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Cory Aaland Dana Deeds Beth Daum Beth Foster Bob Foster Marvin Goldberg Eddy Hodak Marie-France Isabelle Traudi Nichols Allan Tractenberg Diane Tractenberg If you're reading this program, congratulations! You've figured out that today's concert is in the Berger Performing Arts Center rather than in our traditional venue, the Leo Rich Theater. If you're not reading this program, you're probably confused because you're all alone at Leo Rich.

AFCM's Now Music series has gone mobile this season. In the case of today's performance by Rémi Geniet, we're at the Berger mainly because there wasn't room for us at the Tucson Convention Center, and this was a good choice for a mainstream classical piano recital. In contrast, our visit to the UA's Crowder Hall at the end of January to present emissaries from the New York Festival of Song was an intentional foray out of downtown. We wanted a bit more flexibility in our experiment with offering food and drink before the concert. And, to be honest, we were hoping to use the smaller Holsclaw Recital Hall at the UA, because we didn't expect to sell more than about 200 tickets for a vocal concert. As it turned out, it's lucky we moved to Crowder, because we sold more than twice as many tickets as we expected.

Was it the prospect of an all-Bernstein program that appealed to everyone? Was it the stature of the New York Festival of Song? Was it the buffet of stuffed mushrooms and chocolate-covered cheesecake-ona-stick built into the admission price that was the deciding factor? There were too many variables to allow one clear answer, so we continue to explore new formats and different venues in order to boost your concert experience. The main thing we want to demonstrate with today's Now Music concert is that Now Music doesn't necessarily mean "new music" or total weirdness. At AFCM we do like those things in moderation, but we're also still dedicated to presenting accomplished young professional musicians with interesting things to say about the core repertory, just as we did during the two decades of the series then called Piano & Friends.

Please join us as this exploration continues, and don't be shy about telling us what works for you and what doesn't. The main thing we want to work for you, no matter what, is the music.

ames Reel

JAMES REEL President





Rémi Geniet, piano

Young Concert Artists, Inc. 1776 Broadway, Suite 1500 New York, NY 10019

RÉMI GENIET

Laureate of numerous international competitions, Rémi Geniet is fast establishing himself as one of the most prominent pianists of his generation. He was the winner of the second prize at the 2013 Queen Elisabeth International Piano Competition at the age of twenty and the youngest prizewinner of the Bonn International Beethoven Competition. In 2015 he was awarded first prize at the prestigious Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York.

Mr. Geniet performs internationally with orchestras including the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, St. Petersburg State Capella Symphony Orchestra, State Symphony Orchestra Novaya Rossiya, Ural Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Flemish Philharmonic, Luxembourg Philharmonic, Belgium National Orchestra, Sinfonia Varsovia, Orchestre d'Auvergne, l'Orchestre National d'Île-de-France, and l'Orchestre National de Mulhouse, under conductors such as Marin Alsop, Emmanuel Krivine, Edo de Waart, Alan Buribayev, Enrique Mazolla, Ernest Martinez-Izquierdo, Robert Trevino, David Niemann, Roberto Forés Veses, Eduard Topchjan, Volodymyr Sirenko, Michael Hofstetter, Stephan Blunier, Adrian Leaper, and Pavel Gerstein.

In addition, he has given recitals at Carnegie Hall (Zankel Hall), the Munich Gasteig, NDR Hanover, and in Vienna, Geneva, Ghent, Brussels, Germany, and Poland. Among the many prestigious international festivals that invite him are Verbier, Colmar, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, St. Petersburg Arts Square International Winter Festival, La Folle Journée au Japon, Euriade Festival in the Netherlands, the Montreal Bach Festival, and the Interlaken Classics Festival in Switzerland. In early 2016 Mr. Geniet was invited to participate at Les Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad at the invitation of Renaud Capuçon, winning the "Prix André Hoffmann."

Mr. Geniet studied at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris with Brigitte Engerer, at the École Normale de Musique Alfred Cortot in the class of Rena Shereshevskaya, and has also worked with Evgeni Koroliov at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hamburg. He also studied orchestral conducting with George Pehlivanian.

THIS AFTERNOON'S PROGRAM

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

Chaconne from Partita No. 2 in D Minor for Solo Violin, BWV 1004 (arr. Ferruccio Busoni)

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

Piano Sonata No. 31 in A-flat Major, Op. 110

Moderato cantabile, molto espressivo Allegro molto Adagio ma non troppo Fuga: Allegro ma non troppo "You know my intense attraction to these wonderful rhythms and that I value the joie de vivre expressed in the dance."

MAURICE RAVEL ON *LA VALSE*

INTERMISSION

IGOR STRAVINSKY (1882-1971)

Trois Mouvements de "Pétroushka"

Danse russe Chez Pétrouchka La semaine grasse

MAURICE RAVEL (1875-1937)

La Valse

AS PART OF HIS SERIES of piano adaptations, Italian pianist and composer Ferruccio Busoni transcribed Bach's famous Chaconne in 1893. Defending his work as an important addition to the piano repertory, Busoni stated that "Bach himself was one of the most prolific arrangers of his own and others' music." In his transcription Busoni closely follows Bach's score and crafts pianistic equivalents for Baroque string technique.

Although it stands alone as Bach's most renowned work for unaccompanied violin, the powerful Chaconne is actually the fifth and final movement of his Partita in D Minor, BWV 1004. Written during his court tenure at Cöthen, Bach most probably composed this profound statement in 1720 after the sudden death of his first wife, Maria Barbara. Bach had accompanied his patron Prince Leopold on a two-month spa retreat to Carlsbad, but he returned to find Maria Barbara dead, possibly from complications of her pregnancy. A year and a half later, Bach married Anna Magdalena, who raised Maria Barbara's surviving four children and bore thirteen of her own.

Bach's partitas are cycles of dance movements that had become stylized by the mid-eighteenth century. Their technical difficulties far exceed the demands of earlier solo repertoire. Influenced by the "style brisé," or freely voiced style of the French lutenists, Bach strove to create the illusion of full harmonic and contrapuntal texture through a single melodic line that sometimes outlines, but frequently only suggests, the interplay of several independent voices.

Originally a Spanish court dance, the chaconne became popular as a musical form about 1600. Its pervasive descending bass pattern (a "ground") provided a stable framework for variations; although the bass line remains unchanged, the solo instrument can move inventively above it. Bach's masterful Chaconne opens with a majestic chordal statement in double stops followed by thirty-one remarkable variations. ALTHOUGH BEETHOVEN'S audiences took years to understand his final works, his penultimate sonata—the lyrical Opus 110—gained immediate acceptance. This warmly expressive A-flat major work continues to be the most performed of his late sonatas. Completed on Christmas Day of 1821, Opus 110 is the only work that Beethoven completed during that difficult year of physical problems and isolation. Despite his circumstances, Beethoven created a searching but essentially uplifting statement that unfolds with emotional shifts reflecting his complex inner life.

Before hearing loss ended his performing career, Beethoven was lauded as Europe's finest concert pianist. Despite his disability he continued to compose for piano, and over the course of his career he wrote thirty-two piano sonatas that reflect his creative evolution. His last five sonatas reveal characteristic features of his late style period the flexible development of concise themes; a meditative quality in the slow movement; and the inclusion of a fugal movement, perhaps resulting from his lifelong veneration for Johann Sebastian Bach.

In his Opus 110 Beethoven offers the performer specific guidance for interpretation. The opening movement is marked "With moderate tempo, played songfully and with much expression" and "with amiability." Structured in free sonata form, the movement develops two themes that are subtly varied and interconnected to create a continuous flow of poetic melody. The brief development leads almost imperceptibly into the recapitulation, animated by ethereal arpeggio figuration.

The second movement provides earthy contrast. Formally a scherzo, its themes allude to two popular songs—the first "My cat just had kittens," the second a Viennese street song often translated as "I'm a slob, you're a slob" ("Ich bin liederlich, Du bist liederlich"). In the middle section virtuoso writing for the right hand is punctuated by off beat rhythms in the left. The opening material is repeated, and the movement concludes with a brief coda. The sustained and sorrowful third movement suggests somber internal dialogue. The opening section resembles a flexible operatic recitative; the following section, Arioso dolente ("plaintive song," A-flat minor) unfolds as one of Beethoven's most profound statements. Played over an accompaniment of simply repeated chords, this extended poignant song portends the late piano sonatas of Schubert. A chordal interlude that conjures the pealing of deep bells (heard on Christmas as he composed?) signals the fugal finale.

Ensuing without pause, the finale develops fugally a theme based on the opening motif of the first movement; a simpler chorale melody provides a countertheme. As it reaches a dramatic peak with complex three-voice writing, the fugue ends abruptly, and the plaintive Arioso dolente from the third movement returns in G minor (marked "wearily complaining"). The song quietly halts, and the fugue softly returns, now inverted (upside down note arrangement), in a passage marked "little by little coming back to life." The fugue becomes more animated and returns to its original position. Now marked "more and more gaining new life," the fugue becomes a tour de force of contrapuntal writing. Its remarkable transformations and extensions, executed with virtuoso passagework, bring the work to a triumphant conclusion.

ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED as an orchestral work with a prominent piano part, Stravinsky's puppet fantasy Petrushka was developed into a staged ballet ("Petrushka, a Burlesque in Four Scenes") at the urging of the impresario Serge Diaghilev. The full score was completed in May 1911 and premiered days later by Diaghilev's Ballets russes in Paris. Ten years later Stravinsky wrote "Three Movements from Petrushka" for his friend, pianist Arthur Rubenstein. Stravinsky stated that the set is not a transcription, although it draws its material from the ballet, but rather an exploration of the piano's sonorous possibilities. A virtuoso showpiece, the set is famous for its spiky harmonies and its technical challenges-wide and rapid leaps, intricate rhythms, rapid and complex passagework.

Set against the background of St. Petersburg's Shrovetide Fair, *Petrushka* depicts the love triangle of three puppets who are brought to life with tragic results. The first movement of the piano set, "Russian Dance," is taken from the conclusion of the opening scene, and "Petrushka's Cell" is drawn from the second scene. "The Shrovetide Fair," derived from the fourth scene, was conceived for piano before Stravinsky's early meeting with Diaghilev.

SUBTITLED "Poème chorégraphique pour orchestra" (choreographic poem for orchestra), Ravel's La *Valse* was conceived as a ballet for the impresario Serge Diaghilev. However, after hearing Ravel's twopiano reduction of the score, Diaghilev declined to produce the ballet. Nevertheless, La Valse soon achieved popularity as an orchestral work, a ballet score, and a work for one or two pianos. Ravel had long been attracted to the style and glamour of the Viennese waltz, and during composition of La Valse (1920) he wrote to a friend: "You know my intense attraction to these wonderful rhythms and that I value the joie de vivre expressed in the dance." However, since the work appeared so soon after World War I, many listeners heard La Valse as a *danse macabre* that offers a dark metaphor for Europe's devastation. Ravel objected: "While some discover an attempt at parody, indeed caricature, others see a tragic allusion—the end of the Second Empire, the situation in Vienna after the war. This dance may seem tragic and pushed to extremes. But one should see only what the music expresses: an ascending progression of sonority, to which the stage comes along to add light and movement."

Ravel wrote an evocative preface to the score: "Through whirling clouds, waltzing couples may be faintly distinguished. The clouds gradually scatter: one sees an immense hall peopled with a whirling crowd. The scene is gradually illuminated. The light of the chandeliers bursts forth. Set in an imperial court about 1855." *La Valse* begins with an inchoate blur from which melodic fragments gradually emerge. These gain momentum to become true waltzes that move in an ever more frenzied whirl.

Notes by Nancy Monsman

FESTIVAL DAY 1 SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2018

Pre-concert conversation: 2:30 pm Concert: 3:00 pm Leo Rich Theater

SUK Four Pieces for Violin and Piano, Op. 17

JALBERT Piano Trio No. 2

CHAPÍ Prelude to La Revoltosa

VIVALDI Concerto for Four Guitars

ZEMLINSKY String Quartet No. 2, Op. 15

Performed by

Bernadette Harvey, Yura Lee, Morgenstern Trio, Romero Guitar Quartet, Dover Quartet

FESTIVAL DAY 2 TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018

Pre-concert conversation: 7:00 pm Concert: 7:30 pm Leo Rich Theater

BARAN Transformations

FALLA Miller's Dance from "El Sombrero de Tres Picos"

FALLA Dance No. 1 from "La Vida Breve"

PIAZZOLLA History of the Tango

BERNSTEIN Clarinet Sonata DVOŘÁK String Quintet in E-Flat Major, Op. 97

Performed by

Morgenstern Trio, Yura Lee, Pepe Romero, Romie de Guise-Langlois, Bernadette Harvey, Dover Quartet

FESTIVAL DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2018

Pre-concert conversation: 7:00 pm Concert: 7:30 pm Leo Rich Theater

GRANADOS Intermezzo from Goyescas

MENDELSSOHN String Quartet in F Minor, Op. 80

MESSIAEN Quartet for the End of Time

Performed by

Pepe Romero, Emanuel Wehse, Dover Quartet, Morgenstern Trio, Romie de Guise-Langlois

FESTIVAL DAY 4 FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2018

Pre-concert conversation: 7:00 pm Concert: 7:30 pm Leo Rich Theater

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CELEDONIO ROMERO Fantasia VIVALDI Guitar Concerto in D

LUDWIG Trio Premiere

RAVEL Violin Sonata No. 2

BRAHMS Clarinet Quintet in B Minor, Op. 115

Performed by

Celino Romero, Dover Quartet, Morgenstern Trio, Yura Lee, Bernadette Harvey, Romie de Guise-Langlois

FESTIVAL DAY 5 SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018

Pre-concert conversation: 2:30 pm Concert: 3:00 pm Leo Rich Theater

STRAVINSKY Suite from L'Histoire du Soldat

DJUPSTROM Quartet Premiere

BOCCHERINI Introduction and Fandango from Guitar Quintet No. 4

PEPE ROMERO En el Sacromonte; De Cádiz a la Habana

CHAUSSON Piano Quartet in A Major, Op. 30

Performed by

Yura Lee, Bernadette Harvey, Romie de Guise-Langlois, Dover Quartet, Romero Guitar Quartet, Morgenstern Trio

YOUTH CONCERT

Thursday, March 8, 10:30 am Leo Rich Theater

Performance of excerpts from prior concerts with commentary by Festival musicians. Special thanks to our Youth Concert sponsors, listed on page 21 of this program.

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9:00 AM – 12 noon Tuesday, March 6 Wednesday, March 7 Friday, March 9 Sunday, March 11

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Conducted by James Reel a half hour before each concert

Sunday, March 4, at 2:30 pm Tuesday, March 6, at 7:00 pm Wednesday, March 7, at 7:00 pm Friday, March 9, at 7:00 pm Sunday, March 11, at 2:30 pm

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See https://radio.azpm.org/ classical/.



The Festival features the Morgenstern Trio.

VERSE

Rasp

BY MAGGIE SMITH

The heat rises in distorted gold waves around fire but without fire, shimmering, twisting

anything seen through it. The heat rises, rasping the air it rises through, scuffing the surface,

if the air has a surface. The tall summer field is the keeper of secrets. Lie down

and forget your body, forgive your body its bad cradle, its brokenness. Lie down and listen

to the rasp, to heat sweep the pale, dry grass as if it were your own breathing, as if the field

you've pressed your shape into is a broom in reverse, a broom being swept by the wind.



"Rasp" by Maggie Smith originally appeared in Poem-A-Day, July 13, 2017, published by the Academy of American Poets, 75 Maiden Lane, Suite 901, New York, NY 10038. www.poets.org. Reprinted with the permission of the author.

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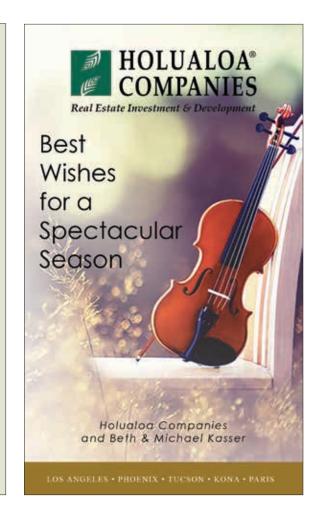
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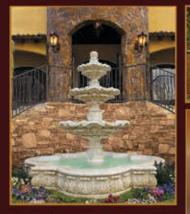
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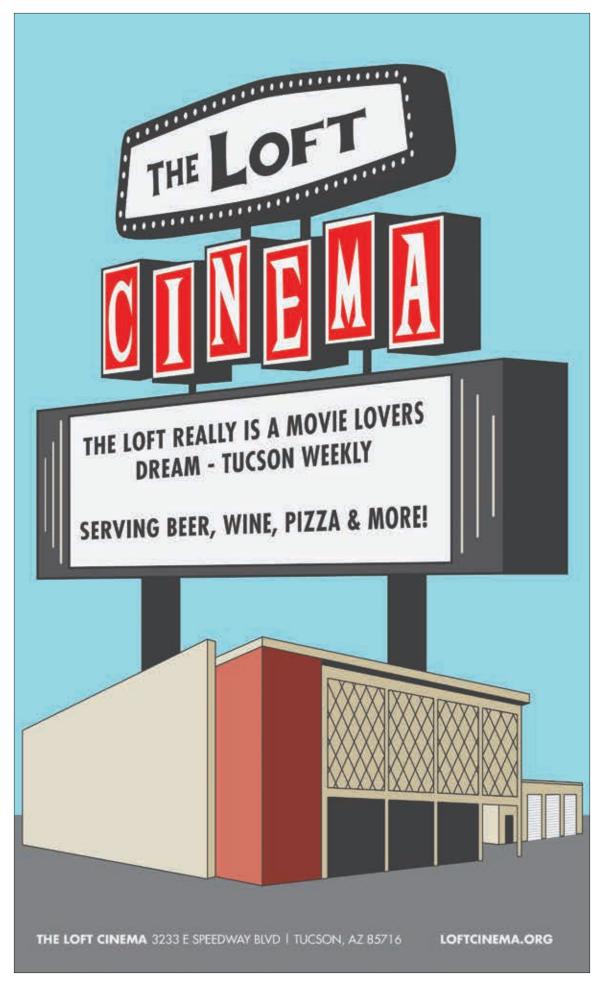
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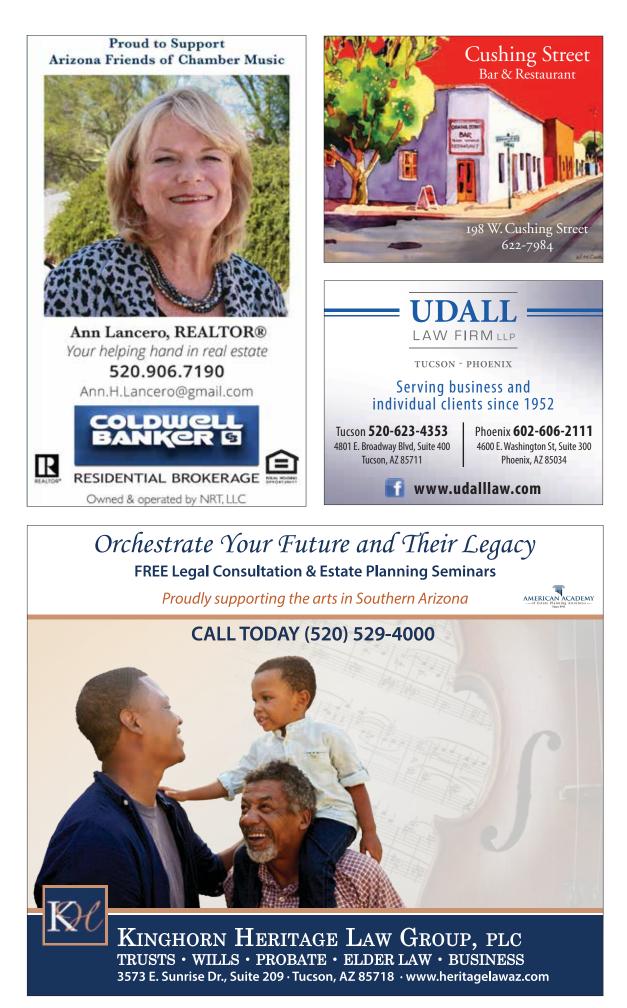


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