



Berkshire Symphony Student Soloist Competition

Ronald Feldman, faculty host

Henri Vieuxtemps (1820 – 1881)

Violin Concerto No. 5

I. *Allegro non troppo*

II. *Adagio*

III. *Allegro con fuoco*

Christopher Chung '22, violin; Dalton Yu '22, piano

Gustav Mahler (1860 – 1911)

"Der Tamboursg'sell," from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*

Brandon Hilfer '20, baritone; Robin Kibler, piano

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873 – 1943)

Concerto No. 2 in C Minor

I. *Moderato*

Eugene Cho '20, piano; Doris Stevenson, piano

Sergei Prokofiev (1891 – 1953)

Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, op. 16

I. *Andantino*

Natalie Newton '20, piano; Doris Stevenson, piano

Francis Poulenc (1899 – 1963)

Concerto pour deux pianos in D Minor, FP 61 (1932)

I. *Allegro ma non troppo*

Alexandra Medeiros '20, piano (primo) & Gabrielle Wolfe '20, piano (secundo)

Frederic Chopin (1810 – 1849)

Concerto in F Minor, op. 21

II.

Allen Wang '20, piano; Doris Stevenson, piano

****continued on reverse****

Béla Bartók (1881 – 1945)

Concerto for Viola and Orchestra

I. *Moderato*

III. *Allegro Vivace*

Rebecca Christainsen '21, viola; Dalton Yu '22, piano

Guiseppe Verdi (1813 – 1901)

“Addio, del Passato,” from *La Traviata*

Caroline Fairweather '20, soprano; Robin Kibler, piano

Aram Khachaturian (1903 – 1978)

Flute Concerto in D Minor

I. *Allegro moderato*

Hanbin Koo '22, flute; Edwin Lawrence, piano

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835 – 1921)

“Mon coeur s'ouvre à ta voix,” from *Samson et Dalila*

Emily Ham '22, mezzo-soprano; Robin Kibler, piano

Tuesday, February 18, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
Williamstown, Massachusetts

Please turn off cell phones. No photography or recording is permitted.

About the Berkshire Symphony Student Soloist Competition

The Berkshire Symphony Student Soloist Competition is open to Williams College students who have completed certain required instrumental or vocal studies and are enrolled in qualifying courses. Each of the soloists has received a recommendation from his or her teacher to participate in the competition. The works they perform may be one movement from a concerto, a single-movement work, a concert or operatic aria, or song cycle for soloist and orchestra. A distinguished panel of judges consisting of professional musicians from outside the Williams community chooses the winners after the competition. The director of the Berkshire Symphony Ronald Feldman hosts the competition.

The competition winners will appear with the Berkshire Symphony in the orchestra's final regular season concert on **Friday, April 24, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.** in Chapin Hall, a gala evening that showcases the remarkable talents of our Williams students.

Judges for the 2020 Competition

Joel Pitchon violinist, is a soloist, concertmaster, chamber music player, and Professor of Music at Smith College. He earned his degrees from The Juilliard School of Music where he studied the violin with Oscar Shumsky and Joseph Fuchs. Mr. Pitchon has served as concertmaster for numerous orchestras, including the Orquesta Ciutat de Barcelona (Spain), the New York Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, and the EOS Chamber Orchestra. The New York Times noted his playing in the EOS production of Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat* as "...superb..." For GasparoRecords he recorded a CD of four Sonatas for violin and piano, with the composer Clifton J. Noble, Jr. as well as New England Legacy, works by Quincy Porter, Walter Piston, and Amy Beach with pianist Jonathan Bass. For ARTCD Mr. Pitchon performed on Sun Threads, chamber music of Augusta Read Thomas, made with the Walden Chamber Players. Soon to be released, New England Legacy II, works by Harbison, Fine, Ives and Noble. Mr. Pitchon is co-director of the Sage Chamber Music Society at Smith College.

John Perkel serves as Music Coordinator of the Berkshire Chamber Players. Mr. Perkel has spent 35 years as an orchestra librarian for the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, and Boston Symphony Orchestra. During summers, he served as orchestra librarian at the Tanglewood Music Center, where he had the privilege of working with some of the most talented and wonderful young musicians from all over the world. After the 2016 Tanglewood season, Mr. Perkel retired from the Boston Symphony and moved with his wife, Barbara, back to the Berkshires. Before his employment in the orchestra world, he was a music teacher at the Berkshire Hills Regional School District and also was a psychiatric worker at the Austen Riggs Center in Stockbridge.

Soprano **Amanda Boyd** has been hailed by critics as one of Britain's "Rising Stars." Ms. Boyd trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, where she won the Susan Longfield prize and was supported by the Countess of Munster Trust. She also trained at the National Opera Studio in London, where she was supported by Friends of Covent Garden and the Foundation for Sports and the Arts. Ms. Boyd was coached and supported by Elizabeth Vaughan and Dame Janet Baker throughout her training.

Among her many roles, Amanda Boyd played the title role in the film Lucia (Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*). Other operatic roles include: La Contessa (Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*) for the New Opera Festival in Rome, Italy; Ginevra (Handel's *Ariondante*) for the Covent Garden Festival; Adina (Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*) for Bel Canto UK and the Cambridge Opera Players; Martha (Flotow's *Martha*) for Bel Canto UK; Lucia (Britten's *The Rape Of Lucretia*) for Music Theatre Wales at the Cheltenham and Buxton Festivals; Romilda (Handel's *Xerxes*) with The Early Opera Company; Gretel (Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*); Despina (Mozart's *Così Fan Tutte*) for The London Opera Players; Cunegonde and Maria (Bernstein's *Candide* and *West Side Story*) with the Columbia Festival Orchestra, NY; Dido (Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas*) with Broad Street Players, PS21, Chatham NY; Cleopatra (Handel's *Giulio Cesare*) with Upstate Chamber Opera, Albany, NY., Constance Fletcher in R.B.Schlather's production of *The Mother Of Us All* at Hudson Hall, NY.

Ms. Boyd's performances of contemporary works include: the lead as Maeve in the world premiere of Deirdre Gribbin's *Hey! Persephone* for the Almeida and Aldeburgh Festivals; the role of Duende in the world premiere of Simon Holt's *A Nightingale's To Blame* for Opera North UK; Edward Barnes' one-woman opera *The Vagabond Queen* for Hudson Chamber Opera, Hudson, NY and Soprano soloist in John Kelly's *Find My Way Home* at the Joyce Theatre. Amanda headlined and toured with the band, The Art of Noise, for their album *The Seduction of Claude Debussy*, in the USA and UK.

Amanda's regular solo concert appearances include Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music* with Sir Simon Rattle; Poulenc's *Gloria* with Sir David Willcocks; Britten folksong arrangements (Albany Symphony Orchestra) and most recently, Britten's *Les Illuminations*; Haydn's *Nelson Mass*; Honegger's *King David*; Handel's *Ode St.Cecelia*; (Broad Street Chorale and Orchestra NY)

This Spring Amanda will be singing the US premiere of *Kindersang* - a song cycle for soprano and violin composed by Deirdre Gribbin, at the Lincoln Center Library for the Performing Arts. The songs are set to poems written by a Kindertransport survivor, Lotte Kramer.

Under *BoydSong*, Amanda continues to keep the Art Song repertoire alive, regularly performing recitals with piano, her trio *Trimonious* and other chamber groups in concert halls; private homes; and galleries both in the USA and Europe.

About the Berkshire Symphony Student Soloists

Rebecca Christainsen '21 is a chemistry and music double major from Palo Alto, CA. She currently studies viola with Ah Ling Neu, plays in the Berkshire Symphony and Chamber Orchestra of Williams, and is violist of the Axxea and Alludio String Quartets. Rebecca previously studied with Susan Bates at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and was Principal Violist of the El Camino Youth Symphony from 2010 to 2016. In her spare time, Rebecca likes sleeping or reading random Wikipedia articles.

Eugene Cho '20 is a biology major at Williams. He has studied piano since the 3rd grade, when he was forced to by his mother. Though no longer forced to take piano lessons, Eugene has continued to do so with Doris Stevenson since his freshman year at Williams. He is currently working on a biology thesis for which he studies the role of dopamine in the behavior of fruit flies. Away from the lab, Eugene enjoys playing pick-up soccer and watching horror movies with his friends.

Christopher Chung '22 is from Taiwan and his intended majors are computer science and physics. He hopes you enjoy his performance!

Caroline Fairweather '22 is from Taiwan and her intended majors are computer science and physics. He hopes you enjoy his performance!

Caroline Fairweather '20 is a theatre major from Pittsfield, MA. Previous credits include *La Clemenza di Tito* with the Williams Chamber Orchestra and selections from Act IV from *The Marriage of Figaro* in the Williams Opera Workshop. She heartily thanks her voice teacher and accompanist!

Emily Ham '22 is a sophomore Economics and German major from New York, New York. She studies voice with Keith and Robin Kibler. She was a part of the Williams Opera Workshop this past January.

Brandon Hilfer '20 is a music and political science major from Chappaqua, NY. He has performed with the Concert Choir, Opera Workshop, and the Chamber Orchestra of Williams, along with various theater productions. He studies voice with Keith Kibler and cello with Nathaniel Parke.

Hanbin Koo '22, is a flutist with international recognition from winning the ENKOR International Woodwinds & Brass Competition and The Ronald Sachs International Music Competition, and received the 1st prize from both the national finals of the Music Teachers Association competition and the Flute View High School Soloists competition. She has been invited to perform gospel music across the eastern United States and has been playing weekly at church services (including First Congregational Church of Williamstown) for 6 years.

Alexandra Medeiros '20 is a Music and Psychology double major. She studies piano with Elizabeth Wright and has participated in chamber music and Wind Ensemble. She studied abroad last year at Oxford University where she continued her study of music history and composition. A lover of new and experimental music, Alex participated in and helped to coordinate this year's I/O New Music Festival.

Natalie Newton '20 is an Economics honors thesis candidate from the Mississippi Gulf Coast. She currently studies piano with Doris Stevenson. Over the years, Natalie has won honors in local, regional, and international music competitions. A member of a musical family, she has many warm and colorful memories of collaborative work with her siblings, and she relishes opportunities to collaborate with her fellow musical Ephs. In addition to music, Natalie enjoys running, reading, and portraiture.

Allen Wang '20 has been playing piano ever since being 3 years old -- from early on, his favorite piano composer has been Frederic Chopin. Allen is currently studying at Williams College and is majoring in music and mathematics. Besides playing piano, Allen also works on music composition and music production. He loves composing and performing both classical and popular styles of music. Allen has been a Teaching Assistant in music technology and music theory at Williams, and he plans to continue in the music industry after graduation.

Gabrielle Wolfe '20 is a Chemistry major at Williams. She studies piano with Elizabeth Wright. She has performed as an accompanist for various musicians. She is also an active member of and piano for the student-led Latin music group *¡Vive!*