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From left: Styrkár Hendriksson, Nina Margrét Grimsdóttir, Kjartan Örn Styrkársson, Ari Þór Vilhjálmsson, Eleanor Oltean and Sigurgeir Agnarsson.

Icelandic trio perform Romantic works

Ron Goodman

CALGARY, AB — Can you name two Icelandic cultural icons who lived part of their adult life in Alberta and who have grandchildren still living in Alberta?

A tribute to the works of Sveinbjörn Sveinbjörnsson and fellow Icelandic composers of the Romantic period was presented by an Icelandic trio in their only North American concert, held in the beautiful Leacock Theatre of Mount Royal College in early April.

Pianist Nina Margrét Grimsdóttir, cellist Sigurgeir Agnarsson and violinist Ari Þór Vilhjálmsson performed a program of Icelandic Romantic music.

Compositions by contemporaries of Sveinbjörnsson,



Sveinbjörn Sveinbjörnsson

Icelandic composer Páll Ísólfs-son, Felix Mendelssohn and Robert Schuman rounded out an evening of fine classical music.

Some Icelandic music is mistakenly thought to be gloomy and dark. This recital demonstrated convincingly that the music of the Icelandic

Romantic era was light, joyful and uplifting.

Sveinbjörn's granddaughter Eleanor Oltean attended the recital. She has had a longtime interest in her grandfather's work, and a few years ago a previously unknown work of Sveinbjörn was discovered to be in her possession.

A reception for the musicians was held at the home of Southern Alberta Consul Hallgrímur Benediktsson and his wife Guðrún Jörundsdóttir.

Without a doubt, this was one of the highlights of the Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary season.

Sveinbjörn Sveinbjörnsson is better known for his composition *Ó Guð Vars Lands*, the national anthem of Iceland. He lived in Alberta for a few years after 1919.