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Show: Nervous Breakdown in G Minor

Writer/Performer: Lewis Rawlinson

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THEATRE PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JUNE 23, 2025

Cellist's Solo Show About Mental Health & Classical Music Comes to Winnipeg Fringe

WINNIPEG, MB – Cellist and theatre artist Lewis Rawlinson will be bringing his autobiographical solo show, *Nervous Breakdown in G Minor*, to the **Winnipeg Fringe Festival** for 8 performances between July 16-27 at **Venue 3: Théâtre Cercle Molière**.

In this solo play with music, Lewis recounts grappling with his queerness, addiction, and mental health while pursuing classical cello performance at a competitive conservatory and facing the realities of the modern-day musician. He reenacts his journey in segments with storytelling then musically expresses them through a live performance of a four-movement sonata, a tumultuous piece that mirrors the progression of his life's story.

"I could not be more excited to be a first-time performer at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival," said Rawlinson. "By sharing an unfiltered look at my journey, my hope is that this show not only will entertain but also inform and encourage compassionate conversation surrounding topics of perfectionism, exclusion, and mental health within the classical arts. Through this show, I explore my identity and reclaim a narrative that once felt lost to me in order to restore a connection to an art form I loved dearly – I hope to inspire anyone who relates to these feelings to do the same."

"Lewis Rawlinson's *Nervous Breakdown in G Minor* is a beautifully devised and deeply moving performance that weaves musical virtuosity, humor, and drama while drawing parallels between the great composer Sergei Rachmaninoff and Mr. Rawlinson's own journey as a promising classical musician and his nearly devastating struggles with religious upbringing, identity, and mental health. Funny, heartbreaking and uplifting, *Nervous Breakdown in G Minor* is the kind theatrical performance that inspires one to truly believe in the transformative power of music."

-Henry Godinez, Artistic Associate at Goodman Theatre

Head to www.lewisrawlinson.com/solo-show to view a trailer of the show and production photos.

Nervous Breakdown in G Minor runs for 8 performances from July 16-17 at Théâtre Cercle Molière. Tickets are \$14 or \$10 for 25 and under, students, and seniors.

Tickets: <https://www.winnipegfringe.com/performer-detail.aspx?kw=Lewis+Rawlinson>

Media comps available by request.

For further information contact:

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Testimonials

“In this autobiographical piece, Rawlinson inhabits the most courageous of theatrical spaces: reliving his own pain so that an audience might have an easier time navigating with their own. He does so with extraordinary aplomb through moments alternately both hilarious and heartbreaking. And then, when words are either too much or not enough, he continues the storytelling through his virtuosic musicianship. It is a truly a masterful and cathartic evening of theatre.”

-Chris Pazdernik, Jeff Award-winning director and producer

“Lewis Rawlinson’s *Nervous Breakdown in G Minor* is a beautifully devised and deeply moving performance that weaves musical virtuosity, humor, and drama while drawing parallels between the great composer Sergei Rachmaninoff and Mr. Rawlinson’s own journey as a promising classical musician and his nearly devastating struggles with religious upbringing, identity, and mental health.

Funny, heartbreaking and uplifting, *Nervous Breakdown in G Minor* is the kind theatrical performance that inspires one to truly believe in the transformative power of music.”

-Henry Godinez, Artistic Associate at Goodman Theatre

Show Synopsis:

How do you pursue an art form you love when you no longer feel that you belong?

In ***Nervous Breakdown in G Minor***, Lewis recounts grappling with his queerness, addiction, and mental health while being raised in the Mormon religion in Montana, pursuing classical cello performance at a competitive conservatory, and facing the realities of the modern-day musician. In this solo show, Lewis reenacts his journey in segments with storytelling then musically expresses them through a live performance a four movement sonata, a tumultuous piece that mirrors the progression of his story.

By sharing an unfiltered range of experiences from discovery, joy, doubt, calamity, to rebirth, this show is a practice of exploring identity and reclaiming one's own narrative in order to make a more personal, honest, and thus universal connection to music.

Lewis Rawlinson bio:

Lewis Rawlinson is a Chicago-based cellist and theatre artist. Chicago acting credits include *High Fidelity* (Refuge Theatre Project, Non-Equity Jeff Award Production of a Musical), *bare: a pop opera* (Refuge), *Fun Home* (Towle Theatre), and *Barney the Elf* (The Other Theatre). San Francisco acting credits include *Triassic Park* (Theatre Bay Area Award Nomination - Actor in a Principal Role, Ray of Light Theatre), *Godspell* (TBA Award nomination, OMG I Love That Show Productions), *The Addams Family* (Bay Area Premiere, Contra Costa Civic Theatre), *Les Misérables* (Broadway By The Bay), and *Urinetown* (Los Altos Stage Company).

As a cellist, Lewis has played with many orchestral ensembles, including two international tours to Asia and a performance of Saint-Saens' "La Muse et le Poète" concerto for violin and cello as a soloist with the Billings Symphony Orchestra. In Chicago, Lewis has played cello for several productions with Music Theatre Works and Porchlight Music Theatre, as well as the Marriott Theatre's production of *Titanic*. He was also the alternate cellist for Goodman Theatre's production of *The Matchbox Magic Flute* adapted and directed by Mary Zimmerman. In addition to theatre, has performed and recorded with indie/folk artists such as Liz and the Lovelies, The Okay Lakes, and Laura Glyda. He played cello with the San Francisco-based band The Family Crest, NPR's Tiny Desk Concert alumni, on their Spring 2019 European Tour across Germany and Austria, their concert during the reopening of The Presidio Theatre, and their musical adaptation of *Romeo & Juliet* at The Den Theatre.

Lewis has performed his solo show, *Nervous Breakdown in G Minor*, at The Den Theatre and Theo Ubuque Cabaret Theatre in Chicago. He graduated with Honors from Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts with a Bachelor of Musical Arts Degree in Cello Performance and Arts & Public Policy.

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