

Romanenko-Yoshikawa Duo
Alexei Romanenko, cello
Christine Yoshikawa, piano

Katzin Concert Hall | Saturday, October 29, 2011 | 7:30 PM

Program

Sonata No. 10 in E Major for Cello and Piano, Op. 8

Giuseppe Valentini
(1681-1753)

- I. Grave
- II. Allegro
- III. Allegro (Tempo di Gavotta)
- IV. Largo
- V. Allegro

Sonata for Cello and Piano No. 1

Alfred Schnittke
(1934- 1998)

- I. Largo
- II. Presto
- III. Largo

Après un rêve, Op. 7, No 1

Gabrielle Fauré
(1845-1924)

******Intermission******

Sonata for Solo Cello, Op. 8

Zoltán Kodály
(1882-1967)

Allegro maestoso rna appassionato

Six Aphoriss for Solo Piano

Alfred Fisher
b. 1942

- I. Liberamente
- II. Con fuoco
- III. Scherzando
- IV. Dramatico
- V. Adagio Mesto
- VI. Notturmo; Mollo lento

Suite Italienne for Cello and Piano

Igor Stravinsky
(1882- 1971)

- I. Introduzione
- II. Serenata
- III. Aria
- IV. Tarantella
- V. Minuetto
- VI. Finale

Biographies

Alexei Romanenko - Cellist

An artist of classical refinement, sterling musicianship, and blazing virtuosity, Russian-born cellist Alexei Romanenko has graced the international stages as one of the most compelling and electrifying artists of today. T.J. Medrek of the Boston Herald hailed his performance stating, "The times when music and musician and musical instrument combine to form an almost mystical union are rare. One such occasion came when Alexei Romanenko dazzled with his playing of Zoltan Kodaly's Sonata for solo cello."

Beginning his cello studies at the age of six, he won First Prize in the Far-Eastern Competition when he was twelve. He studied at the Moscow Conservatory with professor Valentin Feygin and in 1993 became a Laureate of "New Names," an international program with extensive touring throughout Russia, and was awarded top prize in the Gnesina College Cello Competition. Upon coming to the United States in 1998, Mr. Romanenko completed an Artist Diploma at the New England Conservatory of Music under the tutelage of Bernard Greenhouse and Laurence Lesser. In 1999, he won First Prize at the 8th International Music Competition in Vienna, Austria and in 2000, he was awarded First Prize at the 2nd Web Concert Hall International Auditions. Mr. Romanenko has authored cadenzas for numerous cello concerti and unaccompanied cello compositions and arrangements. His arrangement of J.S. Bach's Chaconne from Partita No. 2 for violin was featured in his recital at the 2003 Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series. In 2009, he appeared in Vivaldi's Double Concerto with cellist Matt Haimovitz in the "Cellobration" concert presented by the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra. In recent seasons, he has performed in such venues as Boston's Jordan Hall, Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall and the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. and has been heard on the "Voice of America" in Russia, Atlanta's WABE, and Boston's WGBH Radio "Classical Performances" and WFMT Chicago. In 2005, he was the featured soloist in a performance of Tchaikovsky's Rococo Variations during the "Greenhouse Celebration" dedicated to the 90th birthday of legendary American cellist, Bernard Greenhouse.

Mr. Romanenko's versatile international performing career as a soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician have led to appearances as concerto soloist with major orchestras and recital engagements worldwide. This upcoming season, concerts include tours of the United States and Canada performing in major cities such as New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Pasadena, Montreal, Vancouver, Edmonton, and London among others. In addition to his busy performing schedule, Mr. Romanenko currently serves as the principal cellist of the Jacksonville Symphony, organist at Grace Episcopal Church, and holds artistic residencies leading master classes and seminars in colleges and universities across North America and abroad.

Christine Yoshikawa, Pianist

Canadian pianist Christine Yoshikawa has established herself as one of Canada's exciting young pianists of her generation. Her performances have garnered international acclaim and critics have praised her as a pianist of "pure power" (South Bend Tribune), "remarkable endurance, refinement, precision and authority", and "radiant lyricism, elegance and warmth". (The Observer). In recent seasons her wide ranging recital and concerto repertoire from Beethoven to Xenakis has been applauded throughout, and her international career includes performances in major cities such as New York, Boston, Chicago, Phoenix, Los Angeles, Madrid, Paris, Munich, Prague, Sofia, and Tokyo. After making her concerto debut with Beethoven's First Piano Concerto with the London Westminster Philharmonic at the age of 9, she has since appeared as soloist with



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major orchestras including the Orchestre Philharmonie d'Avignon France, Kammerorchester Dusseldorf (Germany), Pazardjik National Symphony of Bulgaria, Olympia Symphony, Elkhart Symphony, Sydney Chamber Orchestra, Tokyo Youth Symphony, and Nagoya Gakuen Philharmonic (Japan) among others.

Winner of many national and international competitions including the Canadian Music Competitions, Young Concert Artist Guild, Grand Prize Laureate of the 1998 Kromeriz International Piano Festival Competition (Czech Republic), Ehrhart Chamber International Competition, and Second-Prize Winner of the Yakov Flier International Piano Competition among others, solo highlights in past seasons include a recital debut in Spain, the Olomouc Philharmonic Hall (Czech Republic), Grand Théâtre de Québec, Steinway Festival (FL), and performances of concerti by Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Chausson, Mendelssohn, and Rachmaninoff with orchestras in Chicago, London, Richmond, Fort Nelson, Penticton, and in Indiana and Florida, and a world premiere in Glasgow, Scotland in a performance of Andrew Albright's Six Vignettes for Piano and Chamber Strings with the Kensington Concertante.

Beginning her piano studies at age 2 with her mother, and later with Jocelyn Pritchard and Jean-Luc Pelletier in Paris, she won first place in the Canadian Music Competitions at the age of 6, and by the age of 10, she had earned diplomas with first class honors and top medals from the Western Board and the Royal School of Music in London. Additionally, she was awarded a full scholarship to study with distinguished pianist Gyorgy Sebok of Indiana University Bloomington, at the Banff Centre of the Performing Arts, and was a Charter Fellow of the prestigious Toradze Institute at Indiana University South Bend under the tutelage of Martin Professor of Piano, Alexander Toradze. She received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance from Arizona State University as a pupil of renowned American pianist Robert Hamilton. Dr. Yoshikawa was named the Mary Louise Remy Endowed Scholar, a recognition reserved for the top two of just 85 Research Scholars across North America selected from over 6000 nation-wide nominations. She is also the winner of the prestigious Kieckhefer Doctoral Dissertation Award, for her research on the music of Sergei Rachmaninoff, the Aiken-Rockefeller Concert Artist Career Grant and Medallion, British Columbia Arts Council Grant from the Government of Canada, Regent Scholar, and the President's Scholar Award. She holds additional performance degrees with distinction honours from the University of Victoria and the University of British Columbia where her former teachers include Arthur Rowe and Jane Coop.

A committed educator, she conducts clinics and masterclasses internationally and has held teaching positions at the University of British Columbia and Arizona State University. Currently, Dr. Yoshikawa serves on the faculties of Chipola College and Gulf Coast Community College and has been recently selected for publication in Madison's Who's Who and the International Who's Who of Professional Artists, she is on the roster of Recording Artists for Eroica Classical Recordings. Her performances are archived at the Canadian Music Centres across Canada and at Amsterdam's Muziekgebouw, and her concerts are broadcast on national radio across North America and abroad.



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