



The German Society of Pennsylvania

proudly presents

Pyxis Piano Trio



Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 3:00pm

The German Society of Pennsylvania
www.germansociety.org

611 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Calendar of Events

October 2021

- Sun. Oct. 3 Gentle Yoga, 11:00am
Tues. Oct. 5 Book Talk: *How German Ingenuity Inspired America: More Fun, More Beauty, More Freedom* by Lynne Breen, 11:00am
Sat. Oct. 9 Buchclub: *Unter der Drachenwand* by Arno Geiger, 1:30pm
Wed. Oct. 13 Konversationsabend: Favorite Books, 6:00pm
Sat. Oct. 16 Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am
Sat. Oct. 23 Library Treasure Tour: The German Society and the University of Pennsylvania, Past and Present, 2:00pm

November 2021

- Sat. Nov. 6 Women's Group Meeting, 10:30am
Sun. Nov. 7 Gentle Yoga, 11:00am
Wed. Nov. 10 Konversationsabend: *Angelika Kauffmann - eine Malerin in Goethes Rom*, 6:00pm
Sat. Nov. 13 Buchclub, 1:30pm
Fri. Nov. 19 Friday Film Fest: *Zwingli*, 6:30pm
Sat. Nov. 20 Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am

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

- Sun. Oct. 17 Elissa Lee Koljonen and Natalie Zhu**
This violin/piano duo will perform Tartini's "Devil's Trill" sonata and Saint-Saëns' Sonata No. 1 in D Major, Op. 75.
- Sun. Nov. 14 The Wister Quartet with Chuck Holdeman, Bassoon**
The Wister Quartet welcomes composer/performer Chuck Holdeman for a program of Borodin, Fargo, and an original work by Holdeman.
- Sun. Dec. 13 Filament**
This new baroque trio will present a program of Dietrich Buxtehude and Johann Philipp Krieger.

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

Program Notes

Ludwig van Beethoven - Piano Trio No. 4 in B-flat Major, Op.11, "Gassenhauer" (1797-1798)



In 1794, Beethoven published his very first opus, a set of three piano trios that had already expanded the genre in scope, virtuosity and expression particularly as four-movement works after the string quartet or symphony rather than the three-movement trios of Mozart or Haydn. Three years later, he witnessed the debut of Joseph Weigl's comic opera *L'Amor Marinaro* (The Corsair) featuring a popular tune *Pria ch'io l'impegno* ("Before beginning this awesome task, I need a snack") that would become the theme of the last movement of what would

become his fourth piano trio, Op. 11. Originally composed for clarinet, cello and piano, it was eventually published for clarinet or violin, which was more practical.

Johan Halvorsen - Passacaglia (After Handel) (1894)

The Passacaglia with its dual attribution to Handel and Halvorsen is a famous virtuoso piece for violin and cello published by Norwegian composer Johan Halvorsen in 1894 and based on the finale movement from the harpsichord suite in G minor (HWV 432) published by German composer Georg Frideric Handel 1720. The essential feature of a passacaglia is short, resolved chord progression repeated over and over as a continuous harmonic bedrock for a series of improvisations or inventive variations. Halvorsen was a celebrated violinist, conductor and composer who is remembered today primarily for his brilliant "extrapolation" of Handel's passacaglia.



Johannes Brahms - Piano Trio No. 1 in B Major, Op. 8 (1891)

In 1854, laboring under the "curse" of Schumann's glowing predictions for Germany's new rising star, a young twenty-one year old Brahms decided to publish his first chamber composition, the *Piano Trio in B major, Op. 8*. This was no small undertaking: Brahms was a fierce self-critic and is known to have consigned several early chamber works to the fire. Thirty-five years



later, in 1890, with all but a few final works ahead, the mature, master Brahms returned to the same trio compelled to revise. With his characteristic humor, Brahms claimed, "I didn't provide it with a new wig, just combed and arranged its hair a little". His changes were in fact substantial: he shortened the work by about one-third, significantly modifying all but the scherzo. It was around this time that Brahms decided to retire, after which he was coaxed momentarily by a late affair with the clarinet into a final small set of compositions. This piano trio therefore has a special significance for Brahms the chamber composer: it began his public career and it preoccupied his attentions again at the end of an astonishing series of masterpieces. In its final form, the B major piano trio bears the hand, the mind and the heart of both the young and the elder Brahms.

Notes by Kai Christiansen



About the Artists

Formed in 2021 by members of the Pyxis Piano Quartet, the Pyxis Piano Trio continues to perform chamber music works from the sonata, duo, and trio repertoire. Founded in 2009, the Quartet had become a vibrant presence in the mid-Atlantic region, known for compelling, engaging, and informative performances. Music critic Christine Facciolo writes that "balance, superb intonation and sensitive interpretation characterized [their] performance."

Pyxis has been heard to great acclaim along the East Coast in concerts from Virginia to Pennsylvania. Beginning their second decade, Pyxis remains artists in residence for series at both the Delaware Art Museum and with Market Street Music's Festival Concerts (Wilmington, DE). Recent performance highlights have included return engagements at the German Society of Pennsylvania, the Newark (DE) Free Library, the "Celebrate the Arts" series at Doylestown Presbyterian Church, the Kent Chamber Music Series (MD), Saint Monica's Church (Berwyn, PA), the Smyrna Opera House (DE) and debut appearances at the Cultural Center at the Havre de Grace Opera House (MD) and the Annie M. Gaul Concert Series at St. John's (Hain's) Church (Wernersville, PA). Other notable performances include the Delaware Symphony's Champagne Chamber Series at the DuPont Hotel Gold Ballroom, Concerts on the Square at Holy Trinity Church Rittenhouse (Philadelphia PA), a benefit for the Harmony for Peace Foundation, and recitals as featured artists at the Delaware Chamber Music Festival and at Villanova University.

For more information, visit pyxispianoquartet.com.



Luigi Mazzocchi, violin

Mr. Mazzocchi has performed as soloist with all the leading Venezuelan symphony orchestras and attended international music festivals in the US, Panama, Spain, France and Australia. He is a prizewinner in solo competitions such as the 1995 "Del Castillo" Latin American Competition, the 1997 South Orange Symphony Artist Competition, the 1999 FOSJA Solo Competition in Puerto Rico (performing as soloist at the Casals Festival), and the 2000 Temple University Concerto

Competition.

Currently, Mr. Mazzocchi is the Concertmaster of the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra, Concertmaster of the Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra, Concertmaster of the Ocean City Pops Orchestra, Associate Concertmaster of the Delaware Symphony, and a member of Opera Philadelphia, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the Philly Pops, the West Jersey Chamber Orchestra, Camerata Philadelphia, as well as the Gaudeamus and the Caçhasa Ensembles.



Jennifer Jie Jin, cello

Jennifer Jie Jin has been widely recognized for performances in music capitals in North America, Europe and Asia. An active chamber musician, Ms. Jin is the founder of the Tang-gu-la String Quartet. The Quartet received numerous honors, winning Second Prize in the First National String Quartet Competition. Shortly after, the quartet appeared in Isaac Stern's Oscar-winning documentary "From Mao to Mozart", and performed for President Bill Clinton.

Ms. Jin began her cello study at age 5. She received her Bachelor's degree from Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Upon receiving a full scholarship from Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, she came to the United States.



Hiroko Yamazaki, piano

Hiroko Yamazaki has performed in the United States and abroad and has collaborated with instrumentalists and vocalists including members of Tonhalle Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Delaware Symphony. Festival appearances include Luzerne, Aspen, Rome and International Festival Institute at Round Top, Texas (recorded by NPR).

Ms. Yamazaki has taught at University of Delaware and is currently Associate Head of the Piano Department/Master Piano Faculty with Distinction at The Music School of Delaware. She holds a Bachelor of Music in piano performance and Master of Music in Collaborative Piano from the University of Maryland.

**Benefactors of the
2021 / 2022
Classical Concert Series**

Dr. Edmund D. Cohen

Monica Kulaski

Ruth Quinn

Dr. Victor K. Schutz

Hardy von Auenmueller

Bette and Bill Young

**Patrons of the
2021 / 2022
Classical Concert Series**

Fredericka Heinze



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