



DUKE MUSIC

Best of Biddle virtual series

presents

Music for Two

February 19, 2021

7:30 pm EST

Sonata for Piano and Violin in F Major, K.377

W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Tema (Andante) con variazioni

Brian Chan, violin

Rui Xi, piano

Sonata in D Major for two pianos, K448

Mozart

Allegro con spirito

Kevin Xu & Ieva Jokubaviciute, pianos

Lindaraja, for two pianos

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Catherine McMillan & Ieva Jokubaviciute, pianos

Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 16

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

Scherzo

Andy Zhang & Claire Li, pianos

Sonata for Viola and Piano (1937)

Elizabeth Maconchy (1907-1994)

I. Allegro

Jonathan Bagg, viola

Emely Phelps, piano

Sonata for Viola and Piano, Op. 22 (1932)

Marion Bauer (1882-1955)

III. Allegro

Jonathan Bagg, viola

Emely Phelps, piano

Variations on a Theme by Paganini, for two pianos

Witold Lutosławski (1913-1994)

Daniel Seyfried & David Heid, pianos

About the Musicians

Brian Chan is a third-year PhD student in Biomedical Engineering. He obtained his bachelor's degree from Duke in 2018 with majors in Biomedical Engineering and Chemistry. He started playing the violin at the age of 7 and has been a member of the NAFME All-National Orchestra and Duke Symphony Orchestra. Brian recently started playing the violin again after several years break as a hobby during the pandemic.

Rui Xi is a PhD candidate in Biomedical Engineering in her sixth year at Duke, expecting to graduate in Summer 2021. She started piano lessons at age five and stopped just before high school when she decided to focus on a path in science/engineering. She started playing regularly again in her early grad school years—this time with much more self-motivation and enthusiasm. For the past three years, she has studied in the Duke Music Department instructed by Profs. Derison Duarte and David Heid. Whenever the schedule allows, she performs at Duke Piano Area Student Recitals and gatherings within the local music community, such as Fourth Friday Concerts at Ruggero Piano.

Kevin Xu is a freshman who plans to major in Biology with a minor in Music. In the past, he has performed with the Tar River Orchestra and Winston Salem Symphony, performing Chopin's Piano Concerto No.1 and Mozart's Piano Concerto No.23. He has also received first prize awards in the High Point University Junior Piano Competition, Steinway Competition, and MTNA Piano Competition in both Junior and Senior categories. Kevin was a student of Florence Ko and currently studies with Professor Jokubaviciute, and plans to continue his music education in his undergraduate years at Duke.

Catherine McMillan is a junior studying History and Education. She is involved in student government, peer advising, local non-profits, and collaborative research. At Duke, she has continued her lifelong passion for music through the piano area of the Music Department. She sees music both as a form of self expression and of collective understanding. Beyond Duke, Catherine hopes to share her creativity both on and off the stage, pursuing the arts as a vehicle for joy and personal fulfillment.

Ieva Jokubaviciute joined the Duke University Department of Music as Associate Professor of the Practice in July 2020. Called “an artist of commanding technique, refined temperament and persuasive insight” by *The New York Times*, Jokubaviciute earned critical acclaim throughout North America and Europe when her 2010 debut recording, *Music of Tribute Vol. 6: Berg* (Labor Records), resulted in recitals in New York City; Chicago; Philadelphia; Baltimore; Washington, DC; Vilnius, Lithuania; and Toulouse, France. *Returning Paths: solo piano works by Janáček and Suk* (CAG) followed in 2014. Her latest solo recording, *Northscapes*, which weaves works written within the last decade by composers from Nordic and Baltic countries into a tapestry of soundscapes, will be released later this year.

A sought after chamber musician and collaborator, Jokubaviciute's chamber music endeavors have brought her to major stages around the world, including Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium, London's Wigmore Hall, and Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center. Her piano trio, Trio Cavatina, won the 2009 Naumburg International Chamber Music Competition. In the fall of 2016, Jokubaviciute began a collaboration with the violinist Midori, performing recitals together throughout the world.

Andy Zhang is a junior who studies piano at Duke with professor Pei-fen Liu. Prior to coming to Duke, he studied piano with Nina Polonsky in Gahanna, Ohio. His repertoire ranges from baroque to contemporary, and he is also a member of the Duke Symphony Orchestra. At Duke, Andy is a Computer Science and Mathematics double major and an Economics minor.

Claire Li is a freshman in the Pratt School of Engineering, planning to major in Biomedical Engineering. She has been playing piano for 13 years. Claire has won numerous regional and state competitions and attended programs at several music schools, including the Jacobs School of Music and the Cleveland Institute of Music. Additionally, she was the piano accompanist for the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra. Claire has also been playing violin for eight years and is the second violinist of the Jacques Quartet here at Duke.

Jonathan Bagg is Professor of the Practice at Duke University and violist of the Ciompi String Quartet. His career with the Ciompi includes hundreds of concerts at chamber music venues across the U.S. and around the world, as well as many recordings. Currently co-Artistic Director of Electric Earth Concerts in New Hampshire, Bagg teaches viola and chamber music at Duke and is Chair of the Music Department. Prior to founding Electric Earth Concerts in 2013, Bagg directed the Monadnock Music festival for six years. He has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the NH State Council on the Arts, and many other foundations, in support of his work as an Artistic Director. In this role he has initiated creative collaborations between authors, poets, and choreographers resulting in dozens of newly commissioned works.

Recitals have brought Bagg to many places on the East Coast, such as the Phillips Collection in Washington, Boston's Jordan Hall, and New Hampshire's Currier Gallery. Festival appearances include the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, the Eastern Music Festival, the Portland Chamber Music Festival, the Sebago-Long Lake festival, and the Highlands, NC, Mohawk Trail, and Castle Hill festivals.

Emely Phelps, recently appointed Artist-Teacher of Piano at Ohio University, enjoys a multifaceted career as a soloist, chamber musician and teacher. Praised by *The Boston Globe* for her “fleet, energetic, and bright-toned” playing, Emely made her solo orchestral debut with the National Symphony Orchestra as the grand prizewinner of their Young Soloists Competition, and has since been a featured soloist with the Las Colinas Symphony Orchestra, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, Little River Symphony, McLean Symphony, and the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra. She has presented solo recitals throughout North America and Europe, with annual appearances in New York and Boston beginning in 2016, and additional highlights including recitals at Slot Schagen and Muiderslot in the Netherlands, Strathmore Hall's Music in the Mansion Series, Banff Centre for the Arts, the Alden Theater, Meredith College, and Glen Eyrie. She currently maintains active duo partnerships with violist Jonathan Bagg and flutist Hannah Porter Occeña, and performs regularly with Electric Earth Concerts.

Daniel Seyfried is a Staff Accompanist in the Duke University Department of Music. He is a flexible performer with broad interests including: Debussy and early twentieth-century composers, jazz-influenced classical composers, and performance on the fortepiano and historical instruments. Daniel earned his D.M.A. in Piano Performance and a Cognate in Pedagogy from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) in 2017. Recently, he has had many professional engagements including a lecture recital at The University of California at Berkeley, guest performances at The Manhattan School of Music, a Steinway Spotlight Performance in North Carolina, a recital in Taipei, Taiwan, and many rewarding regional performances. Daniel has the distinct privilege of working in a dynamic music department at Duke University as a staff accompanist in the voice area, for Duke Opera Theater, and is in demand as a collaborator in the Triangle.

David Heid comes to North Carolina after a successful career in New York City as a vocal coach/accompanist. Among the many well-known singers he has performed with are Mario Chang, Susan Dunn, Adria Firestone, Carolyn James, Leah Hawkins and Christine Weidinger. Also an arranger and conductor, he made his Lincoln Center debut in Alice Tully Hall in 1994. In the summer of 1997, he was heard at both the Darling Harbor Convention Center and the historic Towne Hall in Sydney, Australia. His coaching clients include past Grammy and Tony Award winners.

David is currently on the faculty at Duke University where he is the Director of Duke Opera Theater as well as teaching piano and working with singers. He is in demand throughout the Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill area as a collaborative artist and has worked with many of the area's leading organizations including the Choral Society of Durham, NC Symphony, Raleigh Chamber Music Guild, Mallarme Chamber Players, The Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle, NC Opera, Theater in the Park, Thompson Theater Summerfest, Long Leaf Opera and Triangle Opera. He was previously on staff of the renowned Juilliard School in New York City.