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THANK YOU!



NEXT WEEK'S PERFORMANCE:

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 12:10pm
Travel Remotely
Yi-Wen Chang, piano



This program is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

2020 Fall Concert Series

American Sounds

November 11, 2020
12:10-12:50pm



LIVE *from*
HOCHSTEIN

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Willa Finck, a native of Boone, NC, joined the RPO in January of 2017. She is also a founding member of the folk-art band, Copper Hill. Willa received her Bachelor of Music degree with high distinction from the Eastman School of Music in 2018. Willa served as a concertmaster in both the Eastman School Symphony Orchestra and the Eastman Philharmonia, starting both positions in her sophomore year. In 2016 she won Eastman's Violin Concerto Competition, which led to her performance as soloist with the Eastman School Symphony Orchestra. Willa has also been a soloist with the North Carolina Symphony and the Asheville Symphony. In addition to her solo and orchestral endeavors, Willa is a dedicated chamber musician. While at Eastman, her quartet was selected four times to perform in the Honors Chamber Recital. In the summer of 2018 Willa performed with cellist Christopher Costanza of the St. Lawrence String Quartet at the Madeline Island Chamber Music Festival.

Willa grew up playing Irish and Old-Time music with her family and has made more recent forays into Bluegrass and song-writing. She plays a 2013 violin made by her father, David Finck Luthier.

American violinist **Robert Simonds** has a multifaceted career as an orchestral player, chamber musician, and solo recitalist. Rob is the principal second violin of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and a member of the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in Santa Cruz, CA. Interested in contemporary music for as long as he can remember, Rob performs, commissions, and records dynamic new music by living composers and explores the connections between traditions. For seven years, Rob was principal second violin of the Louisville Orchestra. He began his professional orchestral career with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra, followed by a longtime position with The Phoenix Symphony. He has collaborated with a wide range of artists including Rhiannon Giddens, Lizzie No, Joe Pug, Ben Sollee, and The Low Anthem.



Born and raised in Massachusetts, Rob began the violin at a young age, learning from his grandmother. A graduate of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, he studied with Dr. Won-Bin Yim and Dorothy Delay. His violin is from Reggio Emilia in northern Italy, made in 1927 by Mario Bedocchi.



Melissa Matson is well-known to Rochester audiences as the former principal violist of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and a versatile chamber musician. She is a frequent performer with Chamber Music Rochester and the Skaneateles Festival, a member of the Amenda Quartet, and the artistic director of First Muse Chamber Music.

Originally from California, Melissa was raised in a music-loving family - they played recorders together, her three siblings studied string instruments, and her mother built a harpsichord. Matson received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Eastman, where she studied with Martha Katz, Heidi Castleman, and Karen Tuttle, and was awarded the coveted Performer's Certificate. Her chamber music training includes work with the Cleveland and Juilliard Quartets, as well as study at The Quartet Program and the Aspen Center for Advanced Quartet Studies. Matson has been a chamber music participant in the Aspen, Norfolk, and Grand Teton summer festivals. For three years she was the principal violist and on the faculty of Eastern Music Festival, where she appeared as soloist with bassist Gary Karr and performed chamber music with violinist Franco Gulli and pianist Andre-Michel Schub.

Cellist **Lars Kirvan** grew up in Fairfax, VA, where he began his studies with Loran Stephenson of the National Symphony Orchestra. He later earned his bachelor's degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he was a student of Cleveland Orchestra's principal cellist, Stephen Geber. Kirvan joined the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra in 2008 and served as principal cellist in the 2014-15 season. Most recently, he was named assistant principal cellist of the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra.



Kirvan was a member of the Verbier Festival Orchestra in Switzerland, and served as a principal in the Verbier Chamber Orchestra. He was also a member and principal of the New World Symphony Orchestra, and was recently invited to join the World Orchestra for Peace. Kirvan is proud to have collaborated with artists such as Maxim Vengerov, James Buswell, Leonidas Kavakos, Dimitry Sitkovesky, Heinrich Schiff, Laurence Lesser, Jon Kimura Parker, and more.

PROGRAM

She Calls to Me Luke Cissell
(b. 1987)

Robert Simonds, violin

Three American Folk Hymns for Two Violins Kenji Bunch
(b. 1972)

Prologue
What Wondrous Love Is This
In Lonely Mountain Ways
I Come With Joy
Finale

Willa Finck, violin
Robert Simonds, violin

Two Sketches Based on Indian Themes, A. 99 Charles T. Griffes
(1884-1920)

Lento e mesto (D minor)
Allegro giocoso (F major)

Entr'acte Caroline Shaw
(b. 1987)

Willa Finck, violin
Robert Simonds, violin
Melissa Matson, viola
Lars Kirvan, cello

Today's Live from Hochstein concert is broadcast live and in stereo on **WXXI** FM, Classical 91.5 with host Mona Seghatoleslami.

The Hochstein School is grateful to Sidney & Barbara Sobel for providing continuous underwriting support for Live from Hochstein since 1993.

The Hochstein School wishes to thank its donors and patrons for their support of our mission:

To provide people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities with access to excellent music and dance education in a community that nurtures and encourages personal achievement.

For more information, please contact Director of Development & Community Engagement, Alette Jordan, at alette.jordan@hochstein.org or 585-454-4403.