

Letian Cheng
violin

Recital in partial fulfillment of the
Doctor of Musical Arts degree, 2027
Student of Nicholas Kitchen

with
Nan Ni, organ
Hsin-Hao Vincent Yang, piano
Zhiye Lin, piano

Monday, March 31, 2025
8:00 p.m.
Pierce Hall

PROGRAM

Georg Muffat
(1653–1704)

Violin Sonata in D Major
Adagio – Allegro – Adagio – Allegro –
Adagio

Nan Ni, organ

Aaron Copland
(1900–1990)

Sonata for Violin and Piano
Andante semplice – Allegro – Andante
Lento
Allegretto giusto – Presto – Andante

Hsin-Hao Vincent Yang, piano

Intermission

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770–1827)

Violin Sonata No. 10 in G Major, op. 96
Allegro moderato
Adagio espressivo
Scherzo: Allegro – Trio
Poco allegretto

Zhiye Lin, piano

*Letian Cheng is the recipient of a scholarship made possible by the
Ken and Barbara Burnes Scholarship Fund.*

Muffat *Violin Sonata in D Major*

“Had these flowers been set out and planted in some other place, they could never have prospered; the roots would have been all but smothered, either because of harmful shade from envious branches, or through the spite of awful storms, had not Your Esteemed Grace shown them favor and freed them from the sand and the unfruitful clods and set them out in his Passau garden bed... Since I had my start in France with the most experienced masters of this art of music, I realize that I could be accused of favoring that nation more than is appropriate, and in this time of war with France I could be considered unworthy of the kindly disposed ear of the Germans.”

—*Florilegium Primum* (1695), in *Georg Muffat on Performance Practice*, ed. and trans. David K. Wilson (Indiana University Press, 2001).

Copland *Sonata for Violin and Piano*

“During the mid-30s I began to feel an increasing dissatisfaction with the relations of the music-loving public and the living composer... An entirely new public for music had grown up around the radio and phonograph. It made no sense to ignore them and to continue writing as if they did not exist. I felt that it was worth the effort to see if I couldn’t say what I had to say in the simplest possible terms. My most recent works, in their separate ways, embody this tendency toward an imposed simplicity.”

—*Composer from Brooklyn: An Autobiographical Sketch* (1939)

“Functional music was in demand as never before, certainly as never before in the experience of our serious composers. Motion-picture and ballet companies, radio stations and schools, film and theater producers discovered us. The music appropriate for the different kinds of cooperative ventures undertaken by these people had to be simpler and more direct.”

—*Composer from Brooklyn: An Autobiographical Sketch* (1967 revision), in Aaron Copland, *The New Music, 1900–1960* (W. W. Norton, 1968).

Beethoven *Violin Sonata No. 10 in G Major, op. 96*

“Your Imperial Highness! The copyist will be able to begin work on the last movement very early tomorrow morning. Since in the meantime I myself have been engaged on several other works, I have not hurried unduly to compose the last movement merely for the sake of being punctual, the more so as in view of Rode’s playing I have had to give more thought to the composition of this movement. In our Finales we like to have fairly noisy passages, but Rode does not care for them — and so I have been rather hampered. — However, everything ought to go off well on Tuesday. Whether I shall be able to betake myself to Your Imperial Highness that evening I take the liberty doubting, notwithstanding my zeal to serve you. But I shall come instead tomorrow morning and tomorrow afternoon in order fully to carry out the wishes of my eminent pupil — Your Imperial Highness’s most humble Ludwig van Beethoven.”

—Ludwig van Beethoven to the Archduke Rudolph, shortly before December 29, 1812, in *The Letters of Beethoven*, Vol I, ed. and trans. Emily Anderson (Macmillan, 1961).

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.

Stay connected 

N|E|C
New England
Conservatory

necmusic.edu/tonight