Elissa Lee Koljonen, violin, and Natalie Zhu, piano

Sunday, April 1, 2012 at 3:00 pm

The German Society of Pennsylvania
611 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123
April 2012
Sun. April 1       Elissa Lee Koljonen, violin accompanied by Natalie Zhu, piano, 3pm
Sat. April 7      Kindervorlesestunde, Library, 11:00 am + Easter Egg Hunt, Library/Garden
Mon. April 9      Start of Twelve-Week Spring Session of German Classes for Adults (Weeknights)
Sat. April 14     Buchclub, Library, 1:30 pm
Fri. April 20     Friday FilmFest presents "Vier Minuten", 6:30 pm (German with English subtitles)
                    A superb film about the power of music, rebellion and dedication
Sat. April 21     Start of Ten-Week Spring Session of German Classes for Kids (Saturday mornings)
Sun. April 22     The Wister Quartet, 3pm (see below)
Wed. April 25     Konversationsabend, Topic: Die Philadelphia Story - die ersten 470 Millionen Jahre, 7pm

May 2012
Sat. May 5        Women's Auxiliary 112th Anniversary Luncheon, noon
Sat. May 5        Kindervorlesestunde, Library, 10:00 am
Sun. May 13       American Virtuosi, 3pm (see below)
Fri. May 18       Friday FilmFest presents "Der rote Baron", 6:30 pm (English)
                    The story of World War One's deadliest air race
Sun. May 20       Annual Meeting Membership, 3pm
                    followed by GSP Board Meeting
Thurs. May 24     Sommerfest by "German Society Philly Kinder", Overbrook
Wed. May 30       Konversationsabend, Topic: Ein Heine-Brunnen in New York, 7pm

June 2012
Sat. June 2       Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting in the Ratskeller, 10 am
Sat. June 2       Kindervorlesestunde, Library, 10:00 am
Fri. June 15      Friday FilmFest presents TBA, 6:30 pm

Save the Dates for our Next of “Wister and More!” Concerts...

Sunday, April 22: The Wister Quartet, 3:00 pm
                    Schubert: Quartettsatz in C Minor, D. 703
                    Beethoven: String Quartet in F Minor, Op. 95
                    Turina: Piano Quartet, Op. 67

Sunday, May 13:    American Virtuosi, 3:00 pm
                    Claude Debussy - Sonata for Violin and Piano
                    Sergei Rachmaninoff - Polichinelle
                    Sulkhan Tsintsadze - Five Pieces for Cello and Piano
                    E. E. F. Borowsky - Trio
                    Ludwig van Beethoven Trio, Op. 1 No. 3
Elissa Lee Koljonen, violin,  
and Natalie Zhu, piano

PROGRAM

Sonata for Piano and Violin No. 5  
in F major, Op. 24 (“Spring”)  
Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770 – 1827)

- Allegro
- Adagio molto espressivo
- Scherzo: Allegro molto
- Rondo: Allegro ma non troppo

Divertimento for Violin and Piano  
Igor Stravinsky  
(1882 – 1971)

- Sinfonia
- Danses suisses
- Scherzo
- Pas de deux: A dagio – V  
ariation – Coda

::INTERMISSION::

Chaconne from Violin Partita No. 2 in D minor  
Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685 – 1750)

Romance in B-flat major for Violin and Piano  
Joseph Joachim  
(1831 – 1907)

Hungarian Dances  
Johannes Brahms  
(1833 – 1897)

(arranged by Joseph Joachim)

- No. 1 in G minor: Allegro molto
- No. 7 in A major: Allegretto – Vivo
- No. 4 in F minor: Poco sostenuto – Vivace

There will be one 15-minute intermission. We offer refreshments from our bar during that time.

Your ticket to our concert also invites you to a complimentary reception with the artist in the Ratskeller (downstairs) following the performance.
Elissa Lee Koljonen — Biography

Recognized as one of the most celebrated violinists of her generation, Elissa Lee Koljonen has thrilled audiences and critics in over one hundred cities throughout the world. Ms. Koljonen initially received international acclaim when she became the first recipient of the prestigious Henryk Szeryng Foundation Award and silver medalist of the Carl Flesch International Violin Competition. Her playing has been lauded by the Helsingin Sanomat (Helsinki) as “sparkling, sensual and personal”. Dan Tucker of the Chicago Tribune writes, “She displayed boundless technique and musicianship”, and the Detroit News reports, “…Koljonen brings to her playing not just assured technique but unflinching purpose and confidence.”

Locally, Ms. Koljonen performed the Shostakovich Violin Concerto #1 with the Philadelphia Orchestra in July 2007. Other recent and upcoming engagements include, her debut in Spain with James Judd and the Bilbao Symphony Orchestra, performances with José-Luis Novo and the orchestras in Annapolis and Binghamton, the Delaware Symphony, Reading Symphony, the Kimmel Center’s Summer Solstice, and the Philadelphia premiere of Behzad Ranjbaran’s Violin Concerto with JoAnn Falletta.

Other engagements include the Boston Pops, Minnesota Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic and the symphonies of Baltimore, Cincinnati, Dallas, Detroit, Oregon, Pittsburgh, Helsinki and Seoul. Ms. Koljonen has collaborated with such noted conductors as Mattias Bamert, James DePriest, Lawrence Foster, Richard Hickox, Neeme Järvi, Louis Lane, Andrew Litton, Eiji Oue and the late Bryden Thompson. Her engagements have taken her to some of the world’s most important venues, among them the Vienna Musikverein, Salzburg Mozarteum, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, London’s Barbican Centre, Seoul Arts Center, Boston’s Symphony Hall, and the Academy of Music in Philadelphia.

As a recitalist, Ms. Koljonen has performed in many musical capitals including London, Amsterdam, Salzburg, Seoul, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and New York. A 2004 performance in Carnegie Hall was hailed with excellent critical review. Also an avid chamber musician, Ms. Koljonen appears regularly at festivals throughout North America, Europe and Asia. She garnered critical acclaim for her debut at the Queen Elisabeth Hall in London and her appearances with the London Mozart Players and the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo in a special concert celebrating the 700th anniversary of the Grimaldi Dynasty.

Ms. Koljonen is a protégé of the great Aaron Rosand at the Curtis Institute of Music. Through his influence, she continues the legacy and tradition of Leopold Auer and his legendary school of violin playing.

She spends half her life in Philadelphia keeping Roberto, Sofia, Niko and Sammy out of trouble.
Natalie Zhu — Biography

The recipient of a 2006 Musical Fund Society Career Advancement Award, the 2003 Avery Fisher Career Grant and the 2003 Andrew Wolf Memorial Chamber Music Award, pianist Natalie Zhu is a winner of Astral Artistic Services’ 1998 National Auditions. The Philadelphia Inquirer heralded Astral’s presentation of Ms. Zhu in recital as a display of “emotional and pianistic pyrotechnics”; selections from the recital were later broadcast on National Public Radio’s “Performance Today.” Since 2009, Ms. Zhu has been the artistic director of the Kingston Chamber Music Festival in Rhode Island.

Ms. Zhu has performed throughout North America, Europe, and Asia as a soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. In the U.S. she has appeared as soloist with the Indianapolis Symphony, the Pacific Symphony, the Haddonfield Symphony, the Concerto Soloists Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the Astral Chamber Orchestra, the Bergen Philharmonic, China Philharmonic, Riverside Symphony Orchestra, and the Colorado Philharmonic National Repertory Orchestra. Ms. Zhu made her European debut in 1994 at the Festival de Sully et d’Orleans in France, she has also given solo recitals at the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, New York’s Steinway Hall and Merkin Hall, Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Series in Fresno, Portland Piano Festival in Oregon, Munich’s Herkulessaal in Germany, and Beijing Concert Hall in China. She has performed with both the Vermeer and Miami quartets, and collaborated with members of the Guarneri, Orion, Mendelssohn, Ying Quartets, and the Beaux Arts Trio. Ms. Zhu has been touring with renowned violinist Hilary Hahn since 1997, stepping in for pianist Garrick Ohlsson in several performances of Ms. Hahn’s October 2000 U.S. tour; Ms. Zhu and Ms. Hahn have maintained a partnership until 2006 with tours around the world, including a hugely successful Carnegie Hall recital debut. The duo toured throughout the U.S., Europe, and Asia in the 2004-2005 season, appearing in Hanoi, Bangkok, Shanghai, Taipei, Tokyo, Lyon, Lucern, Hamburg, Geneva, London, and a benefit concert for the Red Cross in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Ms. Zhu and Ms. Hahn released a CD for the Deutsche Grammophon label in September 2005.

Ms. Zhu has been the recipient of numerous awards including the grand prize in the both the 1988 and 1989 Young Keyboard Artists Association Competition. She was the first-prize winner in the Johanna Hodges Piano Concerto Competition in 1988 and 1991 and also received its 1991 Concert Series Award. An active chamber musician, she has appeared in Marlboro, Amelia Island, Kingston, Great Lake, Tanglewood, Skaneateles, and the Bay Chamber Music Festivals.

Natalie Zhu began her piano studies with Xiao-Cheng Liu at the age of six in her native China and made her first public appearance at age nine in Beijing. At eleven she emigrated with her family to Los Angeles, and by fifteen was enrolled at the Curtis Institute of Music where she received the Rachmaninoff Award and studied with Gary Graffman. She received a Master of Music degree from the Yale School of Music where she studied with Claude Frank.
PROGRAM NOTES

Sonata for Piano and Violin No. 5 in F major, Op. 24 ("Spring")  
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827)
Allegro, A leggio molto espressivo, Scherzo: A leggio molto, Rondo: A leggio ma non troppo

The "Spring" ("Frühlings") sonata, Op. 24, in F major, published in October, 1801, is the fifth of Beethoven's ten sonatas for piano and violin. It was dedicated, along with the Sonata in A minor, Op. 23, to one of Beethoven's most generous Viennese patrons, Count Moritz von Fries, to whom Beethoven's seventh symphony was also dedicated. Both the Spring sonata and Sonata in A minor were originally intended to be paired as Op. 23, Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, but through the fault of the engraver, the "Spring" sonata became Opus 24. Beethoven was a great lover of nature, and the beauty of the outdoors influenced this work. Parts of the "Spring" sonata are featured in the musical Fame.

Divertimento for Violin and Piano  
Igor Stravinsky (1882 – 1971)
Sinfonia, Danses suisses, Scherzo, Pas de deux: Adagio — Variation — Coda

In 1928, Stravinsky wrote the ballet, Le Baiser de la Féé, The Fairy's Kiss. In 1932, he wrote a condensed version of this ballet, the Divertimento for Violin and Piano. In 1934, he wrote another condensed version of Le Baiser de la Féé, an orchestral suite, also entitled Divertimento. Stravinsky, who was a pianist in addition to a composer, intended the divertimento for Violin and Piano to be used by himself and violinist Samuel Dushkin. Dushkin edited the version of this piece you will hear today. Stravinsky wrote Le Baiser de la Féé during his Neo Classical period. This work is based on songs by, and was inspired by, another Russian composer, Tchaikovsky.

Chaconne from Violin Partita No. 2 in D minor  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)

The Chaconne is the last of five movements from Bach's Violin Partita No. 2 in D minor. The partita was written during Bach's prolific 1717-1723 tenure in the service of Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Cöthen. Some scholars speculate that the partita was written in memory of Bach's first wife, Maria Barbara Bach. The Chaconne is written in triple meter. It contains three repetitions of a four bar theme and sixty-one four-bar variations.

Romance in B-flat major for Violin and Piano  
Joseph Joachim (1831 – 1907)

Hungarian Dances (arranged by Joseph Joachim)  
Johannes Brahms (1833 – 1897)
No. 1 in G minor: Allegro molto, No. 7 in A major: Allegretto – Vivo, No. 4 in F minor: Poco sostenuto – Vivace

Hungarian Dances Johannes Brahms, arranged by Joseph Joachim. Joseph Joachim was born on June 28, 1831, in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, in the present day Burgenland area of Austria. Both his father Julius, a wool merchant, and his mother, Fanny, were of Hungarian Jewish origin. Joseph Joachim was the seventh of eight children, and after reaching adulthood had a large family of his own. Joseph Joachim studied at the Vienna Conservatory, and in Leipzig with Felix Mendelssohn. Joachim worked closely with Brahms, Schumann, Bruch, and Dvorak, and these composers wrote pieces especially for him.

In addition to performing works of his colleagues, Joachim, premier virtuoso violinist of his day, performed many of his numerous own compositions and arrangements. Being a native of the Austro Hungarian Empire, and his intimate understanding of the Gypsy idioms, made Joachim the ideal arranger of Brahms' Hungarian Dances. Joachim was a pioneering recording artist, and his recordings are fine examples of nineteenth century violin performance practice.
History of the German Society of Pennsylvania

In 1683 thirteen families from Krefeld under the leadership of Frankfurt lawyer, Franz Daniel Pastorius, founded the first German colony in America: Germantown — today part of Philadelphia. Many of these immigrants formed clubs that enabled them to preserve their cultural heritage. They also formed clubs that emphasized a specific geographic area, such as the Swabians, Bavarians, Saxons, Danube Swabians, Plattdeutsche, Tyroleans, and many others.

The German Society of Pennsylvania, founded in 1764, is the oldest German organization in the United States. It was founded to protect German immigrants from unscrupulous shipping agents and to ensure just treatment on their arrival here.

Since that time, the German Society has dedicated its efforts to preserving German heritage. This it does, for instance, by offering a full-fledged German language program as well as scholarships and prizes to students of German. In addition, the Society is a source of cultural programs, lectures, film series, and seminars. These events build bridges and strengthens relations among individuals, organizations, businesses, and governments.

The fine arts program also includes presentations that feature European music and literature as well as access to the Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library for education and research. The newly restored Library, holding over 70,000 volumes, is the largest private German library outside the Federal Republic of Germany.

In serving its members and the community, and in all its undertakings, the Society strives to benefit anyone in need of its resources.

Since the time of Pastorius, more than 8,000,000 Germans reached these shores. Today, 29% of the total population in the United States claims German ancestry.
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We also wish to acknowledge with thanks the generous support received from the Arcadia Foundation to our music program for this and next year’s season.