

INTERSECTION TRIO

Christine Lamprea, Laura Frautschi and John Novacek

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023



A Message from our Artistic Directors

Welcome to the 2023/24 concert season filled with magnificent artists and great masterworks, ranging from soloists and trios to larger ensembles. They will grace our White Rock stage with vivacious virtuosity, insightful interpretations and marvellous musicianship. Once again, we wish you a deeply enjoyable and rich listening experience this season.

Elizabeth and Marcel Bergmann



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BIOGRAPHIES



Pictured from left to right: Christine Lamprea, Laura Frautschi and John Novacek

CHRISTINE LAMPREA, cello

Cellist and Sphinx Medal of Excellence winner Christine Lamprea is an artist known for her emotionally committed and intense performances. Hailed a "firebrand" (IncidentLight. com) and noted for her "supreme panache" (The Boston Musical Intelligencer), she made her Carnegie Hall debut as soloist in 2013. As a recitalist, Ms. Lamprea has appeared on prestigious series at Illinois' Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Florida's Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, Pepperdine University, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Washington Performing Arts Society. She is a winner of the Astral Artists National Auditions, Carlos Prieto International Cello Competition, and the Sphinx Competition. Lamprea is on the cello faculty at the Longy School of Music of Bard College and the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University.

LAURA FRAUTSCHI, violin

Violinist Laura Frautschi has established a reputation as a versatile musician with a strong commitment to contemporary as well as classical repertoire. She regularly performs as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States and Asia and collaborates frequently with living composers. In addition, she has appeared as concertmaster of the Orchestra of St. Lukes, the New York City Opera Orchestra, the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, and the Knights, and tours internationally as a concertmaster of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. Ms. Frautschi's extensive discography ranges from Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" with the Festival Strings Lucerne and Lee Hyla's Violin Concerto with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project to twentieth-century chamber works by Bernard Rands, Chen Yi, and Margaret Brouwer. Frautschi holds degrees from Harvard College and The Juilliard School.

JOHN NOVACEK, piano

Grammy-nominated pianist John Novacek regularly tours the Americas, Europe and Asia as both soloist and chamber musician. Frequent performance venues include Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center's David Geffen and Kennedy Center. As an active composer, Novacek's works have been taken up by many prominent international musicians; commissioning bodies include the 5 Browns, Ying Quartet, Manasse/Nakamatsu Duo, Eastman School, Scotia Festival, Concertante, Pacific Symphony, Ensemble Liaison, Schubert Club, Millennium, Seattle Commissioning Club, Three Tenors, Kiri Te Kanawa, and pop diva Diana Ross. Novacek is an active recording artist whose many CDs have garnered numerous international awards (Gramophone, BBC Music Magazine, Grammy nomination for "Best Chamber Music Performance"). Novacek teaches piano and chamber music at Mannes School of Music in New York City.

PROGRAMME

Salut d'amour, Op 12

(trio, arr. Bunch)

Spanish Dance No. 1

(from La vida breve; trio, arr. Satoh)

Piano Trio in A minor

Edward Elgar (1857 - 1934)

Manuel de Falla (1876 - 1946)

Maurice Ravel (1875 - 1937)

Modéré Pantoum - Assez vif Pasacaille - Très large Finale - Animé

INTERMISSION

Three Polonaises

Polonaise-fantaisie, Op 61 (piano solo) Polonaise brillante, Op 21 (violin & piano) Polonaise de concert, Op 14 (cello & piano)

"*Cinema Paradiso*" Medley (trio, arr. Satoh)

"*West Side Story*" Medley (trio, arr. Bunch) Frédéric Chopin (1810 - 1849)

Henryk Wieniawski (1835 - 1880)

David Popper (1843 - 1913)

Ennio Morricone (1928 - 2020)

Leonard Bernstein (1918 - 1990)



OUR NEXT CONCERT



DIABELLI VARIATIONS

with Stewart Goodyear

Saturday, November 18, 2023

PROGRAMME NOTES

Spanish Dance No. 1 (from *La vida breve*; trio, arr. Satoh) Manuel de Falla (1876 - 1946)

Manuel de Falla was born in 1876 into a reasonably affluent family in Cádiz, where music was confined to annual performances of Haydn's "The Seven Last Words", occasional visits by grand opera companies, and folk songs—not as museum pieces, but as living elements of Spanish life. By 1896 the family fortunes had diminished and they moved to Madrid, where Falla entered the conservatoire and began to compose *zarzuelas*, the Spanish form of operetta. But his eyes were set on Paris and in 1907 he began a seven-year stay, making friends with Debussy, Ravel and Dukas.

The opera *La vida breve* was written in 1904–5 but not performed until 1913. It includes two Spanish dances which have subsequently achieved a life of their own. The first, which opens the second act, was published in a variety of settings, including transcriptions for piano solo and four-hand duet by the composer, and with the music from the end of the scene as *Interludio y Danza* for orchestra. It was also arranged by Fritz Kreisler for solo violin and piano (as *Danza española*) in 1926. The far less well-known *Segunda danza española*, taken from the second *tableau* of act two, is longer than the first, and incorporates the cante jondo vocalizations from the orginal scene into the piano texture, building to a final rousing shout across the breadth of the keyboard. Tonight, White Rock Concerts Subscribers will hear the beautiful, yet rarely performed work of de Falla's Spanish Dance from *La vida breve*.

Notes by Garrick Ohlsson

Piano Trio in A minor Maurice Ravel

In this trio Ravel offers us a classically proportioned four-movement work in the traditional format: two *sonata*-form movements bookending a *scherzo* and slow movement. Completed just after the Great War had broken out in August 1914, this work dreams far above the tumult of the conflict. The imprint of Basque musical culture is strong in this work, most evidently in the rhythmic patterning of the first move-

ment, with its unusual time signature of 8/8. The 8 beats of the bar are divided up 3+2+3 throughout, a pattern common in Basque dance music. The *Modéré* movement has two distinct themes, clearly distinguished in tone, and the texture is shiningly transparent due to the skillful way in which Ravel positions the instruments in sonic space so as not to cover each other.

Ravel's exalting *scherzo* second movement has a number of unusual features. Its title, *Pantoum*, refers to a Malaysian interlocking verse form, popular with many French poets, that Ravel incorporates into the structure of his already formally-structured A-B-A *scherzo* & *trio*. A *staccato* opening theme alternates with more lyrical phrases, often grouped for the ear with scant regard for the 3/4 time signature. But then something even more irregular happens in the trio: the strings continue on fidgeting in 3/4 while the piano calmly intones a lyrical sequence of cool chords in 4/2, after which the sides switch places, which is to say metres.

The slow movement is a *Passacaille*, a series of variations based on a wandering eight-bar theme announced deep, deep in the bass that migrates up through the cello to the violin, and then swells to a great climax before receding back to the spare texture with which it began.

Ravel goes full-on orchestral in his *Finale*, a movement which features some tricky challenges for the instrumentalists, starting with the violin's 4-string *arpeggio* pattern – all in harmonics – that opens the movement. Other touches of orchestral sound colour are the plush tremolos in the strings that often surround the piano like a fur collar, or the electrifying high trills in the same instruments. Alternating between 5/4 and 7/4 time signatures, this movement drifts in a seemingly timeless world of spontaneous, irregular pulsations that build to an ecstatic finish that sees the last pages blaring out *toujours ff*, as it says in the score: continuously very loud.

Notes from Donald G. Gíslason of the Vancouver Recital Society.

PROGRAMME NOTES (continued)

Polonaise-fantaisie, Op 61 Frédéric Chopin

Few people matter more to the history of the piano than Chopin; nobody changed piano writing as much; nobody more enhanced the stature of the instrument, just then coming into maturity.

Written late in his life, the *Polonaise-fantaisie* in A-flat major took nearly a century to gain any traction with pianists or audiences. Perhaps its blend of nocturne-like dreamscape and polonaise rhythms was confusing, as was its enigmatic harmonic language. Even Chopin had trouble with defining this work: "I'd like to finish something that I don't yet know what to call." As a fantasy, the piece progresses in an almost stream-of-consciousness manner, darting about from one idea to another; as a polonaise, it partakes of the heroic and militant, however briefly. It has engendered a number of fanciful explanations, such as Franz Liszt's notion of the work as being like "somebody caught in an ambush, surrounded on all sides." Over the past half-century, this piece has rightly taken its place as one of the more challenging, enigmatic and rewarding works of the Romantic keyboard repertoire.

Adapted from notes by Scott Foglesong, San Francisco Symphony.

Polonaise de concert, Op 14 David Popper

Born in Prague, Czech Republic, David Popper was a prolific composer for the cello, an eminent performer and a prominent teacher. Popper composed more than 100 works for the cello, including four cello concertos. His most invaluable contribution to the art of cello playing is his "High School of Cello Playing, Op 73", consisting of 40 etudes, which have become an integral part of every cellist's technical foundation.

In the Polonaise, the piano introduces the typical polonaise rhythm which is then taken over by the cello in its opening theme. The second theme is a beautiful melody full of expression and romantic sentiment. In the third section, Popper opens his bag of virtuosic tricks and employs everything from double stops to fast arpeggios to an ending full of octave passages.



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We are grateful for their stewardship of the land for thousands of years before us and for the Elders' teachings that remind us we are all connected.

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