

Bainbridge Performing Arts 2010-2011 Season

News from Bainbridge Performing Arts

For Immediate Release:

Date: December 8, 2010

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BPA Chamber Music Series Masterpieces of the Chamber Music Repertoire for Strings, Winds & Piano Sunday, January 16 @ 3:00 p.m.

The repertoire presented in BPA's 2010-2011 Chamber Music Series spans more than two centuries, from the *Violin Sonata in E Major*, which the young Johann Sebastian Bach composed around 1720, to music that captures the fast pace and tensions of mid-20th-century American life and shows how the American modernists contributed to the evolution of a new musical vocabulary that had begun in Vienna and Paris in the years before 1900.

The program on January 16 will open with the brilliant *Trio for Violin, Cello and Piano*, Opus 49 (1839) of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, who by the time of the trio's composition had advanced from the status of child prodigy to become one of the leading forces in European musical life. As a 20-year-old he had launched the revival of interest in the works of Bach with a Berlin performance of Bach's all-but-unknown *St. Matthew Passion*. In 1839, as the 30-year-old director of the famous Gewandhaus Orchestra in Leipzig he led the first complete public performance of another forgotten masterpiece, Schubert's *Symphony in C Major*.

Then the chronology leaps forward to the middle of the 20th century with performances of the *Sonata* by Alvin Etler and the *Suite* by Randall Thompson, both scored for the extraordinary combination of oboe, clarinet and viola.

Finally, we move back to the year 1888 and Johannes Brahms's *Sonata in A Major for Violin and Piano*, Opus 100. Brahms's career had begun as a protégé of Mendelssohn's great friends in Leipzig, Robert and Clara Schumann. By 1888, he had outlived Richard Wagner and all the great Romantics--except for his "beloved Clara." Though the sonata is not known to commemorate any one friendship, much of it has the qualities of affectionate, lyrical conversation, with direct references to a Brahms song in which melodies are compared to the flowers of spring.

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The series continues with the March program, which will be organized around performances of two sharply contrasting masterpieces of the repertoire for strings and keyboard. The first of these is the *Violin Sonata in E Major* (BWV 1016) of the young Johann Sebastian Bach. The second is a work of Brahms's more familiar *Sturm und Drang* phase, the *Quartet for Violin, Viola, Cello and Piano in G Minor*, Opus 25 (1861), which was part of the portfolio which made it possible for the young composer to leave Hamburg and rise to international prominence as an adopted citizen of Vienna.

Performers in the 2011 concerts will include seasoned players from both sides of Puget Sound: Violinists Stephen Provine, Kim Zabelle and Thomas Monk; Violists Jonathan Graber and Lara Moore; Cellists Marshall Brown and Barbara Deppe; Oboist Amy Duerr-Day; Clarinetist Patti Beasley; and Pianists Mary Foster Grant and James Quitslund.

The first concert in BPA's Chamber Music Series is Sunday, January 16 at 3:00 p.m. The second concert in the series will be March 27. Tickets, \$16 for adults, and \$12 for seniors, students, youth, military, and teachers, may be purchased online at www.bainbridgeperformingarts.org, by phone at 206.842.8569 or in person at BPA, 200 Madison Avenue North, Bainbridge Island. BPA Box Office hours are 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and one hour prior to each performance.

Bainbridge Performing Arts extends special thanks to **Acupuncture & Wellness Center, P.S.**, the 2010 – 2011 Chamber Music Series' Presenting Sponsor. BPA is supported, in part, by the **Bainbridge Island Arts & Humanities Council**, the **City of Bainbridge Island**, and **One Call for All**.

Find out more about BPA at www.bainbridgeperformingarts.org. Check online for the latest on theatre and symphony auditions, complete theatre school and adult class offerings, performance listings, tickets, cast lists, video promos, posters, press, and more. Click on "Join Mailing List" to receive electronic performance announcements and behind-the-scenes news.

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