

Jet-setting Canadian violist **Max Mandel** will make his third appearance with CMSCVA in September.

Musically, Max is a chameleon, having played in a huge variety of ensembles including the *Silk Road Ensemble*, the new music quartet *Flux*, and *The Knights* chamber orchestra. Max is also one of the principal violists of the period instrument *Orchestra of the Age of the Enlightenment* which is based in London. He has a wicked sense of humor, an intellectual curiosity about culture and politics, and is devoted to his profession and his art.

We gave Max a set of questions we will be asking many of our performers throughout this season.

Here's a quick take on Max Mandel.

Musician Profile: Max Mandel

Authenticity in Music



CMSCVA. What can you do as a performer to truly reach an audience member through performance? Or what do you think a listener should take away from a performance?

MM. *The most successful way to reach an audience member is to be your most authentic self on stage, to be as open as you can be and to communicate as honestly as possible. As soon as I feel I'm manufacturing expression, or putting on a show in some insincere way (for whatever reason), I feel the audience knows immediately and checks out.*

CMSCVA. What is the most memorable chamber music experience you've ever had, and why?

MM. *Each performance is memorable and even coming up with a top ten is impossible, so I'll give you a recent one. I played Haydn op. 33 string quartet "The Joke" with Aislinn Nosky (and two other wonderful colleagues) a few months ago. She was so ridiculous and hilarious in the trio of the minuet that I was convulsed with laughter and I could not start the slow, solemn movement that followed. It took me a good two minutes to regain my composure. It's nice to be on stage with a colleague who is a natural comedian and also knows that she can activate my funny bone and shows no mercy in doing so.*

CMSCVA. What's the most striking thing an audience member has ever said to you after a performance you played?

MM. *"Could you tell the pianist to stop playing so loudly?"*

CMSCVA. What music are you listening to right now?

MM. *Run The Jewels
Brahms Symphonies : Wilhelm Mengelberg with Concertgebouw Orchestra
Tracy Chapman
Bach Cantatas: Masaaki Suzuki with Bach Collegium Japan*

CMSCVA. What's the biggest challenge you are dealing right now with as a classical musician (or a person whose profession is "musician")?

MM. *The redistribution of money and resources to the very wealthiest people in the world as a result of unfettered capitalism and imperialism means that it is increasingly difficult to make purely artistic decisions. And knowing that because of unregulated corporate greed the planet may become uninhabitable in a couple generations makes keeping classical music alive seem less relevant.*

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