The German Society of Pennsylvania

presents

Elissa Lee Koljonen, violin, and Natalie Zhu, piano

Sunday, February 7, 2016 at 3:00 pm

The German Society of Pennsylvania
www.germansociety.org

611 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123
Calendar of Events

**February 2016**

- **Wed. Feb. 10** | Konversationsabend: Feuerzangbowle, 6.00 pm
- **Sat. Feb. 13** | Buchclub: Christian Kracht’s “Imperium/Imperium: A Fiction of the South Seas,” 130 pm
- **Fri. Feb. 19** | Friday FilmFest: *Die andere Heimat* (German with German subtitles), 6.30 pm
- **Sat. Feb. 27** | 5th Annual Bierfest, 2.00 pm

**March 2016**

- **Wed. Mar. 2** | Planned Giving Seminar, 5.00 pm
- **Sat. Mar. 5** | Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10.00 am
- **Wed. Mar. 9** | Konversationsabend: Hans Kueng’s “Die Frau in Christentum,” 6.30 pm
- **Sat. Mar. 12** | Buchclub: Daniel Kehlmann’s “Es,” 1.30 pm
- **Fri. Mar. 18** | Friday FilmFest: *Die geliebten Schwestern* (German with German subtitles), 6.30 pm

**April 2016**

- **Sat. Apr. 2** | Hamburgerabend, 6.00 pm
- **Sat. Apr. 2** | Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting in the Ratskeller, 10.00 am
- **Wed. Apr. 13** | Konversationsabend: Language and Philosophy with Dr. John Hoffmeyer, 6.00 pm
- **Fri. Apr. 15** | Friday FilmFest: *Elser (13 Minuten)*, 6.30 pm

**May 2016**

- **Sat. May 7** | Women’s Auxiliary Anniversary Luncheon, 12.00 pm
- **Wed. May 11** | Konversationsabend: Heine’s Songs and Schumann’s Music, 6.00 pm
- **Fri. May 20** | Friday FilmFest: *Die Mannschaft*, 6.30 pm

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

- **Sun. Mar. 6:** Amit Peled, cello, and Elizabeth Borowsky, Piano, 3.00 pm
  “The Journey with my Jewishness.” Selections include works by Max Bruch, Ernest Bloch, and David Popper

- **Sun. Mar. 20:** The Wister Quartet, 3.00 pm
  Selections include works by Haydn, Barber, and Schubert

- **Sun. Apr. 24:** The Delius Society presents: The Conwell Woodwind Quintet, 3.00 pm
  Various transcriptions of works by Frederick Delius

- **Sun. May 15:** The Wister Quartet, 3.00 pm
  Selections include works by Mozart, Mendelssohn, and four Tangos
Elissa Lee Koljonen, violin, and Natalie Zhu, piano

Romances and Fantasies
In Loving Memory of John Albert Koljonen

Romance No. 2 in F Major, op. 50
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 - 1827)

Sonata for Violin and Piano, op. 45
Allegro molto ed appassionata
A llegretto espressivo alla Romanza
A llegro animato
Edvard Grieg (1843 - 1907)

::INTERMISSION::

3 Romances for Violin and Piano, op. 22
Andante molto
A llegretto
Leidenschaftlich schnell
Clara Schumann (1819 - 1896)

Romanza Andaluza, op. 22
Pablo de Sarasate (1844 - 1908)

Carmen Fantasie, op. 25
Pablo de Sarasate (1844 - 1908)

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 Solists 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, Lucerne, 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 Lakes, 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

Romance No. 2 in F Major, op. 50 - Ludwig van Beethoven
No one knows just why Beethoven composed his Romances. Some historians speculate that one or the other may have been originally intended as the slow central movement for a fragmentary C major violin concerto that he had begun earlier; but some ponder that if that were true, why would he have created two Romances in different keys? In any event, the two Romances share a similarity in form as well as in mood, both being completely lyrical in spirit.
--Susan Halpern

Sonata No. 3 for Violin and Piano, op. 45 - Edvard Grieg
Considering that his principal fame rested on his many piano vignettes and songs, Edvard Grieg showed remarkable sympathy for string instruments. His "Holberg Suite" and "Lyric Melodies" for string orchestra, the magnificent Cello Sonata, the excellent string quartets, and the violin sonatas attest to the his creative ingenuity. Grieg wrote the C Minor Violin Sonata in 1886-87. The second movement Allegretto expressivo alla Romanza is especially characterized by warmth and melodic inspiration. This music captures Grieg at his most emotionally expressive - pure romanticism. The concluding Allegro animato is inspired by Norwegian folk dances - quintessential Grieg.
--Lawrence Budmen

3 Romances for Violin and Piano, op. 22 - Clara Schumann
“Three Romances” are exactly what their title indicates; they are secret, or not so secret, love songs and musical memories of their love. The format resembles a sonatina — Andante, Allegretto and Agitato. They exist in various instrumental combinations, such as

flute-piano and violin-piano, etc. The viola-piano version is especially appealing, for the warm tone of the viola represents the voice of her beloved husband, Robert, and she is the pianist who accompanies him with loving emotional attachment. This is charming, instantly engaging music, which speaks to the heart of lovers everywhere.
--Stephen Seleny

**Spanish Dance No. 3, Op. 22, No. 1 “Romanza Andaluza” - Pablo de Sarasate**
A part from being a brilliant concert violinist, Sarasate was also a prolific composer for the violin, much of his music having Spanish themes and rhythms. His music is often virtuosic and full of passion. He wrote eight Spanish Dances, mostly based on folk songs. The Romanza Andaluza uses an original theme. It dispenses with virtuosity and is a delicate, wistful evening song, full of charm and grace.
-- Jack de Wet

**Carmen Fantasie, op. 25 - Pablo de Sarasate**
The Carmen Fantasy is based on some of the most popular tunes from Georges Bizet’s opera, Carmen. Sarasate took the themes almost verbatim, and then created variations that certainly no singer would or could ever attempt, and in fact only he and a very few of the most skilled violinists could perform. To this day, Sarasate’s violin show pieces, Carmen Fantasy and the Gypsy Airs are two of his most popular works, and remain a fixture in today’s violin repertoire.
--Jay Fishman
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