



Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall presents  
**SHARE THE MUSIC**



## TEACHER RESOURCES

# EVGENY KISSIN

**SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2020**

Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., Toronto, ON  
Workshop: 1 PM | Concert: 2 PM



To apply for tickets for your school or community group to attend this *Share the Music* event, please visit [roythomsonhall.com/sharethemusic](http://roythomsonhall.com/sharethemusic)

## FROM CHILD PRODIGY TO WORLD CLASS PIANIST

Evgeny Kissin was born in Moscow, Russia in 1971, and was only two years old when he started to play by ear and improvise on the piano. Later on, he joined the Moscow Gnessin School of Music, a special school for gifted children, where he met his first and only teacher, Anna Pavlovna Kantor. He was ten when he gave his first solo recital, and it was pretty clear from an early age that he would one day play venues like Carnegie Hall. Kissin is known for his powerful virtuosity and moving interpretations of works belonging to the Romantic era, for example; the works of Frédéric Chopin, Johannes Brahms, and Robert Schumann. He is also considered as an important successor of the Russian piano school and has given recitations of Yiddish and Russian poetry in addition to classical music.

*“When we speak of virtuosity, we generally mean technical ability. It takes a different kind of virtuosity to play four musical pieces and declaim 13 poems in Yiddish ... entirely from memory, all with equal mastery. I wish that Kissin were creating a new world of possibilities for all star performers, but I’m not sure anyone else has the virtuosity to step this far outside the box with such honesty and dignity and power.”*

**- THE WASHINGTON POST**





## DID YOU KNOW?

**KISSIN HAS AWARDS FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING THE CRYSTAL PRIZE OF THE OSAKA SYMPHONY HALL FOR THE BEST PERFORMANCE (1987) AND HONORARY MEMBERSHIP OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC IN LONDON (2005). HE IS ALSO THE YOUNGEST RECIPIENT OF RUSSIA'S TRIUMPH AWARD FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO RUSSIAN CULTURE, ONE OF THE HIGHEST CULTURAL AWARDS IN THE RUSSIAN REPUBLIC (1997).**



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ◆ How did the development of the piano affect music?
- ◆ What are the main time periods of Western art music? How do these compare to the development of art music in Russia?
- ◆ What is the relationship between technical skill and artistry in the interpretation of music?
- ◆ Select a piece by Evgeny Kissin. Using musical terms, what is the overall form and effect of this music? How is it organized? What are some other common musical forms in classical music?



## FURTHER RESOURCES

**ALLMUSIC - BIOGRAPHY:** <https://www.allmusic.com/artist/evgeny-kissin-mn0001750978/biography>

### TO READ

*Memoirs and Reflections: Evgeny Kissin* (W&N, 2017)

### TO LISTEN

*Evgeny Kissin – Beethoven (Live)* (*Spotify*)

### TO WATCH

*“Evgeny Kissin: The Gift of Music”* (2000)

## SHARE THE MUSIC:

*Share the Music*, presented by the Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall, aims to enhance and broaden students' musical horizons by providing tickets to world-class performances and educational pre-concert workshops. Schools and community groups are invited to apply for complimentary *Share the Music* tickets to Evgeny Kissin and other notable performances in the 2019/20. For more information, please visit [roythomsonhall.com/sharethemusic](http://roythomsonhall.com/sharethemusic)

## CONTACT EDUCATION & OUTREACH TEAM:

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