

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE

MICHELLE KESLER, CELLO
SCOTT HOLDEN, PIANO

APRIL 11, 2024 | 7:30 P.M.
ORGAN RECITAL HALL



COLORADO STATE
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MICHELLE KESLER, CELLO | SCOTT HOLDEN, PIANO
ORGAN RECITAL HALL | 7:30 P.M. | APRIL 11, 2024

Program

Sonata for Cello and Piano in A minor op. 5

Ethel Smyth

(1858-1944)

- I. Allegro moderato
- II. Adagio non troppo
- III. Allegro vivace e grazioso

Sonata for Solo Cello in C minor, op. 28

Eugene Ysaye

(1858-1931)

- I. "Grave" Lento sostenuto
- II. "Intermezzo" Allegretto grazioso
- III. "In Modo di Recitativo" Adagio
- IV. "Finale con brio" Allegro fermo

INTERMISSION

Sonata for Cello and Piano, Op. 65

Benjamin Britten

- I. "Dialogo" Allegro (1913-1976)
- II. "Scherzo-pizzicato" Allegretto
- III. "Elegia" Lento
- IV. "Marcia" Energico
- V. "Moto Perpetuo" Presto

DR. SCOTT HOLDEN holds music degrees from the University of Michigan, Manhattan School of Music and the Juilliard School where he was a recipient of the Horowitz Prize. Studying for a year at the Liszt Academy in Budapest, he was a Fulbright Scholar. He is currently on the piano faculty at Brigham Young University where is director of the piano area. His performances have received wide praise. "...Few are the live performances which bring out, build, and shape this work as artistically as in this live performance....Mr. Holden sizzled the audience...." (*The Detroit Monitor*)

Holden is active as a soloist, collaborator and teacher. He has performed in over forty states, as well as Canada, Mexico, England, Belgium, Holland, Russia, Italy, Germany, France, Austria, Hungary, China, Singapore, and Vietnam. Holden's performances and recitals have been broadcast on NPR, NBC, the CBC, as well as numerous performances on local networks. He is a member of the American Piano Quartet with whom he has made many international tours. Recent and upcoming performances include solo, concerto, and chamber concerts from throughout the US ranging from Alaska to New York, as well as in Singapore, China, and Switzerland. In 2017 and 2018 he has been performing Rachmaninov's complete *Op. 39 Etude Tableaux*.

He has recorded for Parma, Bridge, and Tantara Records. His newest CD, *Beyond Vernon Duke* was given a five-star (highest) rating and praised: "Holden exhibits profoundly musical readings with obvious commitment and great attention to detail." *Fanfare* magazine stated: "Scott Holden plays these pieces with obvious commitment...and limpid lyricism.... he tackles the keyboard acrobatics fearlessly."

A prizewinner in numerous piano competitions, his 1996 Carnegie Hall debut recital was a result of winning first prize in the 1996 Leschetizky New York Debut Piano Competition. The *New York Concert Review* then wrote: "He is a pianist in the 'effortless technique category'....he displayed beautiful tone, sound technique and the ability to transform notes on a page into a distinctly personal statement.." He has also performed at the Kennedy Center, Alice Tully Hall and Moscow's Svetlanov Hall. With his interest in contemporary music, he has premiered numerous works including William Wallace's *2nd piano concerto*, which he performed with the Utah Symphony under Keith Lockhart. *The Salt Lake Tribune* wrote "Mr. Holden secured the stage in a virtuosic performance....We were torn between examining every new note passing by our ears, and Holden's pianistic acrobatics. It was a wonderful dilemma."

He has adjudicated and given master classes at festivals and pedagogy workshops across the country. Dr. Holden's students have been top prizewinners in numerous regional and national competitions including MTNA and the Gina Bachauer. His students have been accepted to the leading graduate programs in the nation. Dr. Holden has repeatedly been on the piano faculty of SummerArts with Juilliard, in Geneva, Switzerland, and has been faculty of the American Piano Forum festival in Pennsylvania. When time allows, he is a tireless explorer of Utah's red rock canyons with his wife and four children.

DR. MICHELLE KESLER is Associate Professor of Cello at Brigham Young University. She has distinguished herself as a chamber musician and soloist in a wide number of performances in Greece, Luxembourg, New Zealand, NYC, Boston, Arizona, New Mexico, Iowa, Idaho, Florida, California, and Utah. She has performed with the Beethoven Chamber Music Festival in Park City, and has worked with quartets such as the Orion, New Zealand String Quartet, St. Lawrence, Takacs, Tokyo, and Brentano String Quartets.

Michelle has established a reputation as a national and internationally respected teacher having conducted master classes in New Zealand School of Music, International Music Festival of Luxembourg, Boston Conservatory, University of Northern Colorado, University of Arizona, Arizona State University, University of Iowa, California State University-Fresno, DePaul University, University of Nevada Las Vegas, as well as universities around Utah. Her students have found success winning or advancing on both national and international level competitions such as, Music Teachers National Association State and National competition, Aspen Summer Music Festival Concerto Competition, Brimhall Cello Competition, and Osaka International Music Competition, and the Harrell Dungey Cello Loan Competition. She is an active orchestral musician and has played with orchestras in Arizona, Utah and Hawaii. During the summer she has taught at The Vianden International music festival in Luxembourg, Montecito International Music Festival, and the Young Musician's music festival held at Brigham Young University.

Michelle is passionate about new music and is actively commissioning, performing and premiering new works. She has premiered and/or commissioned new works with many composers including Raven Chacon, Jake Heggie, and Kurt Rhode, and is currently working on a commission with Michelle Ross on an interdisciplinary project collaborating with Dance, Media Arts, and Environmental Science performing in southern Utah slot canyons. Fall 2018 she was the National Parks Artist-In-Residence at Hubbell Trading Post and Canyon de Chelly in Northeastern Arizona where she gave performances and taught in the local schools.

As a member of ASTA, Michelle is also engaged and enthusiastic about music education. She presented at the 2022 ASTA National Virtual Conference on “Celebrating Diversity Through Inclusive Programming to Explore Voice”. She has also presented a lecture recital with the College Music Society entitled, “Voices from the Deep: An Aural Exploration of the Grand Canyon” featuring solo cello works inspired by the Grand Canyon.

Before joining the faculty at Brigham Young University, she received her bachelors degree at the University of Colorado in Boulder studying with Judith Glyde, and Andras Fejer of the Takacs quartet. She received her Doctoral and Masters degree at Arizona State University studying from Thomas Landschoot.



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