

AUGUSTIN HADELICH VIOLIN CONOR HANICK PIANO

NOVEMBER 8, 2017

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

(1770-1827)

JOHANNES BRAHMS

(1833-1897)

Sonata No. 4 in A minor, Op. 23

Presto

Andante scherzoso, più Allegretto

Allegro molto

Sonata No. 2 in A major, Op. 100

Allegro amabile
Andante tranquillo

Allegretto grazioso (quasi andante)

INTERMISSION

STEPHEN HARTKE

(b. 1952)

Netsuke: Six Miniatures for Violin and Piano (2011)

Tengu, the shapeshifter that feeds on the falsely holy

Tadamori and the Oil-Thief Tanuki playing the samisen

Baku, the monster that devours nightmares

Demons carrying a rich man to Hell Jewel of Wisdom with mountain pavilions

MAURICE RAVEL

(1875-1937)

Sonata No. 2 in G major, Op. 77

Allegretto

Blues. Moderato

Perpetuum mobile. Allegro

PABLO DE SARASATE

(1844-1908)

"Zapateado" from Spanish Dances, Op. 23



AUGUSTIN HADELICH violin

AUGUSTIN HADELICH, VIOLIN

Augustin Hadelich has established himself as one of the great violinists of today. He has performed with every major orchestra in the U.S. as well as an ever-growing number of major orchestras in the UK, Europe, and Asia.

One of the highlights of Mr. Hadelich's 2017/2018 season will be a return to the Boston Symphony, performing the Ligeti Concerto with Thomas Adès on the podium, and featuring the U.S. premiere of Adès's new cadenza for the concerto. Additional highlights include performances with the San Francisco Symphony and the symphony orchestras of Atlanta, Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Nashville, Oregon, Pittsburgh, Seattle, St. Louis, and Utah. Abroad, Mr. Hadelich will play with the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, Polish National Radio Orchestra, the Lahti Symphony, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, The Hallé Orchestra, and the Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León.

Recent summer appearances include his 2017 solo debut at the Grand Teton Music Festival, his 2016 debut at the BBC Proms, return engagements with the Boston Symphony at Tanglewood and the Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom, in addition to appearances at the music festivals in Aspen, Bravo! Vail, Britt, Chautauqua (where he made his U.S. orchestral debut in 2001), Eastern, Marlboro, Sun Valley, and the Hollywood Bowl.

Among recent and upcoming worldwide performances are the BBC Philharmonic/Manchester, BBC Symphony/London, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (where he was the 2015/2016 artist-in-residence), Concertgebouw Orchestra/Amsterdam, Danish National Symphony, Finnish Radio Orchestra, Hamburg Philharmonic, Hong Kong Philharmonic, London Philharmonic, Mozarteum Orchestra/Salzburg, Netherlands Philharmonic, Norwegian Radio Orchestra, NHK Symphony/Tokyo, São Paulo Symphony, and the radio orchestras of Cologne, Frankfurt, Saarbrücken, and Stuttgart.

Augustin Hadelich's career took off when he was named Gold Medalist of the 2006 International Violin Competition of Indianapolis. Since then he has garnered an impressive list of honors, including the inaugural Warner Music Prize in 2015, and a 2016 Grammy Award for his recording of Dutilleux's Violin Concerto, *L'arbre des songes*, with the Seattle Symphony under Ludovic Morlot (Seattle Symphony MEDIA). Most recently, Mr. Hadelich was named 2018 Instrumentalist of the Year by *Musical America*.

Mr. Hadelich plays the 1723 "Ex-Kiesewetter" Stradivari violin, on loan from Clement and Karen Arrison through the Stradivari Society of Chicago. He is represented by Schmidt Artists International, Inc.

CONOR HANICK, PIANO

Conor Hanick is a pianist who "defies human description" for some (*Concerto Net*) and recalls "a young Peter Serkin" for others (*The New York Times*). He has performed to acclaim throughout the world with some of the leading ensembles, instrumentalists, and conductors, and worked with composers as diverse as Charles Wuorinen and Caroline Shaw. Mr. Hanick recently appeared with The Juilliard Orchestra performing Milton Babbitt's Second Piano Concerto at Alice Tully Hall; the Alabama Symphony Orchestra in the premier of Matthew Aucoin's Piano Concerto; and Alan Gilbert in György Ligeti's Piano Concerto for the New York Philharmonic Biennial. This season he performs concertos, recitals, and chamber music in New York, Boston, Sarasota, San Francisco, Portland,



conor Hanick
piano

Albuquerque, Chicago, and elsewhere; collaborates with cellist Jay Campbell, violinist Augustin Hadelich, and members of the San Francisco Symphony; and joins The Knights, the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, and the University of Iowa Center for New Music. A recent finalist for the Andrew Wolf Chamber Music Award, Mr. Hanick is a graduate of Northwestern University and The Juilliard School.

Conor Hanick is represented by Schmidt Artists International, Inc.

NOTES

Program Notes © Elizabeth Bergman

BEETHOVEN: SONATA NO. 4 IN A MINOR, OP. 23

IN BRIEF

BORN: December 1770, Bonn, Germany **DIED:** March 26, 1827, Vienna, Austria

DATE PUBLISHED: Published in October 1801, dedicated to

Count Moritz von Fries

MOST RECENT FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC

PERFORMANCE: December 6, 1995, Gil Shaham, violin

ESTIMATED DURATION: 20 minutes

Beethoven's life and work are routinely divided into three periods. The middle period, which began around 1802, is known as his "heroic" phase. In the years before then, Beethoven was truly suffering, as he himself confessed in his agonized Heiligenstadt Testament. While spending a summer in the country town of Heiligenstadt in 1801, the composer realized that his hearing was failing. The "testament," an anguished account of his illness and its awful toll, was penned to his brothers but never mailed. This intimate diary of despair was only discovered after Beethoven's death.

Beethoven and the music he composed between 1800 and 1802 might bring to mind a much later testament of sorts—by Albert Camus. "In the midst of winter," Camus famously wrote, "I found there was, within me,

an invincible summer. And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger—something better, pushing right back."

Beethoven's "heroic" period was his pushback. In the midst of his despair, Beethoven completed his Second Symphony and the three Op. 31 piano sonatas, which are described by musicologist Daniel Heartz as "boldly idiosyncratic, looking more to the future than to the past." Even the composer himself considered these works as charting a "new path." The "heroism" of this period has come to define the Romantic style: by turns tempestuous, dramatic, emotional, searing, and joyous.

In Beethoven there was a radiant summer—or, rather, a spring. His so-called "Spring" Sonata for Violin and Piano, Op. 24, was composed alongside Op. 23 in 1800-1801, both for his patron Count Moritz von Fries, a wealthy and well-connected banker in Vienna.

The two violin sonatas form a contrasting pair. Whereas the "Spring" is suitably bucolic, Op. 23 is austere. The first movement of the sonata begins intensely and passionately, but quickly thins to sparse passages of union with the piano or simple two-line writing. Listen to how often the pianist is playing just two or three notes at a time without lush chords to enrich the violin's melody. And indeed there is not much melody; gestures substitute for tunes. The second movement is warmer and more gracious, but the theme and texture are still rather brittle. The finale, in a rondo form with a recurring theme, takes on an anxious pall owing to the minor tinge. Heroism, after all, requires no small measure of firm resolve.

IN BRIEF

BORN: May 7, 1833, Hamburg, Germany

DIED: April 3, 1897, Vienna, Austria

FIRST PERFORMED: December 2, 1886, Vienna

MOST RECENT FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC PERFORMANCE:

November 19, 2014, Leonidas Kavakos, violin and Yuja

Wang, piano

ESTIMATED DURATION: 20 minutes

BRAHMS: SONATA NO. 2 IN A MAJOR, OP. 100

Program Notes Continued

Brahms himself was a pianist, and his talent for and attachment to the instrument shine through in his Violin Sonata, Op. 100. The piano part here is no mere accompaniment, but an active partner in a dialogue between equals. Best known for his intricate counterpoint, the interweaving of two or more musical lines, Brahms strikes a remarkable balance between clarity and density, lucidity and erudition in this sonata.

The cheerful score perhaps reflects the circumstances of its composition. Brahms wrote the sonata in 1886 while summering in a small town near Berne, Switzerland. By this time he was a mature, accomplished composer with all four of his symphonies already complete, along with three string quartets and a violin concerto.

One strategic simplification in this score is the reduction of movements: just three, in keeping with the Classical tradition. The first movement presents a beautifully lyrical melody in the violin, followed by a heart-warming (even heart-melting) theme in the piano. That Brahms is capable of such beauty should not be surprising. He did, after all, compose the beloved "Lullaby." Yet the movement also features plenty of dramatic tension.

The single middle movement combines elements of the traditional Andante and Scherzo; more melodic sections alternate with spirited music, including a folksy passage of pizzicato. The graceful Andante melody is actually modeled (intentionally) on a theme from Grieg's Violin Sonata No. 2 in G major. The finale features another soulful melody, this one entirely original, and the memorable opening theme of the first movement returns at the very last. Ultimately, although Brahms may be frequently celebrated for writing dense, intricate counterpoint, this violin sonata reveals just how gorgeously tuneful his music can be.

IN BRIEF

BORN: 1952, Orange, New Jersey

FIRST PERFORMED: by Eighth Blackbird on May 20, 2011,

Library of Congress, Coolidge Auditorium

MOST RECENT FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC

PERFORMANCE: Tonight marks the first performance of this

work on our series.

ESTIMATED DURATION: 15 minutes

New Jersey native Stephen Hartke (b. 1952) began his musical career as a gifted young singer who later pursued music and composition at Yale, the University of Pennsylvania, and University of California at Santa Barbara. He recently retired as an emeritus distinguished professor at the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Hartke is as versatile as he is prolific. He has written in every genre—from intimate chamber works to grand opera and epic symphonies. In 2008, his opera *The Greater Good*, based on a story of class conflict by Guy de Maupassant, won the inaugural Charles Ives Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Hartke's music has often been described by its influences. But Hartke himself has described *Netsuke*, his set of six pieces for violin and piano, in more narrative and dramatic—even perhaps operatic—terms:

Netsuke are Japanese miniature carvings that were originally made to secure objects suspended from a man's sash. Often very intricate in design, they represent a broad range of subject matter from depictions of animals and people, to scenes from folktales and literature as well as everyday life, to fanciful supernatural creatures. This piece was inspired by six exquisite carvings from the Bushell Collection at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

In the first movement, a *tengu*, a hawk-like goblin, takes on the appearance of a monk to lure a religious hypocrite to his doom. The second carving, *Tadamori* and the Oil-Thief, is a wonderfully kinetic depiction

HARTKE: NETSUKE: SIX MINIATURES FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO

Program Notes Continued

of a midnight scuffle between a samurai and a poor servant whom he has mistaken for a thief.

A tanuki is a raccoon-like creature thought to have the power to change its appearance. In this small sculpture one is seen dressed in a robe quietly playing the samisen. In my piece, I found myself thinking of the samisen duels that one frequently hears in Japanese theatrical music. While quite fearsome looking, with the head of an elephant and a lion's mane, the baku is a shy creature that performs the useful service of protecting sleepers from nightmares.

In the carving that inspired the fifth movement, a rich man has apparently set off on a journey, but instead of being carried by his usual bearers, seven demons have hijacked his sedan chair and gleefully cart him down to Hell.

The final *netsuke* shows a serene mountain landscape intricately rendered in a water-drop-shaped piece of ivory. Gnarled wind-blown trees and the verandas of handsome pavilions can be discerned through the mist.

Members of the vibrant, eclectic chamber ensemble Eighth Blackbird, who will appear on our Chamber Series on Monday, April 23, gave the premiere of this work at the Library of Congress in May 2011.

RAVEL: SONATA NO. 2 IN G MAJOR, OP. 77

IN BRIEF

BORN: March 7, 1875, Ciboure, France **DIED:** December 28, 1937, Paris, France

DEDICATION: Dedicated to Hélène Jouran-Morhange

MOST RECENT FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC PERFORMANCE: April. 3, 2013, Vadim Repin, violin

ESTIMATED DURATION: 18 minutes

Maurice Ravel descended from a distinguished lineage of French composers as a student of Gabriel Fauré, himself a pupil of Camille Saint-Saëns. But he was also influenced by contemporary Russian music, which he heard conducted by Rimsky-Korsakov at the Exposition Universelle in 1889. An accomplished pianist and

composer of stunningly virtuosic works (for example, Jeux d'eau, 1901 and Gaspard de la nuit, 1908), Ravel is also known for his extraordinary orchestration of music by other composers, especially Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition, as well as of his own music, notably his piano works Pavane for a Dead Princess (1910), Mother Goose Suite (1911), and the Tombeau de Couperin (1919).

With the death of Claude Debussy (whom Ravel knew and respected, though the two were never close friends), Ravel assumed the position of the leading composer in France. In 1928 he toured the United States to great acclaim, meeting George Gershwin and absorbing jazz in Harlem and New Orleans. A decade later, back in France and suffering the lasting effects of a head injury sustained in a car accident, Ravel subjected himself to brain surgery. He died not long after, at age 62, and was buried with his family in a Paris cemetery.

His Violin Sonata (1923-27) reflects his interest in and attraction to the blues that he encountered in the nightclubs of Paris. The second movement, in particular, has an easy, sophisticated swing to it, echoing at times George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* (1924), a work Ravel knew and admired. Ravel deemed the piano and violin "essentially incompatible" in terms of timbre, so each instrument retains its independence throughout. In the *perpetuum mobile* finale, for example, the violin is slightly manic, the piano ever luminous.

IN BRIEF

BORN: March 10, 1844, Pamplona, Spain DIED: September 20, 1908, Biarritz, France

YEAR PUBLISHED: 1880

MOST RECENT FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC
PERFORMANCE: Tonight marks the first performance of this

work on our series.

ESTIMATED DURATION: 4 minutes

Violinist Pablo de Sarasate left his native Spain to study at the Paris Conservatoire, where he trained for a solo career that lasted from the 1860s into the early years of SARASATE:
"ZAPATEADO"
FROM SPANISH
DANCES, OP. 23

Program Notes Continued

the twentieth century. (He was a contemporary of Joseph Joachim.) Sarasate often ended his own concerts with the Spanish Dances, unabashedly virtuosic showpieces meant to thrill and appeal to audiences by evoking the musical traditions of his homeland. Thus the Spanish Dances combine two of the most important, characteristic trends of the 19th century: the rise of national styles and the virtuosic solo concert.

Nationalism as both a political ideology and musical aesthetic was prominent throughout the 19th century. Virtuoso instrumentalists like Chopin and Liszt drew upon the musical heritage of their countries to compose works that they themselves would perform. Think of Chopin's Polish mazurkas, for example, or Liszt's Hungarian rhapsodies.

The Zapateado is a dance in 6/8 meter that originated in Andalusia. It is related to the flamenco, and the percussive stomping of the dancer's feet can be heard in the unbroken eighth-notes of the piano accompaniment. Virtuosic techniques in the violin include ghostly harmonics and left-hand, plucked pizzicato. The fast bowing, syncopated rhythms, and quick fingerings mirror the fleet footwork of the Zapateado dancer.

Pre-Concert Happy Hours at the Pioneer!

Join us prior to each concert for tacos, margaritas, and conversation at the Pioneer Bar, just around the corner from the Newman Center. We will have an area reserved for Friends of Chamber Music to gather for food and drinks beginning at 5:30 p.m. before each concert. Whether you are a new subscriber or a longtime supporter, we hope you will stop by for a chance to get to know your fellow concert-goers.



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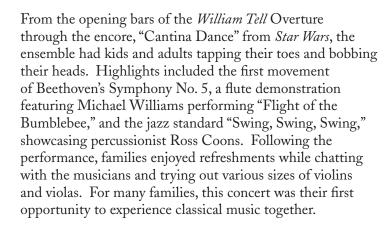
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good Vibrations" AT FCM'S FOURTH ANNUAL FREE FAMILY CONCERT

Sunday, October 8

Last month's free family concert with Up Close and Musical, an ensemble of 13 Colorado Symphony Orchestra musicians, introduced the audience of nearly 200 children, parents, and grandparents to a variety of orchestra instruments through their program, "Symphony Spotlight." Each instrument had its turn in the spotlight, including flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, French horn, trumpet, trombone, percussion, 2 violins, viola, cello, and bass.



We would like to thank the Denver School of the Arts for hosting this fun-filled afternoon of music. FCM is also grateful to the SCFD and the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation for providing generous funding for our outreach programming.





Photography by Marcie Bolton



Matthew Zalkind



MUSIC IN THE GALLERIES RETURNS!



Ivy Street Ensemble

For a third year, the Clyfford Still Museum is partnering with Friends of Chamber Music and Swallow Hill Music to offer a new way to encounter the work of Clyfford Still. Music is free with admission to the galleries. FCM patrons can purchase \$5 half price tickets (if purchased in advance) to enter the museum on performance days. Link (with discount code) is available on our website. Note: Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

All concerts will be held on Sundays at the Clyfford Still Museum, 1250 Bannock Street, Denver

NOVEMBER 12, 2017, 2:00 – 3:00 PM Matthew Zalkind, cello

Mr. Zalkind has performed throughout the United States and abroad as a recitalist, soloist, and chamber musician. Currently Assistant Professor at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music, Mr. Zalkind will perform selections from Bach, Dutilleux, and Kodály.

JANUARY 14, 2018, 2:00 – 3:00 PM Ivy Street Ensemble

Comprised of three Colorado Symphony musicians, Cathy Peterson, Erik Peterson, and Phillip Stevens, the ensemble will perform a diverse program, including works by Fritz Kreisler, Henri Vieuxtemps, Lowell Liebermann and Jan van Gilse.

2017-18 PIANO SERIES



IGOR IFVIT

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Igor Levit has been hailed as "...one of the most probing, intelligent and accomplished artists of the new generation."

- THE NEW YORK TIMES

PROGRAM:

Program includes works by Alkan, Beethoven, Berg, Haydn, and Shostakovich.



GARRICK OHLSSON

TUES, FEB 20, 2018 | 7:30 PM

Garrick Ohlsson ranks among the towering figures on the American keyboard scene. The first American to win the prestigious International Chopin Piano Competition in 1970, he has gone on to enjoy a brilliant international career.

PROGRAM:

Program includes works by Beethoven, Schubert, and Scriabin.



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WED, MAR 14, 2018 | 7:30 PM

Marc-André Hamelin is known for his unrivaled blend of musicianship and virtuosity, whether he is performing masterworks from the past or the present, including overlooked gems from the 19th and 20th centuries.

PROGRAM:

Program includes works by Debussy, Feinberg, and Liszt.

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Takács Quartet Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Berlin Philharmonic Woodwind Quintet and Stephen Hough, piano Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Eighth Blackbird Monday, April 23, 2018

Jordi Savall Hespèrion XXI Monday, May 7, 2018

PIANO SERIES

Igor Levit, piano

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

Garrick Ohlsson, piano Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Marc-André Hamelin, piano Wednesday, March 14, 2018

SPECIAL EVENTS

"Music in the Galleries"
Clyfford Still Museum
1250 Bannock St., Denver
Matthew Zalkind, cello
November 12, 2017, 2:00 PM
Ivy Street Ensemble
January 14, 2018, 2:00 PM

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