

# Nikki Chooi Named New Concertmaster of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

The Metropolitan Opera announced that Canadian violinist Nikki Chooi has been named the company's new concertmaster. Mr. Chooi, 27, will serve a one-year term beginning next month and continuing through the end of the company's 2016-17 season. He joins current Met concertmaster David Chan, who will continue in the position, which he has held since 2000.

Chooi's recent engagements as a soloist have included performances with the Auckland Philharmonia, Malaysian Philharmonic, St. Petersburg State Symphony, Montreal Symphony, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Victoria Symphony, Edmonton Symphony, Winnipeg Symphony, Calgary Philharmonic, Louisville Orchestra, National Orchestra of Belgium, and Orchestre Royal de Chambre de Wallonie. He has given recitals in New York (at Zankel Hall), Vancouver, Toronto, Australia, Belgium, and recently completed a tour with Chamber Music New Zealand. He has performed at numerous festivals around the world, including Marlboro Music Festival, Ravinia, the Dresden Music Festival, and Montreal Chamber Fest. Throughout the 2015-16 season, he performed with the acclaimed cross-genre string ensemble Time For Three.

Among other honors, he was the First Prize Winner of the 2013 Michael Hill International Violin Competition and 2009 Klein Competition, a winner of the 2013 Astral Artists' Auditions, and Laureate of the 2012 Queen Elisabeth Violin Competition. He is a graduate of the Victoria Conservatory, Mount Royal Conservatory, the Curtis Institute of Music, and the Juilliard School, and recently recorded his debut album with the Atoll label.

The Metropolitan Opera's 2016-17 season, the 50th anniversary of its home at Lincoln Center, will feature 225 opera performances of 26 operas. The season opens September 21 with a new staging of Wagner's epic romance *Tristan und Isolde*.

*by Opera news desk - Broadwayworld.com*

# ***Met Opera's New Concertmaster: The Canadian Violinist***

## ***Nikki Chooi***

The Metropolitan Opera announced Thursday that its next concertmaster would be the young Canadian violinist Nikki Chooi, who has appeared with orchestras around the world and played last season with the eclectic, genre-bending string trio Time for Three.

Mr. Chooi, 27, who was offered a one-year contract beginning next month, will join the Met's other concertmaster, [David Chan](#). (The Met orchestra, which performs seven times a week during the opera season, more than most symphony orchestras, has two concertmasters.)

[Time for Three](#), which performs music from Bach to pop, congratulated Mr. Chooi upon joining what it called "one of planet earth's most amazing ensembles, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra," and said that he would be succeeded by the violinist Charles Yang.

Mr. Chooi was hired with the input of James Levine, who stepped down as the Met's music director at the end of the season to become music director emeritus – and will be the first new concertmaster in the post-Levine era.

If Mr. Chooi's contract is extended the Met orchestra could find itself with a Canadian flavor: the Montreal-born conductor [Yannick Nézet-Séguin](#) will become music director designate in the 2017-18 season, and music director in the 2020-21 season.

By MICHAEL COOPER JULY 7, 2016 New York Times