

Cheng² Duo Full Bio

Captivating audiences and critics alike, the **Cheng² Duo** (pronounced Cheng Squared Duo) distinguishes itself with its uncompromising musical integrity, undeniable chemistry, and unparalleled communication with its listeners. The brother-and-sister duo is formed by 21-year-old cellist **Bryan Cheng**, playing Canada Council for the Arts' ca. 1696 'Bonjour' Stradivarius, and pianist **Silvie Cheng**, recipient of the Roy M. Rubinstein Award for exceptional promise in piano performance.

Named one of CBC Music's "30 hot Canadian classical musicians under 30", the dynamic Cheng² Duo has been making music together for the past 16 years. Their refreshing approach to bringing classical music to new audiences of all backgrounds is steeped in a rare balance of infectious joy and enthusiasm in their playing on one hand, and mature, historically-informed, and profound interpretations on the other. With wide-ranging repertoire from baroque to contemporary, from original arrangements inspired by folk music to new commissioned works, the duo has presented engaging recitals in world-class concert halls throughout North America (Canada and USA), Europe (Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Holland, Italy), and Asia (China and South Korea). Now touring extensively, they have established a reputation for being invited for return engagements at prestigious venues and festivals, including Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall (NY), Chamber Music at the Clark (Los Angeles), the National Gallery of Canada, the Festival of the Sound (ON), and Ottawa Chamberfest. The duo has also been featured at numerous other international festivals, including Aspen (Colorado), Trasimeno (Italy), Usedomer (Germany) and CAMMAC (Québec), as well as broadcasts on CBC Radio, ICI Musique, Radio-Canada International, Winnipeg Classic 107, Vermont Public Radio, WCRB Classical Music Boston, WCNY Classic FM, Kulturradio RBB Germany and Südwestrundfunk (SWR2) Germany.

In the vanguard of creative programming, Bryan and Silvie are equally committed to presenting both traditional masterworks and the music of their time. Since 2013, they have commissioned nearly a dozen new works, as well as curated cross-disciplinary concert experiences that meld classical and contemporary music with jazz, poetry, and visual/media arts. World-class collaborative partners have included photographer and cinematographer Edward Burtynsky, Mercury Films, and multimedia studio Normal.

Recent and upcoming concert highlights include the Beethoven Triple Concerto with Symphony Nova Scotia, debut recitals at Dame Myra Hess Series (Chicago), National Arts Club (NYC), Pro Musica Joplin (MO), Harvard University (MA), Vancouver Chamber Music Society, Salle Bourgie (Montréal), Virtuosi Series (Winnipeg), Cecilia Concerts (Halifax); the Indian River (PEI), Elora (ON), Bravo Niagara! (ON), and Toronto Summer Music Festivals; Germany's Usedomer Musikfestival and TONALi Kiezfestival; and tours across Canada and China. Cheng² Duo has released a trilogy of critically-acclaimed albums on the German label *audite*: *Russian Legends* (2019), *Violonchelo del fuego* (2018) featuring Spanish works, and *Violoncelle français* (2016), which was selected as one of WCRB Classical Radio Boston's top CDs of 2017. The duo's recordings have been lauded by international press and publications in France, the Benelux countries, Germany, the UK, Canada, and USA for their "phenomenal virtuosity", "maturity and perfection", "extremely imaginative and personal interpretation", "taste, sure flair for phrasing, and tonal beauty".