

Spring 2-20-2019

Lunchtime Recital Series: ReMixing the Masters

Lehigh University Music Department

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Lehigh University Music Department presents

*Lunchtime
Recital Series:
"ReMixing the
Masters"*

*Michael Jorgensen, violin
Erica Dicker, violin
Hannah Levinson, viola
Chris Gross, violoncello
Ellen Lewis, soprano
Lee Tong Soon, piano*

*Wednesday, February 20, 2019
12:00 pm Butz Lobby
Zoellner Arts Center*

PROGRAM

"Frage," op. 9, No. 1

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809 - 1847)

*Ist es wahr? Ist es wahr?
Daß du stets dort in dem Laubgang,
an der Weinwand
meiner harrst?
Und den Mondschein
und die Sternlein
Auch nach mir befragst?
Ist es wahr? Sprich!
Was ich fühle, das begreift nur,
Die es mit fühlt,
Und die treu mir ewig,
Treu mir ewig, ewig bleibt.*

Is it true? Is it true
that over there in the leafy walkway,
you always wait for me
by the vine-draped wall?
And that with the moonlight
and the little stars
you consult about me also?
Is it true? Speak!
What I feel, only she grasps --
she who feels with me
and stays ever faithful to me,
eternally faithful.

Ellen Lewis, *soprano*
Lee Tong Soon, *piano*

Excerpts from
String Quartet in A Minor,
op. 132, No. 15

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770 - 1827)

String Quartet in A Minor,
op. 13, No. 2

Felix Mendelssohn

- I. *Adagio – Allegro vivace*
- II. *Adagio non lento*
- III. *Intermezzo. Allegretto con moto – Allegro di molto*
- IV. *Presto*

Michael Jorgensen, *violin*
Erica Dicker, *violin*
Hannah Levinson, *viola*
Chris Gross, *violoncello*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Soprano **Ellen Zimmer Lewis** is recognized as a talented and gifted singer throughout the United States and Europe. Highlights of Miss Zimmer Lewis' operatic credits include: Leonora in *La Forza del Destino*, Giorgetta in *Il Tabarro*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, Cio-Cio San in *Madama Butterfly*, and Alice Ford in Verdi's *Falstaff*. Miss Zimmer has also performed the title role in Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah*, directed by the composer himself. Ms. Zimmer Lewis' concert experience is also extensive. She has been featured in such works as Verdi's *Requiem*, Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1942*, Poulenc's *Gloria*, Handel's *Messiah*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*, Mozart's Mass in C Minor, Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Dvorak's *Te Deum*, and the Mozart, Dvorak, and Fauré *Requiems*. In addition to premiering many works by contemporary American composers, she has also toured France in performances of Mozart's *Exultate Jubilate*, Vivaldi's *Gloria* and the Mass in G by Schubert. Ms. Zimmer Lewis received her Master of Music degree from Yale University and an Artist Diploma in Opera from the Hartt School. She has won honors from The National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Singing Teachers Competition, the Heida Hermanns International Vocal Competition, the Shubert Opera Competition, the Nutley Symphony Competition and the Center for Contemporary Opera Competition.

Lee Tong Soon joined the Lehigh University Music Department faculty in Fall 2018 as Professor of Ethnomusicology; his teaching and research focus on Asian music. Along with serving as chair of the department, Dr. Lee is currently the General Editor (2018-) of the *Yearbook for Traditional Music*, journal of the International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM).

Described as an exceptional musician by Lorin Maazel, violinist **Dr. Michael Jorgensen** is the Professor of Practice in *Orchestral Strings* at Lehigh University. A member of the IRIS Orchestra, Dr. Jorgensen has also served as the concertmaster for many groups including the national tour of *Porgy and Bess* and Maazel's *Castleton Festival Orchestra*. He has performed with the *Orpheus Chamber Orchestra*, *Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia*, *Alarm Will Sound*, and many others. He has also been in the *Eppes String Quartet* and founded the *Frequency String Quartet*. As a soloist, Dr. Jorgensen has performed with organizations including the *String Orchestra of Brooklyn*, the *Colour of Music Festival*, *Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley*, and the *London School of Contemporary Dance*. He is a featured artist on Paul Osterfield's *Sound and Fury* disc.

Erica Dicker is an improviser and chamber music collaborator who brings her passion for live performance to the wide variety of settings in which she works. A proponent of new music, Erica is a founding member of chamber music collective Till By Turning and Vaster Than Empires, an electro-acoustic collaboration with composer Paul Schuette and percussionist Allen Otte. As part of New York-based horn trio, Kylwyrria, Erica and her colleagues work to generate interest in and commission adventurous chamber music repertoire for their unique instrumentation. Erica serves as concertmaster for the Tri-Centric Orchestra, an ensemble founded to premiere and record the operas of Anthony Braxton. She has performed alongside Braxton in various ensembles such as his Diamond Curtain Wall Quartet, 12+1-tet, and ZIM Octet. She has written about, curated, and helped lead performances of Braxton's work, most recently at Edition Festival 2019 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Violist **Hannah Levinson** is an active performer of contemporary and classical music in New York City. She is a founding member of the violin/viola duo andPlay, described by I Care If You Listen as "enthusiastic champions for new music and collaboration." She is also a member of Talea Ensemble, the Fair Trade Trio, the Albany Symphony Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Opera. She has performed with contemporary ensembles including counter)induction, ACME, Cantata Profana, ensemble mise-en, and The Rhythm Method. Equally passionate about education, Hannah taught at Western Connecticut State University for six years. She completed her MM in contemporary performance at the Manhattan School of Music, and graduated from Oberlin College and Conservatory with degrees in both Russian and East European studies and viola performance. Hannah is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in performance at NYU Steinhardt. hannahlevinsonmusic.com

Following his performance of cello music by Charles Wuorinen, The Strad Magazine wrote about cellist **Christopher Gross**: "The tone of Gross's cello enveloped the crowd [as he] showed energy and intonational accuracy, even when racing around the fingerboard." He is a founding member of the Talea Ensemble, a member of the Da Capo Chamber Players, and has appeared as guest with ensembles including I.C.E., Cygnus, Flux Quartet, and at venues throughout the US and Europe including Weill Recital Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Disney Hall, and Bargemusic. An active educator, he is a Teaching Artist with the New York Philharmonic and has given classes and lectures at Harvard University, Sydney Conservatory, Cleveland Cello Society, and Brooklyn College. He is the creator of Cello Solos Today (www.cellosolostoday.org), which commissions contemporary works for young cellists. He recently received his doctoral degree from Juilliard in New York and was the Horger Artist-in-Residence at Lehigh University for 2016-17.