

Belgium-born violinist **Guillaume Pirard** is making his third appearance with CMSCVA on September 16 and 17.

Mr. Pirard began his violin studies at the age of eight and received a First Prize in Violin Performance from the Brussels Royal Conservatory of Music just eight years later. Mr. Pirard is the recipient of the Belgian Young Soloists Foundation and the SPES Foundation Award. He has performed extensively throughout Europe and the United States, in recital, as chamber musician, and with the *Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra*, the *Sejong Soloists*, the *Royal Chamber Orchestra of Wallonia*, and *The Knights*. In performance and in everyday life, Guillaume has an amazing intensity and a casual ease that seem somehow to coexist—truly a Belgian happily transplanted to Brooklyn.

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

Here are his thoughts.



Guillaume Pirard

Rethinking Performance

CMSCVA. Can you name the first piece of music, performance or person that inspired you to take up an instrument, or to become a professional musician?

GP. *My grandfather played the violin as a hobby. He started teaching me when I asked him to. I owe him pretty much everything.*

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

GP. *Playing Trout [quintet] at the Staunton Festival this summer. Because Jim [Wilson] plays like an angel.*

CMSCVA. What can you do as a performer to truly reach an audience member through performance?



CMSCVA. Or what do you think a listener should take away from a performance?

GP. *I hope they take away that classical music concert can and should be a vital and exhilarating experience.*

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

GP. *"Ton grand-pere serait si fiere"*

CMSCVA. What is the role of a "classical" musician today, and how do you think it's changed?

"To rethink performance practices, to be daring in questioning the norms of our genre..."

GP. *To rethink performance practices, to be daring in questioning the norms of our genre, to create new music, to listen to the audience, the aficionados, the estranged and the indifferent. All in order to shape and hopefully guarantee a future to our unique art form.*

CMSCVA. What music are you listening to right now?

GP. *Pilot Violet's "Nite Farm"*

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

GP. *Making ends meet, and also having enough money to pay the bills *ba dum tss**