

First Monday at Jordan Hall

Thirty-ninth Anniversary Season Laurence Lesser, artistic director

Monday, November 6, 2023 7:30 p.m. NEC's Jordan Hall

PROGRAM

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)

The Lilacs, op. 21 no. 5 Loneliness, op. 21 no. 6 The Soldier's Wife, op. 8 no. 4 A Dream, op. 8 no. 5 Spring Waters, op. 14 no. 11

brief pause

Daisies, op. 38 no. 3 A-Oo!, op. 38 no. 6 Dream, op. 38 no. 5

> Sari Gruber, soprano Cameron Stowe, piano

Intermission

Trio Élégiaque No. 2 in D Minor, op. 9

Moderato - Allegro vivace Quasi variazione: Andante Allegro risoluto – Moderato

Alessio Bax, piano Maria Ioudenitch '20 MM, '22 AD, violin Brannon Cho '19 AD, cello

Сирень

По утру, на заре, По росистой траве, Я пойду свежим утром дышать;

И в душистую тень, Где теснится сирень, Я пойду своё счастье искать...

В жизни счастье одно Мне найти суждено, И то счастье в сирени живёт; На зелёных ветвях, На душистых кистях Моё бедное счастье цветёт...

Ekaterina Andreyena Beketova

Что так усиленно сердце больное

Что так усиленно сердце больное Бьётся, и просит, и жаждет покоя? Чем я взволнован испутан в ночи?

Стукнула дверь застонав и заноя.

Гаснущей лампы блеснули лучи...

Боже мой. Дух мне в груди захватило! Кто-то зовёт меня, шепчет уныло... Кто-то вошёл...? Моя келья пуста,

Нет никого, это полночь пробило...

О, одиночество, о нищета!

Aleksei Nikolayevich Apukitin

Lilacs

In the morning, at dawn,
Through the dew-clad grass,
I shall walk, breathing in the freshness of
morning;
And to the fragrant shade,
Where lilacs cluster,

In life there is but one happiness That I am fated to find, And that happiness dwells in the lilacs; On their green branches, In their fragrant clusters

I shall go in search of happiness...

My poor happiness blooms...

Translation © Philip Ross Bullock, provided via Oxford International Song Festival (www.oxfordsong.org)

Loneliness (fragment from A. de Musset)

Why does my aching heart so strenuously Beat, and plead, and yearn for peace? What troubles me and terrifies me in the night?

A door has banged shut, groaning and whining;

The sputtering lamp has sent out flashing rays of light...

My God! My breath catches in my chest!

Someone calls to me, whispering gloomily...

Someone has come in... but my room is empty,

There is nobody here - it was midnight striking.

Oh, loneliness, o poverty!

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Полюбила я

Полюбила я,
На печаль свою,
Сиротинушку
Бесталанного.
Уж такая Доля мне

выпала!

Разлучили нас Люди сильные; Увезли его,

Сдали в рекруты... И солдаткой я, Одинокой я,

Знать, в чужой избе И состареюсь... Уж такая Доля мне

выпала.

Aleksey Nikolayevich Pleshcheyev

The Soldier's Wife

I fell in love,
To my sorrow,
With a poor orphan,
With an ill-fated lad.
Such is the lot
That befell me!
Powerful folks
Separated us;

They took him away,

And made a conscript of him...

A soldier's wife I am, All alone I am,

It seems that I shall grow old

In a stranger's hut... Such is the lot That befell me.

Translation © Philip Ross Bullock, provided via Oxford International Song Festival

(www.oxfordsong.org)

Сон

И у меня был край родной; Прекрасен он! Там ель качалась надо мной... Но то был сон!

Семья друзей жива была. Со всех сторон Звучали мне любви слова... Но то был сон!

Aleksey Nikolayevich Pleshcheyev

A Dream

I too had a native land, Which was so beautiful! A fir tree swayed over me there... But that was a dream!

A clan of friends still lived then, Surrounding me on all sides And speaking words of love to me... But that was a dream!

Translation © Philip Ross Bullock, provided via Oxford International Song Festival (www.oxfordsong.org)

Весенние воды

Ещё в полях белеет снег, А воды уж весной шумят --Бегут и будят сонный брег, Бегут, и блещут, и гласят...

Spring Waters

The fields are still white with snow, But the streams already herald spring – They run and stir the sleepy banks, They run, and glitter, and proclaim... Они гласят во все концы: «Весна идёт, весна идёт! Мы молодой весны гонцы, Она нас выслала вперёд.

Весна идёт, весна идёт, И тихих, тёплых майских дней Румяный, светлый хоровод Толпится весело за ней!...»

Fyodor Ivanovich Tyutchev

They proclaim in every direction: 'Spring is coming, spring is coming! We are the messengers of youthful spring, Who has sent us on ahead.

Spring is coming, spring is coming, And the quiet, warm days of May, Like some rosy, radiant round-dance, Rush gaily in its wake!..'

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Маргаритки

О, посмотри! как много маргариток — И там, и тут...

Они цветут; их много; их избыток;

Они цветут.

Их лепестки трёхгранные — как крылья, Как белый шёлк...

В них лета мощ! В них радость изобилья!

В них слетлый полк

Готовь, земля, цветам из рос напиток, Дай сок стеблю...

О, девушки! о, звезды маргариток! Я вас дюбдю...

Igor Vasil'yevich Lotaryov

Daisies

Just look! See how many daisies there are Here and there...

They are in flower, so many of them, such abundance.

They are in flower.

Their three-faceted petals are like wings, Like white silk.

They are the summer's might, the joy of plenty,

A radiant army!

Prepare, oh earth, a drink of dew drops, To refresh the flowers' stems... Oh maidens fair! Oh little daisy starlets! How I love you!

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Твой нежный смех был сказкою изменчивою.

Он звал как в сон зовёт свирельный звон. И вот венком, стихом тебя увенчиваю. Уйдём, бежим вдвоем на горный склон.

Но где же ты? Лишь звон вершин позванивает Цветку цветок средь дня зажег свечу.

И чей-то смех все в глубь меня заманивает.

Пою, ищу, Ay! Ay!

кричу.

Konstantin Dmitrevich Bal'mont

A-Oo!

Your tender laughter was a fickle fairytale,

It calls me out of the dream on pipe chimes. Now my garland of poetry crowns you. Let's go, let's run, both of us, to the mountainside!

But where are you?
Only the pipes from the top chime...
One flower to another flower light the candle of midday.

And someone's laughter calls to me from the depths.

I sing, I search,

"A-oo!"

"A-oo!"

I cry.

Translation from Russian (Pyccκuŭ) to English copyright © 2007 by Laura Claycomb and Peter Grunberg, reprinted with permission from the Liedernet Archive, https://www.lieder.net/

Сон

В мире нет ничего Дожделеннее сна, Чары есть у него, У него тишина, У него на устах Ни печаль и ни смех,

И в бездонных очах Много тайных утех.

У него широки,
Широки два крыла,
И легки, так лёгки,
Как полночная мгла.
Не понять, как несёт,
И куда и на чем
Он крылом не взмахнет

И не двинет плечом.

Fyodor Kuzmych Teternikov

Dream

There is nothing in the world More longed for than sleep, It enchants, It brings silence, On its lips Is neither sadness nor laughter, And in its fathomless eyes

There are many secret delights.

Wide are its wings,
Wide its two wings,
And so light, oh so light,
Like the darkness at midnight.
We cannot know how it carries us,
Whither and on what,
Its wings do not beat,
Its shoulders do not move.

Translation © Philip Ross Bullock

Artist biographies

Combining exceptional lyricism and insight with consummate technique, **Alessio Bax** is without a doubt "among the most remarkable young pianists now before the public" (*Gramophone*). He catapulted to prominence with First Prize wins at both the Leeds and Hamamatsu International Piano Competitions. He has appeared as a concerto soloist who has appeared with more than 150 orchestras, including the New York, London, Royal, and St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestras, the Baltimore, Boston, Dallas, Cincinnati, Seattle, Sydney, and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestras, and the Tokyo and NHK Symphony in Japan, collaborating with such eminent conductors as Marin Alsop, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Sir Andrew Davis, Fabio Luisi, Sir Simon Rattle, Yuri Temirkanov, and Jaap van Zweden.

As a renowned chamber musician, he recently collaborated with Joshua Bell, Ian Bostridge, Lucille Chung, Vilde Frang, Steven Isserlis, Daishin Kashimoto, Sergei Nakariakov, Emmanuel Pahud, Lawrence Power, Jean-Guihen Queyras, Paul Watkins and Tabea Zimmermann.

Since 2017 he has been the Artistic Director of the Incontri in Terra di Siena Festival, a Summer Music Festival in the Val d'Orcia region of Tuscany. He appears regularly in festivals such as Seattle, Bravo Vail, Salon-de-Provence, Le Pont in Japan, Great Lakes, Verbier, Ravinia and Music@Menlo.

Bax's award winning Signum Classics discography includes 13 albums covering a wide range of solo, piano duo and concerto repertoire.

At the record age of 14, Bax graduated with top honors from the conservatory of Bari, his hometown in Italy, and after further studies in Europe, he moved to the United States in 1994. A Steinway artist, he lives in New York City with pianist Lucille Chung and their daughter, Mila. He has been on the piano faculty of Boston's New England Conservatory since the fall of 2019.

Brannon Cho is the First Prize winner of the prestigious 6th International Paulo Cello Competition, and is also a top prize winner of the Queen Elisabeth, Naumburg, and Cassadó International Cello Competitions.

Most recently, Brannon Cho is the recipient of the 2020 Janos Starker Foundation Award, the Landgraf von Hessen Prize from Kronberg Academy, the 2019 Ivan Galamian Award previously held by James Ehnes, and is a scholarship holder in the Anne-Sophie Mutter Foundation.

Brannon Cho has appeared as a soloist with many of the top orchestras around the world, including the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Belgian National Orchestra, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, and Brussels Philharmonic.

Born in New Jersey, Brannon Cho received his bachelor's degree from Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music under Hans Jørgen Jensen. He was awarded the Artist Diploma from New England Conservatory, where he studied with Laurence Lesser. He also completed the Professional Studies program at the Kronberg Academy, under the tutelage of Frans Helmerson. Brannon Cho performs

on a rare cello made by Antonio Casini in 1668 in Modena, Italy, and is sponsored by Thomastik-Infeld.

Hailed as "nothing short of sensational" by *Opera* magazine, **Sari Gruber** has appeared with Lyric Opera of Chicago, NYCO, Los Angeles Opera, Netherlands Opera, Maggio Musicale di Firenze, Saito Kinen Festival, Seiji Ozawa's Ongaku-Juku, Opera Philadelphia, Pittsburgh Opera, Florida Grand, Opera Pacific, OTSL, Boston Lyric, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Portland Opera, Connecticut Opera, Austin Lyric, and Arizona Opera, performing her signature roles of Susanna/*Le nozze di Figaro*, Despina/*Così fan tutte*, and Musetta/*La Bohème*, in addition to Pamina/*Zauberflöte*, Norina/*Don Pasquale*, Adina/*L'elisir d'amore*, Gretel/*Hänsel und Gretel*, Gilda/*Rigoletto*, Juliette/*Roméo et Juliette*, Anne/*Rake's Progress*, Vixen/*Cunning Little Vixen*, Rose/*Street Scene*, Alexandra/*Regina*, Nannetta/*Falstaff*, Aricie/*Hippolyte et Aricie*, Poppea / *Agrippina*, Carolina/*Matrimonio Segreto*, Marzelline/*Fidelio*, Fiordiligi/*Così fan tutte*, Zerlina/*Don Giovanni*, Adele/*Fledermaus*, Beth/*Little Women*, Lisette/*Rondine*, Miss Hedgehog/*Fantastic Mr*. *Fox* (World Premiere), and Helena/*Midsummer Night's Dream*.

An acclaimed recitalist and the 2005 Naumburg Competition winner, Ms. Gruber has sung many solo recitals with long-time collaborator Cameron Stowe at Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, and noted recital venues throughout the US, including BSO's Shakespeare Festival. Additionally, she has sung in recital with NY Philharmonic's Copland Festival and frequently with NY Festival of Song. Further concert credits include the Symphony Orchestras of Pittsburgh, Dallas, Boston, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Milwaukee, Houston, Indianapolis, North Carolina, Richmond, Savannah, Omaha, Winston-Salem, Jacksonville, and Columbus, the Philharmonics of Buffalo, Erie, and Florida, as well as Philharmonia Baroque, Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, Boston Baroque, Portland Baroque, ProMusica Chamber Ensemble, Aspen Music Festival Orchestra, Berkshire Choral Festival, and Skaneateles Festival, performing solo repertoire including *B Minor Mass, Messiah, Silete Venti, The Creation*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Beethoven's *Egmont* and *Symphony No. 9*, Bruckner's *Te Deum*, Mahler's *Symphony No. 2* and 4, Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1916*, Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5*, *Seven Deadly Sins*, and *Songfest*.

Recent performances include Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang* with Dallas Symphony, *Messia*h with Indianapolis Symphony, *Four Last Songs* with Symphoria, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* with Pittsburgh Symphony, and recitals with NYFOS, Bluff Series and CMU's Chamber Music Series. Ms. Gruber serves on the voice faculty of Carnegie Mellon University.

American-Russian violinist **Maria Ioudenitch** captured the attention of music lovers worldwide when she received first prizes in three international violin competitions – the Ysaÿe, Tibor Varga and Joseph Joachim – in 2021, as well as numerous special prizes at these competitions, including Joachim's Chamber Music Award, the prize for Best Interpretation of the Commissioned Work and the Henle Urtext Prize. In 2023, she won the Opus Klassik award in the category "Chamber Music Recording of the Year" for her debut album, *Songbird*, on Warner Classics.

Highlights of Maria's 23/24 season include concerts with Camerata Bern, where she will open the season with a play-direct program, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Orquesta Sinfónica de Galicia, Stuttgart Philharmonic, Frankfurt Radio Symphony and Dresden Philharmonic, the latter to include a six-city tour of the UK. Furthermore, she made her debut at the Vienna Musikverein in October 2023, where she performed with Elena Bashkirova, among others. She will also feature on the Marlboro Music Festival's US tour, having attended the festival under the artistic direction of Mitsuko Uchida and Jonathan Biss for the third time this summer. In September, she participated in the Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival directed by Elena Bashkirova, and in February, she returns to Carnegie Hall for a chamber music concert presented by the Kronberg Academy. This season, for the first time she will also perform recitals with her father, Stanislav Ioudenitch.

Maria grew up in Kansas City and began playing violin with Gregory Sandomirsky at the age of three. She continued her studies with Ben Sayevich at the International Center for Music in Kansas City and Pamela Frank and Shmuel Ashkenasi at the Curtis Institute of Music and completed her master's degree and Artist Diploma at New England Conservatory, where she studied with Miriam Fried. Last year, she was mentored by Sonia Simmenauer as part of her new initiative, zukunfts.music. Currently, she is in the Professional Studies program at the Kronberg Academy, working with Christian Tetzlaff. She is also a member of the emerging US-based chamber music collective, ensemble132.

Pianist **Cameron Stowe** is a leading specialist in the study and performance of song recital repertoire. Throughout his career his work has been led by his passion for poetry and song, and he has received much critical praise and numerous awards for his commitment to this art form. A pianist "worth his weight in gold," "Strong, precise, supple and sensitive" (*New York Times*) he has been praised for "his subtlety, his knack of supporting the voice and engaging it in dialogue, his powers of mood painting" (*Washington Post*) and his ability to "match the singer subtlety for subtlety, shimmer for shimmer" (*Baltimore Sun*).

Stowe has appeared in concert venues and music festivals throughout the world, playing with some of most prominent concert singers of his generation, including Randall Scarlata, Denyce Graves, Measha Brueggergosman, Danielle DeNiese, Faith Esham, Susan Graham, Vinson Cole, Sari Gruber, and Jesse Blumberg.

For more than a decade Stowe has served as Chair of the Collaborative Piano department at New England Conservatory and as a faculty member at The Juilliard School. This past summer marked his second year as director of Collaborative Piano at Aspen Music Festival. Other festival activities include residencies at Toronto Summer Music Festival, Placido Domingo Festival, Vancouver International Song Institute, and he has given masterclasses for singers and pianists throughout the United States and abroad.

Stowe holds a doctorate from Juilliard and degrees from The Peabody Conservatory (Johns Hopkins), Oberlin College Conservatory, and the North Carolina School of the Arts.

Upcoming First Monday at Jordan Hall Fall, 2023

Mozart String Quintet in C Minor, K. 406
Shostakovich Symphony No. 15 in A Minor, op. 141
transcr. for chamber ensemble by Viktor Derevianko)
Korbinian Altenberger, Paul Biss, Stephanie Zyzak, violin
Nicholas Cords, Marcus Thompson, viola
Blaise Déjardin, Alex Hersh, cello
Pei-Shan Lee, piano
Daniel Bauch, Jeffrey Means, Robert Schulz, percussion
Monday, December 4, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

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TUESDAY NIGHT NEW MUSIC

New music by NEC student composers, performed by their peers Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

NEC PHILHARMONIA & SYMPHONIC CHOIR, David Loebel, conductor

Pärt Fratres; Mozart "Great" Mass in C Minor, K. 427 - soloists: Yeonjae Cho, Josie Larsen, Ruoxi Peng, Shiyu Zhuo, soprano; Suowei Wu, tenor; Hyungjin Son, baritone

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

SONATA NIGHT 48, Pei-Shan Lee, director

All Schumann program in collaboration with Ayano Ninomiya's violin studio Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

FACULTY RECITAL: VIVIAN HORNIK WEILERSTEIN, piano, CAMERON STOWE, piano, SARI GRUBER, SOPRANO, DONALD WEILERSTEIN, violin

Works by Ives, Kurtág, Schubert, and Weinberg

Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

FACULTY RECITAL: LAURENCE LESSER, cello, and MINSOO SOHN, piano

Bartók Rhapsody No. 1 for Cello and Piano; Bach Cello Suite No. 6; Rachmaninoff, Sonata in G Minor for Cello and Piano

Monday, November 13, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

CMA DEPARTMENT: "1923"

A retrospective concert directed by Anthony Coleman Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC New Music Ensemble, Hugh Wolff, conductor

Ligeti Six Bagatelles; Stravinsky Octet; Villa-Lobos Bachianas brasileiras No. 5; Boulez Messagesquisse; Yuan-Chen Li Butterfly; Piazzolla The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

NEC Symphony, Paul Biss, conductor

Zwilich Jubilation; Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2 – Seongwoo Moon, piano; Dvořák Symphony No. 8

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

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Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall, and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited.

Assistive listening devices are available for all Jordan Hall concerts; contact the head usher or house manager on duty or inquire at the Coat Room.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.





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