

PORTLAND ROSSINI CLUB

151st Season

The Cathedral Church of St. Luke
Portland, Maine

3:00 PM
Sunday, May 15, 2022

President
Program Chair

Sydney Patten
Susanna Adams

Program

Presenting a New Generation of Maine Performers

Prelude in D-flat
Rhapsody in B minor, Op.79, no. 1

Lili Boulanger (1893 – 1918)
Johannes Brahms (1833 – 1897)

Anthony Ayer, piano*

Take, O Take Those Lips Away
Morgen
Will There Really Be a Morning?
Will There Really Be a Morning?

Amy Beach (1867 – 1944)
Richard Strauss (1864 – 1949)
Lori Laitman (b. 1955)
Ricky Ian Gordon (b. 1956)

Olivia Christopher, soprano*
Scott Wheatley, piano*

Gigerlette
Elle était descendue au bas de la prairie
Il Barcaiolo
Vorrei spiegarvi

Arnold Schönberg (1874 – 1951)
Lili Boulanger (1893 – 1918)
Gaetano Donizetti (1797 – 1848)
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)

March Steiger, soprano*
Scott Wheatley, piano*

Romanian Folk Dances

Béla Bartók (1881-1945)
Arr. Zoltán Székely (1903-2001)

I. Jocul cu băță. Allegro Moderato
II. Brâul. Allegro
III. Pê-loc. Andante
IV. Buciumeana. Moderato
V. Román polka / Poarga Românească. Allegro (Attacca)
VI. Mărunțel. Allegro

Stella Faux, violin*
Miriam Schwanauer, piano*

*Guest

*We request that the audience reserve its applause until the end of each performance
Many thanks to St. Luke's Cathedral for the use of their facilities for our programs*

Today's Performers

Anthony Ayer, piano: Recent second place winner of the 2022 Ocy Downs Piano Competition, Anthony has been playing piano for around four and a half years, and is currently a student of Oren Gauthier, as well as a sophomore at Baxter Academy in Portland. He enjoys listening to, playing, and occasionally writing music. He also enjoys being outdoors, and spending time with his family, friends and two cats.

Olivia Christopher, soprano: Olivia is a New Hampshire native and recent graduate of USM's Osher School of Music. For four years she was a student of Dr. Malinda Haslett, a member of the award winning Chamber Singers, and performer in Opera Workshop. In 2021 she was cast as 1st and 2nd Spirit in USM's *Die Zauberflöte* and this spring appeared as La fée in USM's production of *Cendrillon* by Pauline Viardot. In the spring of 2022, Olivia was awarded the Vocal Studies Encouragement Award for her work as a music theory tutor and an Undergraduate Research Opportunities fellowship to continue her extensive research on Lili Boulanger in Paris, France.

March Steiger, soprano: A fourth year Classical Vocal Performance Major at USM's Osher School of Music, March Steiger lives in Buxton, ME. He is currently studying with Dr. Malinda Haslett. During his time at USM, March has appeared in productions with USM's Opera Workshop as The Prince and Armelinde (*Cendrillon*, Viardot), Marie (*La Fille du Regiment*), La Péricole (*La Péricole*), Queen of the Night (*Die Zauberflöte*), Adele (*Die Fledermaus*), and Dorabella (*Così fan tutte*). He also has been a soloist with the Southern Maine Symphony Orchestra and USM's Choral Union. March has been a finalist in the Maine Classical NATS competition three years in a row, as well as being selected to sing in the USM School of Music Honors Recital in 2021 and 2022. In the summer of 2021, he performed in the ensemble of Opera Maine's production of *L'Elisir d'Amore*. March has found his passion in performing works by underrepresented and underperformed composers.

Stella Faux, violin: Violinist Stella Faux is excited to be joining Miriam Schwanauer for Zoltán Székely's version of Bartók's *Romanian Folk Dances*. In addition to performing regularly as a soloist and an avid chamber musician, Stella was the winner of the *Sinfonia da Camera Concerto Competition*, performing under the direction of Ian Hobson, and the Carnegie Hall based *American Protégé Competition* in 2017. She will be graduating from Boston University this May with Bachelor's degrees in Violin Performance and Psychology.

Miriam Schwanauer, piano: Born and raised in Maine, Miriam Schwanauer was a pupil of Ocy L. Downs and, at age 19, was honored to be selected to play for a master class given by Garrick Ohlsson. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music (B.M. in Applied Piano, and M.M. in Piano Performance and Literature), her teachers include Frank Glazer and Rebecca Penneys. Miriam served on the piano faculty of the Portland Conservatory of Music from 1996 to 2001. Devoted to teaching, she served on the faculty of Saint Joseph's College, teaching courses in Music History and Appreciation, and taught music at the Hill School and piano at the Waynflete School. In 2002, after relocating to Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, Miriam joined the piano faculty of the Conservatory of Central Illinois, where she taught until 2020. Upon her return to Maine in 2020, Miriam rejoined the PCM piano faculty, and performs as a soloist, and collaborative pianist. Director of the Early Childhood Music Program offered at PCM, she also serves as an instructor for PCM's Certificate Program.

Scott Wheatley, piano: A native of Kansas, Scott holds degrees from the University of Missouri/Kansas City Conservatory of Music and the University of South Florida. Formerly residing in New York City, he relocated to Portland and is pleased to be on the faculty of the University of Southern Maine and the Portland Conservatory of Music. He serves as the rehearsal accompanist for the Oratorio Chorale and is the Music Director at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Portland. In addition to a busy teaching and singing schedule (he's a baritone who has performed in operas and concerts both nationally and worldwide), Scott enjoys an active career as a coach/accompanist collaborating with both singers and instrumentalists.