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2024-25



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Doctoral Recital

Bobby Pace, collaborative piano

With:

Brooks Hafey, piano

Charlie Bistodeau, violin

Lauren Lier, violin

Erik Okel, cello

7:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 22, 2024

S102

PROGRAM

Sonata for Piano Four Hands (2009)

Carl Vine (b. 1954)

- I. Prelude
- II. Waltz
- III. Deuces
- IV. Meditation
- V. Toccata

Brooks Hafey, piano

Suite for Violin and Piano

Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024)

- I. Summer Day
- II. Elegy
- III. Jazz Romp

Charlie Bistodeau, violin

Intermission

Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 15

Bedřich Smetana (1824-1884)

- I. Moderato assai
- II. Allegro, ma non agitato
- III. Finale: Presto

Lauren Lier, violin

Erik Okel, cello

PROGRAM NOTES

Sonata for Piano Four Hands

Carl Vine (b. 1954)

Carl Vine is an Australian composer who is best known for his symphonies, piano and chamber music, and dance music. He writes in his program notes for this piece that “In my earlier piano sonatas I occasionally wished that the soloist could grow an extra hand to manage all of the requisite notes.” This Sonata for Piano Four Hands is the result of that desire. The work is in five sections, and begins with a prelude that is whimsically rhythmic with irregular meters and accents offset between the two players. The second section is a slow waltz that uses colorful harmonies and written-out improvisatory passages. Deuces is the third section, an exercise in which Vine separates the melodic and accompanying material between the four hands in every possible combination. This results in unique timbres when shared material is spread across the wide range of the instrument. The fourth section, Meditation, features an ostinato in the secondo part and a time signature marked $3/4+5/8$. Again, Vine writes quasi-improvisatory figures in the primo part over the ostinato. The final section, Toccata, is a raucous movement that consistently plays with metrical dissonance and unusual rhythmic groupings.

Suite for Violin and Piano

Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024)

Emma Lou Diemer was an American composer who received degrees in music composition from Yale and Eastman. She was a very prolific composer, writing many works for orchestra, band, chamber ensemble, solo instruments, voices, and electronics. The Suite for Violin and Piano was written for violinist Philip Ficsor and premiered by him with the composer at the piano in 2008. The programmatic titles of the movements give insight into this piece: “Summer Day” is light-hearted, carefree, and accessible. “Elegy” is an expressive solo for the violin with chordal support from the piano. “Jazz Romp” is an impressive, drivingly rhythmic piece with changing meters and fun accents.

Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 15

Bedřich Smetana (1824-1884)

Bedřich Smetana was a Czech composer of the 19th century who was regarded in his homeland as the father of Czech music. His most notable works are the opera *The Bartered Bride* and the symphonic cycle *Má vlast*. The Piano Trio in g minor comes from the very small oeuvre of chamber music of Smetana. The first movement is a passionate and expansive piece that features a cadenza for the piano before the recapitulation and a fiery coda that speeds up constantly. The second movement is a playful scherzo with contrasting sections of lyricism and march. The third movement is a rumbling incessant ball of anxiety in which Smetana plays with the textures of pizzicato and arco in the string parts.

ABOUT THE PERFORMER

Pianist **Bobby Pace** is currently a third-year DMA student in Collaborative Piano at CU Boulder, studying with Margaret McDonald and Alexandra Nguyen. A native of St. Petersburg, Florida, he received the MM in Accompanying from Florida State University, studying with Valerie Trujillo, the MM in Music Theory from Florida State University, and the BM in Piano Performance from Stetson University, studying with Michael Rickman. Mr. Pace was the Staff Pianist and Music Events Coordinator at Chadron State College in the panhandle of Nebraska from 2015-2022. Career highlights include participating in the NATS Intern Program (2024-Tallahassee), SongFest (LA), La Musica Lirica (Novafeltria, Italy), and the Orfeo Festival (Vipiteno, Italy). During the summers, he works as a pianist for the musical theatre area at Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan. When he's not sitting on a piano bench, he enjoys running, scary movies, and hanging out with his husband, Brooks Hafey, and three dogs, Cosma, Richter, and Lenya.

Brooks Hafey has been sharing his exceptional musicianship and refined technique with audiences since childhood. He has performed in a wide range of venues in the United States including Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in New York City. Overseas performances include concerts in France, Italy, and Norway. In addition to his career as a soloist, Hafey is an active chamber musician, collaborative artist, and conductor. In 2008 he made his debut as an opera conductor in Novafeltria, Italy with Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and has returned to Italy in recent summers to conduct Puccini's *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi*.

Hafey's wide-ranging repertoire spans from the works of French Baroque masters Jean-Philippe Rameau and François Couperin to the composers of the twenty-first century. An advocate of contemporary piano composition, Hafey has presented a lecture recital of Ghost

Variations, by American composer and Grawemeyer Award-winner George Tsontakis. In early 2016 he gave the world premieres of Joshua Keeling's *Gravitons and Neutrinos*.

Hafey holds degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Missouri-Columbia and Florida State University and also studied at the Conservatoire Municipal de Mennecy in France under Juan Davila. Former teachers include Read Gainsford, Carolyn Bridger, and Janice Wenger. Hafey has held teaching positions at Gulf Coast State College in Panama City, Florida, and Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. He is currently Professor of Music at Chadron State College in Nebraska. In celebration of the Debussy centenary, Hafey performed the complete piano works and chamber works with piano of Claude Debussy in 2018. He was also the curator and principal performer of the 2020-2022 Beethoven Festival at Chadron State College. During the 2022-2023 concert season, he performed a series of 8 solo recitals covering the history of piano music.

Charlie Bistodeau recently completed his master's degree in violin performance at the University of Colorado Boulder where he held a Teaching Assistant position for Professor Charles Wetherbee. In his undergraduate studies, Charlie attended the University of North Texas studying with Julia Bushkova. He has won several competitions including the Alaska Youth Symphony, Anchorage Civic Orchestra, and Anchorage Chamber Music Festival Concerto Competitions. Charlie played as first violin in the Frieden Quartet, which was awarded a fellowship at the Anchorage Chamber Music Festival and competed in the finals of the Coltman and MTNA Competitions.

Lauren Lier is a Colorado-based violinist currently completing a master's degree at the University of Colorado Boulder. She received her Bachelor of Music degree in violin performance *summa cum laude* from St. Olaf College in Minnesota, where she continued to perform and teach in the Twin Cities before returning to Colorado. Lauren has studied and performed at festivals

in the U.S., Austria, and Ukraine as both a violinist and a vocalist. She also works as the Director of Worship at Abiding Hope Lutheran Church in Littleton, where she enjoys exploring a variety of genres as a singer, violinist, and guitar player. Outside of music, Lauren loves reading mystery novels and trying new recipes.

Erik Okel is pursuing a master's degree in cello performance at the University of Colorado Boulder and is a recipient of the Chamber Takacs Society-MU Scholarship. He received his bachelor's degree in Cello Performance from the University of Oregon, graduating *magna cum laude*. His performance interests include the symphonic repertoire, early music, and creating arrangements of his favorite popular music. Recently, Erik attended the Icicle Creek Chamber Music Institute for three weeks of intensive chamber music study. In his free time, Erik enjoys cooking, reading bad science-fiction books, and re-watching shows.

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