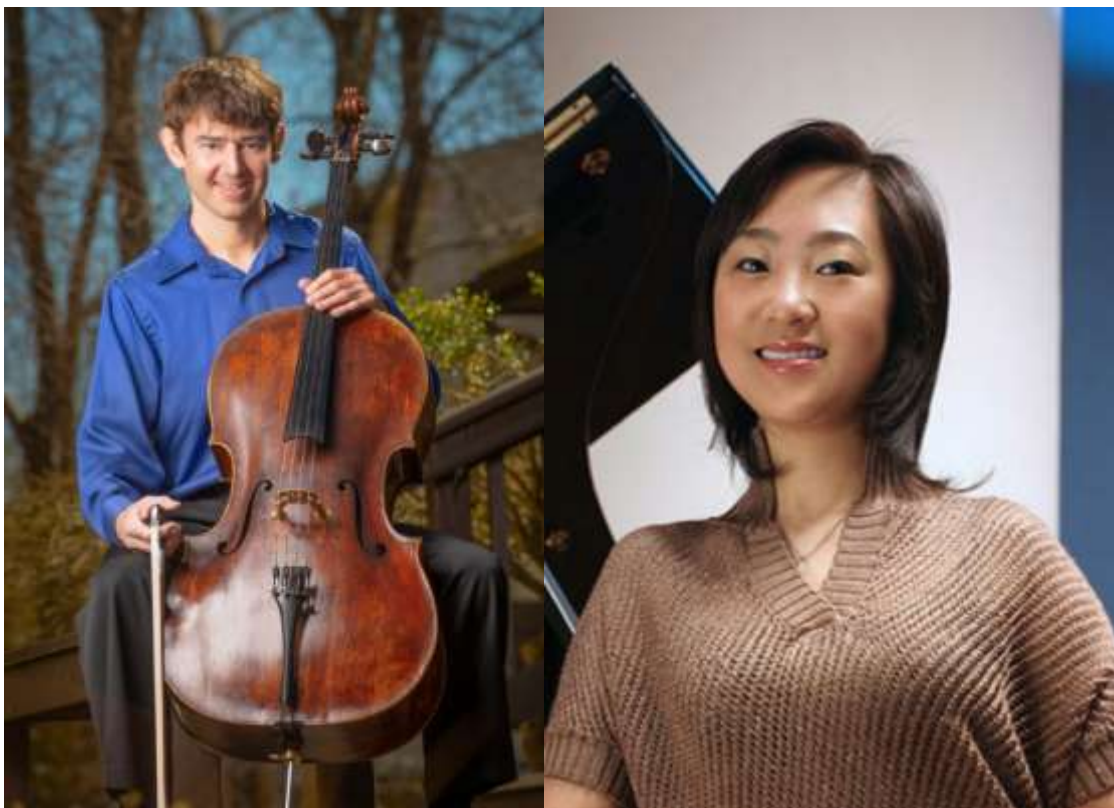




The German Society of Pennsylvania

proudly presents

Clancy Newman & Natalie Zhu



Sunday, October 4, 2020 at 3:00pm

The German Society of Pennsylvania
www.germansociety.org

611 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Calendar of Events

October 2020

- Sat. Oct. 10 Buchclub: *Mutter Courage*, 1:30pm
Wed. Oct. 14 Konversationsabend: The Power of Paintings, 7:00pm
Thurs. Oct. 15 German Heritage in Letters: From Family Research to Digital History -
Webinar with Dr. Atiba Pertilla, 6:00pm
Fri. Oct. 16 Friday Film Fest: *Der Vorname* 6:30pm

November 2020

- Wed. Nov. 11 Konversationsabend: Famous Quotations, 7:00pm
Thurs. Nov. 12 The Play World in the Archive - Virtual Lecture by Dr. Patricia Simpson,
6:00pm
Sat. Nov. 14 Buchclub, 1:30pm
Fri. Nov. 20 Friday Film Fest: *Trautmann*, 6:30pm

December 2020

- Wed. Dec. 9 Konversationsabend: Weihnachtsfeier, 7:00pm
Sat. Dec. 12 Buchclub, 1:30pm

Save the date for our next "Wister and More!" concerts:

- Sun. Oct. 25 **Karlsruher Konzert-Duo**
This piano and cello duo will present an enchanting program including pieces from Dvořák, Hindemith, Rachmaninov, and Gershwin.
- Sun. Nov. 15 **The Wister Quartet with Chuck Holdeman**
This beloved ensemble will perform with guest bassoonist, Chuck Holdeman.
- Sun. Dec. 13 **Musica Capricciosa**
This new ensemble will present works by Handel, Bach, Schütz, and Buxtehude.
- Sun. Jan. 3 **Xiaopei Xu, piano**
Ms. Xu's program will include favorite pieces by Bach, Shostakovich, Musto, and Chopin.

All of our events are open to the public.

We welcome members and non-members alike.

Most events require tickets. Please call or email the office to inquire about purchasing:
215.627.2332 | info@germansociety.org

Clancy Newman & Natalie Zhu

PROGRAM

Clancy Newman, Cello
Natalie Zhu, Piano

Sonata for Cello and Piano, Opus 6 (1936) Samuel Barber (1910-1981)
I. Allegro ma non troppo
II. Adagio; presto
III. Allegro appassionato

Capriccio (1946) Lukas Foss (1922-2009)

-Intermission-

Broken Music for Cello and Piano (2002) Kenji Bunch (b. 1973)
III. Broken Verse

Sonata No. 1 in E Minor for Cello and Piano, Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Opus 38 (1865)
I. Allegro non troppo
II. Allegretto quasi Menuetto
III. Allegro

There will be one 15-minute intermission. Refreshments can be purchased at the bar during that time. Your ticket to our concert also invites you to a complimentary reception with the artists in the Ratskeller (downstairs) following the performance.

Program Notes



Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

Sonata for Cello and Piano in C minor, Op. 6

The music of American composer Samuel Barber is most widely known from the use of his *Adagio for Strings* in the 1986 anti-war film *Platoon*. His songs and instrumental works, however, are equally popular in the programs of the world's leading concert artists and ensembles. Barber's *Piano Sonata*, for example, was performed more than once in the piano semifinals of the prestigious Tchaikovsky International Music Competition in Moscow earlier this year. But the enduring popularity of Barber's music should be no surprise, given its vocally-inspired lyricism and its sympathy with the Romantic-era aesthetic that still lies at the heart of the modern concert repertoire.

Barber's Cello Sonata was written in 1932 when the composer was still studying at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia and Brahms in particular looms large as an influence on its compositional style. Among its Brahmsian features are its high-serious tone and emotional intensity, its employment of cross-rhythms, and its luxuriant use of the rich low range of the keyboard. Among its modern features, however, are its frequent changes in meter and the angularity of many of its melodies.

Notes by Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason



Lukas Foss (1922-2009)

Capriccio

Lukas Foss composed a Duo for cello and piano in 1941, at the age of 18, and shortly after the success of his *Prairie*, the Sandburg cantata for which he received the New York Music Critics' Circle Award in 1944, he turned to this instrumentation again. He composed his *Capriccio* for the celebrated cellist Gregor Piatigorsky in 1946 under a commission from the Koussevitzky Music Foundation. Piatigorsky, who edited the cello part for publication, gave the premiere at Tanglewood the following year, with Foss at the piano, and several years later they made the first recording of the piece. The *Capriccio* has remained one of Foss's most frequently performed works for nearly 50 years, and the composer has remained as fond of it as the many cellists who have assured its place in the repertoire. Even now, Foss observes, "I like its combination of Bach, humor and American characteristics."

Notes by Richard Freed



Kenji Bunch (b. 1973)

Broken Music for cello and piano (2002), III: Broken Verse

The word "broken" is rich in meaning both within and beyond musical terms. With this work I wanted to include as many possibilities for the word as I could think of...

Broken Verse suggests both the occasional failure of words as a viable form of expression, as well as a song that is somehow struck and can't progress past the opening verse. In this movement I quote an old traditional New England country tune, the Westphalia

Waltz. Until its final ghostlike appearance, this waltz is interpolated into an irregular meter, rendering it undanceable and in effect, broken....

This work was commissioned by the Walter W. Naumburg Foundation for cellist Clancy Newman, for whom it is my great honor to write music.

Notes by Kenji Bunch, 2002



Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Cello Sonata No. 1 in E minor, Op. 38

Brahms loved chamber music in all forms, and wrote piano parts for himself to play....One of his supporters at the *Singakademie* was the famous vocal coach and *Lieder* composer Josef Gänsbacher (1829-1911), who was also an amateur cellist. In appreciation, Brahms dedicated a cello sonata he was working on to Gänsbacher, who was flattered and delighted, and when Brahms visited him, insisted on playing through the piece with the composer, giving rise to a possibly apocryphal but often repeated and utterly characteristic story. In their progress through the piece, Brahms began playing very loudly, causing Gänsbacher to complain that he could not hear himself. "Lucky you," Brahms replied to the overwhelmed amateur, and proceeded to play even louder....

"The young Brahms was hard, almost to harshness; he loved blunt expression and sudden contrasts, and avoided concessions to mere comprehensibility," as Karl Geiringer wrote, and there are certainly no concessions here, to either performers or listeners....

Notes by John Henken

About the Artists

Clancy Newman



Cellist **Clancy Newman**, first prize winner of the prestigious Walter W. Naumburg International Competition and recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant, has had the unusual career of a performer/composer. From Albany, NY, he began playing cello at the age of six, and at twelve he received his first significant public recognition when he won a Gold Medal at the Dandenong Youth Festival in Australia, competing against contestants twice his age. In the years that followed, he won numerous other competitions, including the Juilliard School Cello Competition, the National Federation of Music Clubs competition, and the Astral Artists National Auditions.

He has performed as soloist throughout the United States, as well as in Europe, Asia, Canada, and Australia. He can often be heard on NPR's "Performance Today" and has been featured on A&E and PBS. A sought after chamber musician, he is a member of the Clarosa piano quartet and the Chicago Chamber Musicians, and a former member of Chamber Music Society Two of Lincoln Center and the Weiss-Kaplan-Newman trio. He has also toured as a member of "Musicians from Marlboro".

He developed an interest in composition at an early age, writing his first piece at seven, a piece for solo cello. Since then, he has greatly expanded the cello repertoire, including pieces for solo cello, cello ensemble, cello and piano, and his Four Seasons of Life for cello and string orchestra. His "Pop-Unpopped" project, in which he writes solo cello caprices based on pop songs, has been ongoing since 2014 and has led to an exploration of cello techniques heretofore unimagined. He has also written numerous chamber works, having been a featured composer on series by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the Chicago Chamber Musicians, and his piano trio, Juxt-Opposition, is available on Bridge Records. In March 2019, Cherry Blossom Fantasy, a piano quintet commissioned by the Ryuji Ueno Foundation, was premiered at the opening ceremony of the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, DC.

Mr. Newman is a graduate of the five-year exchange program between Juilliard and Columbia University, receiving a M.M. from Juilliard and a B.A. in English from Columbia. His teachers have included David Gibson, Joel Krosnick, and Harvey Shapiro.

Natalie Zhu

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, Portland Piano Festival, Munich's Herkulessaal, and Beijing Concert Hall. 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 the recipient of numerous awards, including the grand prize in 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 the Marlboro, Amelia Island, Kingston, Great Lakes, Tanglewood, Skaneateles, and 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.

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We also wish to acknowledge with thanks the generous support received from **The Philadelphia Cultural Fund** for this season of our music program.