

SERIES CONCERT
Virtuoso

MARGARET MILLER | VIOLA

AND JUHYUN LEE | PIANO

OCT. 2, 2023 | 7:30 P.M.

ORGAN RECITAL HALL



VIRTUOSO SERIES

MARGARET MILLER, VIOLA
DR. JUHYUN LEE, PIANO

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Suite for Viola and Piano, Group 3

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

No. 1 Musette

No. 2 Polka Melancolique

No. 3 Galop

Nigun and Hora (2019-Viola premiere)

Ofer Ben-Amots
(b. 1955)

INTERMISSION

Sonata in E Minor for Viola and Piano, Op.78A (edited by Douglas B. Moore) **Arthur Foote**
(1853-1937)

Allegro appassionato

Andantino con moto

Allegro comodo: con moto

PROGRAM NOTES

Ralph Vaughan Williams is best known for *Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis* and the *Lark Ascending*, but he also composed several important works for viola. Through his friendship with the great British violist Lionel Tertis, the Suite for Viola and Orchestra highlights Vaughan Williams' affinity for the instrument, and his work in collecting English folk songs. Composed in 1933-34 and originally for viola and orchestra, the Suite is comprised of three groups which can be performed together or separately.

The Third group starts with a *Musette*, with wonderful melodic and harmonic material for both instruments. The addition of the mute gives this movement a hushed quality. The second movement, *Polka Melancolique* has a rather quirky character in its rhythms. As its name implies, the Galop moves along at a very brisk pace, ending with a short cadenza in the viola part.

— Notes by Margaret Miller

The work *Nigun & Hora* was written in 2018. The composition was commissioned by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research on the occasion of a special event dedicated to the great cellist and composer Joachim Stutschewsky and the music of his world. The two movement work was originally written for cello and piano. However, tonight's performance marks the premiere of the viola and piano version.

The first movement is titled "Nigun" with the subtitle "Yizkor" (In memoriam) to depict the invocatory nature of the music. This Yizkor Nigun (Memorial Prayer) was written with the memory of the Holocaust in mind. In fact, the opening motive in the viola sounds the musical cryptogram of "Shoah" the Hebrew name for the Holocaust. The German spelling of the letters S-C- H-o-A-H translates into the main motive: E flat- C - B - A - B. The second part is a "Hora," a popular dance among the early Halutzim, the Zionist Pioneers, who rebuilt the Land of Israel at the end of the 19th through mid-20th century. The title of this movement is "The Flaming Hora," describing the fiery spirit and vivid circular motion of this much-cherished Israeli dance. The two movements together, symbolize the historical process of a devastating destruction followed by a miraculous resurrection

— Notes by Ofer Ben-Amots

Violist **MARGARET MILLER** enjoys a varied career of teaching and performing as a faculty member at Colorado State University. Prior to joining the CSU faculty in 2004, Ms. Miller was violist of the Da Vinci Quartet for eighteen years; during that time the Quartet toured throughout the US and recorded three CDs for the Naxos American Classics label. The Da Vinci Quartet was a prize winner in the Naumburg and Shostakovich Competitions and their program Heartstrings was featured on a segment of the PBS NewsHour. She is coordinator of the Graduate Quartet Program at Colorado State University and is a founding faculty member of the LEAP Institute for the Arts.

An active performer and teacher, she has given recitals and master classes at Kansas State University, the University of Iowa, the University of Nevada-Reno, Arizona State University, University of Arizona, the University of New Mexico, University of Missouri, and the University of Wyoming. She is active in state organizations, giving clinics at conferences for the Colorado Music Educators Association, the Colorado American String Teachers Association, the Colorado State Music Teachers Association, and the Wyoming Music Educators Conference. She has collaborated with the Borromeo String Quartet, the Fine Arts Quartet, and the Mendelssohn Trio.

A native of Detroit, Ms. Miller attended Indiana University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where she studied with the Fine Arts Quartet. Her students have gone to prestigious graduate programs, as well as thriving educators and chamber musicians.

Ms. Miller has been honored for her teaching by the Colorado chapter of the American String Teachers Association and the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association. She plays a viola made in 1990 by California maker Thomas Croen.

A native of South Korea, collaborative pianist, and chamber musician, **DR. JUHYUN LEE** actively performs nationwide, including in New York, Los Angeles, Washington D.C, Boston, Utah, Arizona, Nebraska, Montana, and Colorado.

Dr. Lee has performed in a large number of recitals, concerts, and new music festivals, including a world premiere performance of Charles Strouse's *Sonata for Horn and Piano*, Armand Qualliotine's *Duo for Piano and Alto Saxophone*, and *Moye Piano Sonata* by Jim Klein and Ian Jamison. She joined a premier recording project of *Sonata for Saxophone and Piano* by Jim Klein and Ian Jamison and released an album in July 2023. This album has received recognition by magazine media such as *Plastic*, *Dulaxi*, *KIMU*, and *EDM Rekords*.

As a collaborative pianist, Dr. Lee joined Bowdoin International Festival 2014 and SongFest 2016. She performed at the 47th National Flute Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 2019 and Mid-Atlantic Flute Convention in Washington, D.C., in 2020. She was the guest pianist at MCC's Summer Flute Project in Mesa, Arizona, and performed in faculty recitals and a chamber music concert.

In 2023, she was appointed collaborative piano faculty member at Luzerne Music Center in New York. She also has served as an orchestral pianist in Arizona State University, Fort Collins Symphony, and Greeley Philharmonic. She performed in Jordan Hall as a guest keyboardist with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project in 2014.

Dr. Lee received her M.M. in Collaborative Piano from the Longy School of Music, where she studied with Brian Moll. During her time in Massachusetts, she worked as the primary pianist for the saxophone studios at the New England Conservatory, Boston University, and Boston Conservatory, where she worked with the renowned saxophonist Kenneth Radnofsky. After completing her master's degree, Dr. Lee worked as a Longy School of Music staff pianist. She continued her studies with Dr. Andrew Campbell at Arizona State University, where she received her Doctorate of Musical Arts in Collaborative Piano and Chamber Music in 2019.

Dr. Lee published *A New Piano Reduction of the Nielsen Flute Concerto* in December 2019. She served as a judge penal in concerto competition finals for the University of Northern Colorado Southard Music Competition and the University of Wyoming Jacoby Competition in 2023.

Dr. Lee joined Colorado State University as an instructor of music in collaborative piano in 2018.

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