

Program and Notes for November 15, 2020

David Dean Mendoza (b. 1979)

Lament for solo viola

Nathan Milstein (1904-1992)

Paganiniana for solo violin

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1760)

Cello Suite No. 5 in c minor (transcribed for solo bass)

Gavottes, Courante, and Gigue

Witold Roman Lutosławski (1913-1994)

Bucolics (pastoral songs)

Five pieces for viola and cello

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

String trio in Eb Major, Op. 3, Movement I, Allegro con brio

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Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1760)

Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major

Prelude, Sarabande, and Gigue

Augusta Read Thomas (b. 1964)

Silent Moon for violin and viola

Krzysztof Penderecki (1933-2020)

Duo Concertante for violin and bass

Anton Arensky (1861-1906)

String Quartet No. 2 in a minor,

Movement II. Variations on a Theme of Tchaikovsky and III. Finale

Program Notes

David Dean Mendoza (b. 1979), originally from El Paso, Texas and currently living in South Florida, teaches at the University of Miami. As an eclectic composer, he writes various types of contemporary music. According to his website, “His works juxtapose the traditional with the contemporary, the ancient with the avant-garde, and the accessible with the abstract. Sound sources often include silences, electronic sounds, non-Western instruments, and improvisation to produce something that has been described as ethereal and evocative.”

His works have been accepted for performance at the following adjudicated festivals: The 2005, 2008, and 2009 Florida Electro-Acoustic Student (FEASt) Festival; 2008 CHASM Festival; 2008 All Florida SCI Student Composer Symposium; 2008 SCI Student National Conference; 2009 Subtropics Experimental Music Festival; Season II of the 12 Nights Electronic Music and Art; 2009 Silence, Beauty, and Horror Festival; 2010 SCI Region IV Conference; 2010 SEAMUS National Conference; and the 2010 SCI National Conference. Internationally he has collaborated and premiered work in Buenos Aires, Argentina at the famous Teatro Colón.

Lament for Solo Viola (2020)

Nathan Milstein (1904-1992) was a Jewish Ukrainian-born American virtuoso violinist. Widely considered one of the finest violinists of the 20th century, he was known for his interpretations of J.S. Bach's solo violin works and for works from the Romantic period. He was also known for his long career: he performed at a high level into his mid-80s, retiring only after suffering a broken hand.

Paganiniana is a piece for solo violin consisting of variations by Nathan Milstein on themes of Paganini.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1760)

It is thought that Bach wrote his six suites for unaccompanied cello between 1717 and 1723, while he was in the employ of Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Cöthen and had two superb solo cellists, Bernard Christian Linigke and Christian Ferdinand Abel, at his disposal.

Selections from the Bach *Suites for Solo Cello*

From *Suite No. 5: Gavottes, Courante, and Gigue*, transcribed for Double Bass

From *Suite No. 1: Prelude, Sarabande, and Gigue*

Witold Roman Lutosławski (1913-1994) was a Polish composer and orchestral conductor. He was one of the major European composers of the 20th century, and one of the preeminent Polish musicians during his last three decades. He earned many international awards and prizes. His compositions (of which he was a notable conductor) include four symphonies, a concerto for orchestra, a string quartet, instrumental works, concertos, and orchestral song cycles.

The pastoral genre was a significant influence in the development of opera. After settings of pastoral poetry in the pastourelle genre by the troubadours, Italian poets and composers became increasingly drawn to the pastoral. Musical settings of pastoral poetry became increasingly common in first polyphonic and then monodic madrigals; these later led to the cantata and the serenata, in which pastoral themes remained on a consistent basis.

Bucolics (pastoral songs), five pieces for viola and cello

In addition to his symphonies, **Ludwig van Beethoven** (1770-1827) is renowned for his chamber music, especially his groundbreaking string quartets and piano works. He is less known for his string trios, although with five pieces, he wrote more for this grouping than any other well-known composer.

String Trio in E-flat Major, Op. 3, Movement 1, Allegro con brio

Augusta Read Thomas (b. 1964) studied composition with Oliver Knussen at Tanglewood, Jacob Druckman at Yale University, Alan Stout and Bill Karlins at Northwestern University, and at the Royal Academy of Music in London (1989). She was a Bunting Fellow at Radcliffe College in 1990-91 and a Junior Fellow in the Society of Fellows at Harvard University from 1991 to 1994. Thomas was the longest-serving Mead Composer-in-Residence with the Chicago Symphony, for Daniel Barenboim and Pierre Boulez, from 1997 to 2006. This residency culminated in the premiere of *Astral Canticle* for solo flute, solo violin, and orchestra, one of two finalists for the 2007 Pulitzer Prize in Music. During her residency, Thomas premiered nine commissioned orchestral works and helped establish the MusicNOW series.

Silent Moon is a reference to the break in the stillness of winter that is indicative of a gathering of energy. Like the silence before the storm, it offers an opportunity to cleanse the past so that we might better shift our attentions to future growth.

Krzysztof Penderecki (1933-2020) was a Polish composer and conductor. Among his best known works are *Threnody to the Victims of Hiroshima*, *Symphony No. 3*, his *St. Luke Passion*, *Polish Requiem*, *Anaklasis*, and *Utrenja*. His music has been used in multiple movies and television shows including “The Exorcist,” “The Shining,” and “Twin Peaks.”

Duo Concertante for Violin and Bass

After studying at the St. Petersburg Conservatory under Rimsky-Korsakoff, **Anton Arensky** (1861-1906) was a professor at the Moscow Conservatory, including among his students Alexander Scriabin and Sergei Rachmaninoff. He composed three operas, concertos for violin and for piano, and multiple chamber works, including his famed *Piano Trio No. 1 in d minor, Op. 31*, two string quartets, and multiple piano pieces.

String Quartet No. 2 in a minor, Op. 35: Movement II, Variations on a Theme by Tchaikovsky and Movement III, Finale