York's Carnegie Hall and Merkin Hall, in Boston, in Kansas City, in all major Canadian cities, in France, Italy, Poland and Japan.

A winner of many competitions including the prestigious Prix d'Europe in 1996, the Marseille International Competition and the Val Tidone International Competition, Mr. Bednarz was heard as soloist with the Ottawa and Montreal Chamber Orchestras, la Sinfonia de Montreal, Ensemble America in New York, OSSIA, the Atlantic Symphony, The Longy Chamber Orchestra, Bach Festival Orchestra, ME.

His chamber music collaborations include appearances with Anthony Marwood, Richard Lester, Julius Baker, Oleh Krysa, Malcolm Lowe, and the Ying Quartet. Bednarz is regularly featured on radio broadcasts with CBC and NPR, and recorded for the XXI, Albany, Métis-Islands and Atma labels. He premiered many works by Canadian composers such as, Murray Schafer, Ana Sokolovic and Claude Marc Bourget.

He is a member of the Molinari String Quartet in 2007, ensemble in residence at Montreal Conservatory.

Japanese-American pianist **Natsuki Hiratsuka** is an active performer both as a chamber musician and an accompanist. She has played in England, Japan, Canada, and the United States. Most recently she has performed in collaboration with violinist Frédéric Bednarz. They include a recital tour of Japan, recitals at the French Cultural Center of Boston, the Longy School of Music in Boston, the Conservatoire de musique du Québec in Montreal, the Canadian Music Center in Montreal, the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Music Society, ON, Canada. She is also a regular participant of International Musical Arts Institute in Fryeburg, Maine.



Natsuki has served as accompanist to instrumentalists and vocalists in the Boston and Providence areas and was on the piano faculty of Noble & Greenough School and Brown University. She studied at Boston University, Manhattan School of Music, and San Francisco Conservatory of Music where she worked with Tong-Il Han, Marc Silverman, and Justin Blasdale. Natsuki is also an avid painter, working primarily out of her home studio.



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