

SUNY New Paltz Department of Music Presents



Music Without Borders

Piano Trios of Fanny Mendelssohn & Maurice Ravel

Studley Theatre

Tuesday, Feb. 25

7:30 p.m.

— Program —

Piano Trio in D minor, Op. 11 (1847)

Fanny Mendelssohn
(1805-1847)

- I. Allegro molto vivace
- II. Andante espressivo
- III. Lied: Allegretto
- IV. Finale: Allegro moderato

Piano Trio in A minor (1914)

Maurice Ravel
(1875-1937)

- I. Modéré
- II. Pantoum: Assez vif
- III. Passacaille: Très large
- IV. Final: Animé

ARTIST BIOS

Praised by The New York Times as “spellbinding,” violinist **Alex Shiozaki** is emerging as a strong advocate for the music of today. At home with music new and old, he has performed in venues from Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall in New York City to Sapporo Concert Hall Kitara in Japan. Recent highlights include solo appearances with the Sapporo Symphony, Sendai Philharmonic, and the New York-based AXIOM Ensemble.

Dedicated to chamber music, Shiozaki is a member of the Momenta Quartet, two-time recipient of the Koussevitzky Foundation commission grant. The Quartet has appeared in such prestigious venues as the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., the International Cervantino Festival in Mexico City, and the Ostrava Days Festival in the Czech Republic, as well as at universities including Harvard, Cornell, and Brown. Shiozaki also performs in recital across the United States as part of the Shiozaki Duo, alongside his wife and pianist Nana Shi. In New York, he appears regularly with the Argento Ensemble, Le Train Bleu, and American Contemporary Music Ensemble. In the summer of 2011, he joined the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra on their tour to Japan.

Shiozaki received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Juilliard School, where his principal teachers were Joseph Lin and Ronald Copes of the Juilliard String Quartet. His scholarly research was focused on Western music in Japan, specifically that of contemporary composer Somei Satoh. He also received a Master of Music degree from Juilliard, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard College. Committed to arts education, he holds teaching positions at the Juilliard School, SUNY New Paltz, and the Interlochen Center for the Arts.

Cellist **Robert Burkhart** combines a deep commitment to the existing cello repertoire with what the New Yorker magazine calls an “adventurous” spirit in new music. With performance credits at Alice Tully Hall, Barge-music, Carnegie Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Hall, and the Rose Studio at Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Burkhart has also appeared as a soloist throughout Japan as a member of the New York Symphonic Ensemble, and been featured in recital on WQXR’s “Young Artist Showcase.”

At the center of new music in New York, Burkhart has performed with the American Modern Ensemble, Argento New Music Project, Fireworks Ensemble, Newspeak, and SONYC. He has recently collaborated with Uri Caine, Georg Friedrich Haas, Aaron Jay Kernis, Steve Mackey, Joan Tower, Charles Wourinen, and Chen Yi. He has

performed the New York premiere of John Harbison's "Abu Ghraib" for cello and piano, and was the soloist in Augusta Read Thomas' "Passion Prayers" for cello and chamber ensemble at the New York Times Center.

Burkhart's major teachers include Paul Tobias at the Mannes College of Music and Uri Vardi at University of Wisconsin-Madison, and he has worked with Timothy Eddy, Aldo Parisot, and Janos Starker at festivals and masterclasses. He has taught at Juilliard Pre-College, Mannes Prep, Syracuse University, and Music Conservatory of Westchester, and been artist-in-residence at Yale University and the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada. His recent CD "20/21: Music for Cello and Piano from the 20th and 21st Centuries" features pianist Blair McMillen and the premiere of a work for cello and piano by composer Andrew Waggoner. Burkhart's recording of solo Bach on the American Express commercial "Don't Take Chances. Take Charge," has garnered national attention.

Born in mainland China, pianist **Nana Shi** is a sought-after performer, collaborator, and music educator. Based in NYC, she has recently performed at Brooklyn Art Song Society, PhiloSonia Concert Series, Momenta Festival, Merkin Hall, Roerich Museum, Tenri Cultural Institute, SUNY New Paltz, and Bates College, among others. Her recent solo recital for piano and electronics at SUNY New Paltz has been praised for having "both a sense of serene beauty and striking intensity" by the New Paltz Oracle. OperaWire called Shi's rendition of Alban Berg's songs with soprano Jennifer Zetlan "intuitive" and "breathtaking" with "exquisite attention to detail."

Equally at home in performance of chamber music and vocal music, she has collaborated with many great musicians such as Lucy Shelton, Joseph Lin, Midori Gotō, and members of the Momenta Quartet. She spent many summers at music festivals such as Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival, Tanglewood Music Center, Banff Music Centre, Interlochen Arts Camp, and Chelsea Music Festival in NYC. She also frequently performs as the pianist of Shiozaki Duo alongside her husband and violinist Alex Shiozaki.

Shi holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance from SUNY Stony Brook under the tutelage of Gil Kalish, and Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. She currently teaches at SUNY New Paltz during the academic year and Interlochen Arts Camp in the summer. She also serves as a staff accompanist at the Juilliard School and the music director of Union Church of Bay Ridge.

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