

LOOKING BACH-WARDS



Saturday November 20, 2021 7:30 p.m. Trinity Episcopal Church Shepherdstown, WV



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WELCOME TO TONIGHT'S CONCERT!

After opening our 2021-2022 Friends of Music Concert Season on October 9 with a lovely Two Rivers String Quartet concert, it's time to feature the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra. Admittedly, the assemblage is smaller than usual, encompassing strings and only one other instrument, the oboe. But the program is delightful and will feature two soloists whose talents help to make this orchestra so valued. Our Concertmaster, Heather Austin-Stone, will join with our Principal Oboist, Noelle Drewes, as soloists for Bach's Concerto for violin and oboe. Together with the orchestra's other musicians, they will offer this popular and moving work in a program of great resonance. (Note: this concerto will be performed in D minor rather than C minor as originally planned.) Grieg's Holberg Suite was originally composed for the piano but quickly adapted for string orchestra and is among his more popular and well-known works. Tchaikovsky's Souvenir de Florence is equally familiar but unlike the other selections has much firepower, reflecting our desire as an organization to return to normal (or nearly so) with gusto.

And on that note, let me speak for our Board of Directors and say how delighted we are with the response to our efforts so far. Many of you have commented how wonderful it is to be getting together again, even though we are constrained in numbers and the ability to converse. And we are thankful that so many of you have been flexible, even complimentary, about the special two-part arrangements for today's performances. Asking our musicians to reduce the number of rehearsals or to play an extra concert after a Saturday dress rehearsal was just something we did not see as fair or wise. The decision to offer broad attendance at the dress rehearsal instead seemed like something worth trying. So we'll be anxious to get your feedback, both about the music and the arrangements. We'll send a survey soon. Please do respond if you can; our funders want to know what you enjoy and value, and the degree to which their investment in Friends of Music is worth continuing. And we want to know, too, so we can do our utmost to fulfill your desires and expectations.

With very best wishes,

Judith Miller Jones President, Friends of Music

MUSIC DIRECTOR



"Generous" is the word listeners and performers use time and again to describe conductor Jed Gaylin's approach to the orchestra, the score, and the audience. His joyful abandon and probing intellect combine to create powerful programs, compelling interpretations, and evenings that are fresh and exuberant. The legendary conductor George Szell said: "In music one must think with the heart and feel with the mind." Jed Gaylin embodies this maxim abundantly and passionately.

JED GAYLIN

Jed Gaylin was named music director of the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra in 2012 after a nationwide search. A thorough professional, he has made a tremendous difference in the quality and creativity of the orchestra's programming and performances.

His approach to music, musicians, and life-lived-large is rare: It includes an old-world commitment to study and depth of conception, combined with a welcoming presence and warm engagement – both on and off the podium.

Orchestra members and soloists often recount how Jed's rehearsals and performances elicit their very best, not only individually but collectively. His dedication to exploring music's fullest potential in a collaborative spirit reaches beyond the stage to draw the audience into the creative act. Listeners feel engaged as participants in an eloquent musical conversation.

Jed is also the music director of the Hopkins Symphony Orchestra in Baltimore and the Bay Atlantic Symphony in New Jersey. In addition, he is principal guest conductor of the Cape May Music Festival. His numerous guest appearances include the St. Petersburg State Symphony, National Film and Radio Philharmonic (Beijing, China), Shanghai Conservatory Orchestra, Bucharest Radio Orchestra, Academia del Gran Teatre del Liceu (Barcelona, Spain), Eastman School of Music Broadband Ensemble, and many others.

He earned both a Bachelor of Music in piano and a Master of Music in conducting at the Oberlin Conservatory, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in conducting at the Peabody Conservatory. He attended the Aspen Music Festival as a conducting fellow. Among other honors, he has received a National Endowment for the Arts grant and the Presser Music Award. His conducting teachers have included Frederik Prausnitz, Leonard Slatkin, Jahja Ling, Murry Sidlin, Paul Vermel, and Michel Singher, and, for piano, Lydia Frumkin.

He lives in Baltimore with his wife, poet Lia Purpura.

For more information, visit his website at www.jedgaylin.com.

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LOOKING BACHWARDS

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Holberg Suite (Fra Holbergs tid), Op. 40

- 1. Praeludium. Allegro vivace
- 2. Sarabande. Andante
- 3. Gavotte. Allegretto Musette. Un poco mosso
- 4. Air. Andante religioso
- 5. Rigaudon. Allegro con brio

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750

Concerto for violin and oboe in D minor

Heather Austin-Stone, violin Noelle Drewes, oboe

- 1. Allegro
- 2. Adagio
- 3. Allegro

INTERMISSION

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840–1893)

Souvenir de Florence (arr. for string orchestra)

- 1. Allegro con spirito
- 2. Adagio cantabile e con moto
- 3. Allegretto moderato
- 4. Allegro con brio e vivace



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ABOUT THE SOLOISTS

HEATHER AUSTIN-STONE

VIOLIN



Heather Austin-Stone began her violin studies at age 10 in the public schools. In high school, she had the honor of being chosen as a National Symphony Orchestra Youth Fellowship student, which enabled her to study with 1st violinist Luis Haza on scholarship. She attended Shenandoah University on full scholarship and studied with Dr. Kenneth Sarch. She received her Bachelor of Music in performance, summa cum laude, in 1994. A year later, she graduated with a Master of Music degree from Northwestern University, where she studied with Blair Milton, a Chicago Symphony Orchestra 1st violinist.

Ms. Austin-Stone is currently the Concertmaster of the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra, the Assistant Concertmaster with the Maryland Symphony Orchestra in Hagerstown, and a section 1st violinist with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra. In March 2012, Ms. Austin-Stone was the featured soloist with the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra, performing the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E minor. In September 2014, she was featured by the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra in Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante in E-flat major.

Ms. Austin-Stone has taught violin in private and public schools. In addition to teaching violin and viola at Shepherd University, she teaches at the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts in Hagerstown. She also teaches violin and viola in Shepherd University's preparatory division and is the 1st violin sectional coach for the Shepherd Preparatory Orchestra. Her other duties at Shepherd include teaching music appreciation, music psychology, and music history.

ABOUT THE SOLOISTS

NOELLE DREWES



Noelle Drewes is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Sunderman Conservatory of Music at Gettysburg College, where she teaches oboe and is a resident artist member of the Sunderman Wind Quintet. She has served as Principal Oboe with the Apollo Orchestra in Washington, DC, since its founding in 2010 as well as Principal Oboe of the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, since 2014, and Principal Oboe of the Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra since 2021. Ms. Drewes has appeared extensively as a substitute with the National Symphony Orchestra and NSO Pops on both second oboe and English horn. While performing with the NSO, she has had the privilege of sharing the stage with such eclectic artists as Gianandrea Noseda, Christoph Eschenbach, Leonard Slatkin, Ben Folds, Sara Bareilles, Renée Fleming, Hansen, Paquito D'Rivera, George Takei, Misty Copeland, and many others.

Ms. Drewes has performed in shows at the Tony Award-winning Signature Theatre and in concerts with the Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, the Maryland Symphony, and the symphony orchestras of Richmond, Charlottesville, and Fairfax, Virginia; Annapolis, Maryland; and Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She has also performed with the Wolf Trap Opera Company, Washington Concert Opera, Maryland Lyric Opera, Opera Camerata of Washington, the Washington Chorus, Choral Arts Society of Washington, and the Washington National Cathedral Choral Society. She is a former member of the Ash Lawn Opera Orchestra of Charlottesville, Virginia, the Summer Opera Theater Company of Washington, DC, the Tri-Cities Opera Orchestra of Binghamton, New York, and was a founding member of the reed trio, The Capital Reeds, which was active in Washington, DC, from 2013 to 2018.

An Ohio native, Ms. Drewes grew up playing in the Columbus Youth Symphony, All-State Orchestra, and the Chamber Music Connection. She received her Bachelor of Music in oboe performance from the Ithaca College School of Music, including a semester of study at the Royal College of Music in London, England. She attended the University of Maryland for graduate school, earning both Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees. Ms. Drewes has spent summers at the Pierre Monteux School, Brevard Music Center, Eastern Music Festival, and the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. Her main oboe teachers were Mark Hill, Paige Morgan, and Robyn Dixon-Costa, and she has also worked with Nicholas Stovall, Jane Marvine, John Anderson, Eric Ohlsson, Randall Ellis, Robert Sheena, and Ralph Gomberg.

THE TWO RIVERS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

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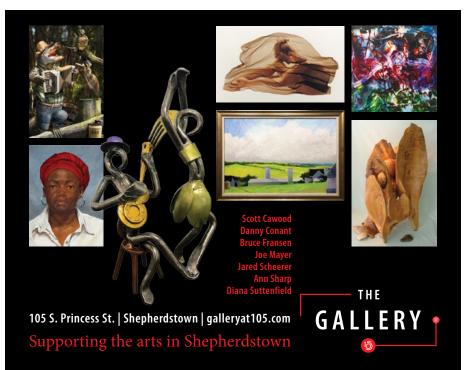
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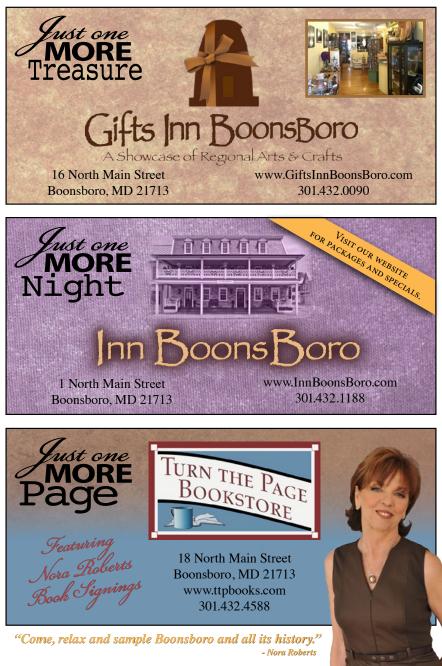
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PROGRAM NOTES

NOVEMBER 20, 2021

LOOKING BACH-WARDS

Edvard Hagerup Grieg

(Born in Bergen, Norway in 1843; died in Bergen in 1907)

Holberg Suite (Fra Holbergs tid), Op. 40

- 1. Praeludium. Allegro vivace
- 2. Sarabande. Andante
- 3. Gavotte. Allegretto -- Musette. Un poco mosso
- 4. Air. Andante religioso
- 5. Rigaudon. Allegro con brio

The marvelous works of Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg seem to capture an ineffable sweetness and nostalgia as few other composers' could. Grieg's music somehow always satisfies the soul, and so it is with one of his most popular works, his Holberg Suite, written in 1884.

The suite's inspiration and honoree, Baron Ludwig Holberg (1684-1754), was born in Bergen in 1684, but spent much of his life in Denmark following a tragic fire in his Norwegian hometown. Besides being known as a remarkable historian and scientist, Holberg also had a great talent for writing satires and comedies, so much so that he became known as "the Molière of the North." Two hundred years after his birth, in 1884, both Norway and Denmark held bicentennial celebrations for their famous, shared native son. Several composers were commissioned to write grand cantatas for these occasions, and Grieg obliged with his Holberg Cantata. That work was swiftly forgotten, but happily for us Grieg also created a delightful piano suite that has endured: *Fra Holbergs tid* ("From Holberg's time"), Op. 40. Grieg soon orchestrated and revised the piano suite for strings; this is the version most often heard today and the one performed tonight.

Grieg nicknamed his Holberg Suite his "powdered-wig piece," and he crafted

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it with a surprising twist. Realizing that Holberg was a contemporary of the Baroque-era musical giants Bach, Handel and Scarlatti (all born in 1685; Holberg was born just one year prior), Grieg fashioned his homage as a Baroque dance suite to echo the music that Holberg would have heard in his era. Although Holberg and his contemporaries would have recognized Grieg's collection of dances, Grieg's particularly gorgeous Romantic melodies and harmonies would have been something of a shock in the early 1700s.

To our modern ears, Grieg's Holberg Suite is not shocking at all but is instead one of his most beloved works. Beginning with the bracing Praeludium, which is like a horse race with its driving rhythms, Grieg uses the Baroque dance forms only as a launching point for his Romantic-era music-making. The Sarabande is almost Mahler-esque in its beauty and is followed by the Gavotte/Musette that gives pride of place to Grieg's Norwegian folksong and dance. The Air is one of Grieg's loveliest themes: its simplicity fittingly echoes the exquisite slow movements of Scarlatti and Bach, but it is infused with a beautiful Romantic melancholy. At the finale, Grieg again chooses a form, the rigaudon, that showcases his love of Norwegian dance. With a weighty and slow middle section that evokes the feeling of a soft love song, the movement is otherwise surrounded by a rustic round dance with virtual foot stomping, fancy fiddling and collective merriment.

Johann Sebastian Bach

(Born in Eisenach, Germany in 1685; died in Leipzig, Germany in 1750)

Concerto for violin and oboe in D minor, BMV 1060

- 1. Allegro
- 2. Adagio
- 3. Allegro

It may seem inconceivable to us that many of Bach's compositions, including this concerto, hovered on the brink of extinction. But the truth is that many works by many composers have been lost to the ages. Indeed, we may never have known of many of Bach's early melody-instrument concertos from his



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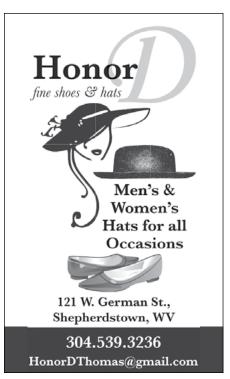
PROGRAM NOTES

days as kapellmeister for Prince Leopold of Cöthen (1717-1723) if he had not reused these works later on. In the case of the concerto for violin and oboe featured in tonight's concert, all that remains is Bach's transcription of it as a concerto for two harpsichords and strings from almost a decade later, and that transcription itself only survives in a manuscript copied by his students after his death. Eventually, several hundred years later, this manuscript was used as the basis for a "reverse transcription" to the presumed original for violin and oboe. Thus, it can fairly be said that although many compositions have come and gone and been lost or forgotten, true masterpieces usually find a way of weathering the ages. This concerto is one of those.

The concerto form as used by Bach grew out of the Baroque Italian "concerto grosso" that was perfected by Vivaldi (of *The Four Seasons*). Though Bach did not invent any new forms, he certainly set new melodic and harmonic standards for existing ones. Tonight's concerto is a wonderful example. As in most of these concerti, the outer movements are in ritornello form, where the opening statement (the ritornello) returns in various keys and guises throughout the movement. (This is similar to the later rondo form, or ABACAB, and so on; the ritornello being, as it were, section A). In the first movement, the ritornello is heard in its full form only at the beginning and end, as its echo-like last bars lend themselves to many musical manipulations.

The gem of this concerto, however, may well be the second movement, which is as lyrical and lovely as any music Bach wrote. Its gentle, rocking feel and movingly expressive interplay between the oboe and violin achieve a sublime tenderness that is rarely matched by composers of any era. In the spectacular last movement the ritornello gives us the impression that a mighty Bachian fugue is about to unfold. Instead, through Bach's ingenious contrapuntal abilities, the work launches into a host of enchanting derivations, and portions of the ritornello pervade nearly every phrase. Whereas the second movement allowed the oboe to unfold its singing charms, the finale gives the violin much of the virtuoso's spotlight.





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Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

(Born in Kamsko-Votkinsk, near Kirov, Russia in 1840; died in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1893)

Souvenir de Florence (string sextet, arr. for string orchestra), Op. 70

- 1. Allegro con spirito
- 2. Adagio cantabile e con moto
- 3. Allegretto moderato
- 4. Allegro con brio e vivace

Tchaikovsky wrote his brilliant Souvenir de Florence in 1890, just after he returned to St. Petersburg from an intense composing "vacation" in his favorite Italian city, Florence. While in Florence, he composed *Pique Dame* ("Queen of Spades"), an opera based on a Russian novel. Arriving back home in Russia, he immediately threw himself into a new project: a composition written especially for the St. Petersburg Chamber Music Society, as thanks for the society having made him an honorary member. In just under a month, this work was complete; after a few revisions, *Souvenir de Florence* had its public premiere in 1892.

Just as Tchaikovsky had often brought Russian themes to Italy, in *Souvenir* he likewise brought some of his beloved Florence back home to St. Petersburg. In fact, one of the themes of his new composition was written while in Florence – a "souvenir" of sorts from that place. But that's not all. Just before Tchaikovsky and the rest of the great 19th-century Russian composers came on the scene, Russia had imported its classical music mainly from Italy and was boastful of hosting some of the greatest Italian composers and musicians. In *Souvenir de Florence*, Tchaikovsky amalgamates all of this – Italianesque lyricism, Russian folksong, and high-level counterpoint – to create a masterpiece. All in all, the work is a marvel of creativity and cosmopolitanism, in which Tchaikovsky flexes his late-career compositional muscles.

Souvenir was written as a string sextet scored for two violins, two violas and two cellos, and it is one of Tchaikovsky's finest chamber compositions. While he was working on it, however, he wrote to a friend, "I constantly feel



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as though ... I am in fact writing for the orchestra and just rearranging it for six string instruments." Tonight, and fittingly, the sextet is performed as later arranged for string orchestra. Immediately, one notices that Tchaikovsky had big, multilayered soundscapes in mind.

The first movement is full of verve and bravura, with a contrasting middle theme of light and warmth for balance. The opening theme delivers some exceptional interplay between the instruments—it is chamber-like in its virtuosic treatment and even more exciting with multiple strings. And then Tchaikovsky turns up the mania as the movement gains more and more momentum toward its electrifying ending.

In the second movement, Adagio, Tchaikovsky uses his Florentine "souvenir" theme, a meltingly lyrical love duet between violins and cellos. Listen for the cello's first, brief entrance before it takes up the main theme: This is a moment of sheer beauty, like a distant shooting star. Altogether, whether the love happened in Italy or Russia, this movement reminds us of how Tchaikovsky came to master the waltz in opera, ballet, and symphony, creating dance movements of exquisite grace and delicacy.

The Allegretto shifts radically in tone, sounding deeply Russian and folksy, and delightfully tuneful. Coupled with a middle section of quicksilver dancing strings as light as spider webs, which soon become cleverly mingled with that opening Russian folk tune, the Allegretto is a creation of a truly cosmopolitan composer at the top of his compositional and creative craft.

The last movement, Allegro con brio, also gives a strong Russian feel, like a gopak (a vigorous Russian country dance), suitable for stomping feet. But soon enough it bedazzles with contrapuntal magic, starting a fugato (like a fugue), and then brilliantly overlaying the very first theme from the first movement. It's a grand mix of sunny Italy and rustic, vibrant Russia. The entire movement, in degrees, cartwheels into faster and faster moments, including a wondrously reckless full fugue (of which Tchaikovsky was expressly proud), until the ending, where the work concludes with a breakneck, spine-tingling finale.

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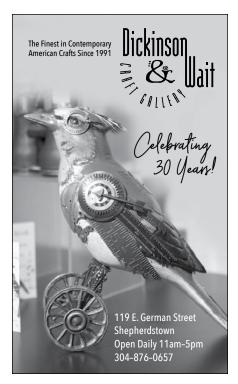
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OUR SUPPORTERS 2021-2022 SEASON

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to cut short the 2019-2020 concert season, we suspended all our programming and fundraising from that time until late this summer. Fortunately, we are still being sustained to some degree by the grants, contributions, and other forms of support received at the beginning of the 2019-2020 concert season. The lists below include that earlier support as well as additional donations and grants received since then. For memberships, we are simply listing those who have signed up so far as members in these early days of the new, current season.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who supports us!

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If any of our listings are inaccurate or incomplete, please let us know so we can correct our records.



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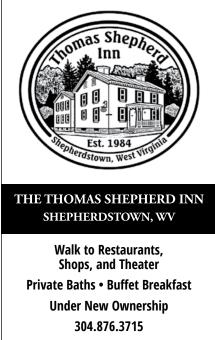
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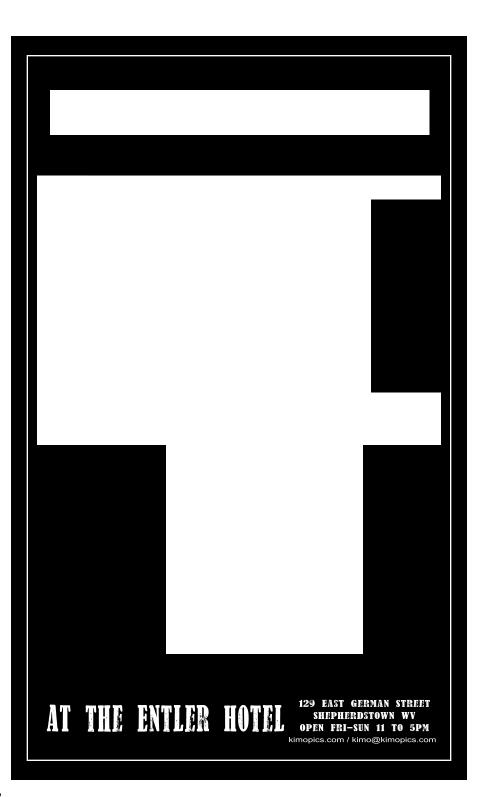
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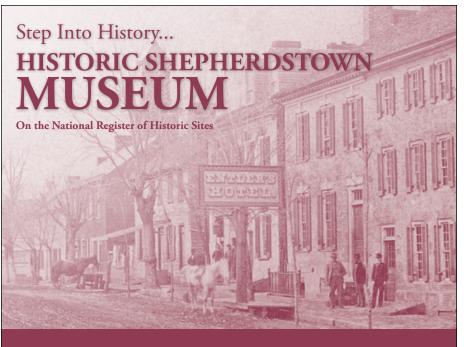
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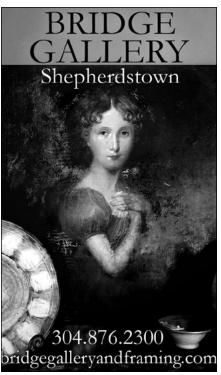
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FRIENDS OF MUSIC 2021-2022 CONCERT SCHEDULE

All concerts: Trinity Episcopal Church, Shepherdstown All programs subject to change.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2021

TWO RIVERS STRING QUARTET • 7:30PM

Re-Invention!

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) -- String Quartet No. 3 in G major Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) -- String Quartet No. 1 in G major, Op. 76

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021

TWO RIVERS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA • 7:30PM

Looking Bach-Wards

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907) -- Holberg Suite

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) -- Concerto in D minor for violin and oboe

Heather Austin-Stone, violin | Noelle Drewes, oboe

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) -- Souvenir de Florence (arr. for string orchestra)

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022

TWO RIVERS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA • 7:30PM

Winds for Wolfgang

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) --- Famous selections from The Marriage of Figaro and The Magic Flute Mozart --- Serenade No. 10 in B-flat Major (Gran Partita)

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022 THE VIVALDI PROJECT • 3PM

3:00 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, Shepherdstown, WV

From Venice to Vienna

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) -- Sonata da Camera a Tre in E minor, Op. 1, No. 2 Maddalena Lombardini Sirmen (1745-1818) -- Sonata, Op. 1, No. 5 in G major Paul Wranitsky (1756-1808) -- Trio Concertant, Op. 3, No. 3 in G major Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) -- Terzetto, Op. 9, No. 2 in D major

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022 TWO RIVERS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA • 7:30PM Secrets and Surprises

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924) --- *Masques et Bergamasques*, Op. 112 Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921) --- Cello concerto No. 1 in A minor, Op. 33 Christine Lamprea, cello

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) -- Symphony No. 4 in A major, Op. 90 (Italian)

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