

Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra

presents

Young Artists Series

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KuanFen Liu

Artistic Director and Conductor

Friday, January 25th, 2019 at 7:30pm

Sunday, January 27th, 2019 at 3pm

Program

- Introduction, Aria & Presto, A minor
Benedetto Marcello
(1686-1739)
- Oboe Concerto in C minor
Adagio (second movement)
Noah Laber, oboe
Alessandro Marcello
(1673-1747)
- Overture in C major
Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel
(1805-1847)
- Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 25
Molto allegro con fuoco (first movement)
David Shiang, piano
Daniel Newman-Lessler, conductor
Felix Mendelssohn
(1809 -1847)

Intermission

- The *Tragic Overture*, Op. 81
Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)
Daniel Newman-Lessler, conductor
- Jeux d'enfants*, Op. 22: Petite Suite
Georges Bizet
(1838-1875)
Marche (Trompette et tambour - Trumpet and drum)
Berceuse (La poupée - The doll)
Impromptu (La toupie - The spinning top)
Duo (Petit mari, petite femme - Little husband, little wife)
Galop (Le bal - The ball)
- Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 26
Max Bruch
(1838-1920)
Vorspiel: Allegro moderato (first movement)
Stephen Saw, violin

Thank you to Women's Philharmonic Advocacy for their support of CHICO. Today we proudly present music by female composer, Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel.

<https://wophil.org>



Program Notes & Biographies

Introduction, Aria and Presto by Benedetto Marcello

Benedetto Marcello was an Italian composer and a contemporary of Bach, Handel and Vivaldi. He is one of the few notable composers who had a full-time career in a field outside of music. (Borodin and Ives come to mind.) He studied law, held various government jobs, and for eight years was governor of the province of Pola. This delightful work for strings alone is a good example of Marcello's late Baroque style. In three movements (all in A Minor, fast-slow-fast), the Introduction begins with a three-note motive reminiscent of the first movement of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3. Marcello makes extensive use of melodic/harmonic sequences in all three movements, a fundamental characteristic of Baroque music.

Concerto for Oboe by Alessandro Marcello

The brother of Benedetto, Alessandro Marcello was also a composer, but not as well known as his brother, and his works are less frequently played. He wrote mostly for the musicians in his hometown. The Concerto for Oboe is considered to be his best work. In the traditional three movements (fast-slow-fast), the concerto consists of an oboe soloist supported by a string orchestra. Bach liked this concerto so much that he transcribed it as a solo Concerto in D Minor for harpsichord. Today we hear the second movement—Adagio—which features a soaring, contemplative melody played by the oboe supported by pulsating strings. The Adagio is still frequently performed at weddings. This performance features the talented young oboist, Noah Laber.

Overture in C Major by Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel

Fanny Hensel (née Mendelssohn), the older sister of the renowned composer Felix Mendelssohn, wrote over 450 works of music, yet few are performed today. She exhibited great musical talent as a child, and became an accomplished pianist. Her piano teacher once praised her ability, saying, "She plays like a man." (It was highly unusual at the time for a woman to pursue a career as a concert pianist, let alone as a composer.) Many of her songs were published under Felix's name, and some of her works have been erroneously attributed to her brother, even into this century. Written about the year 1830, the Overture in C Major is her only known orchestral work. In the traditional sonata-allegro form, it begins with a long, slow introduction which is suddenly interrupted by a loud orchestral passage leading to the first theme. The gentler second theme follows, leading to the development and recapitulation. An exciting coda concludes the work.

Piano Concerto No. 1 in G Minor by Felix Mendelssohn

Written when Mendelssohn was just 21, this work is considered by many to be the first Romantic-era piano concerto. Instead of a long orchestral beginning in which the themes of the concerto are introduced (typical of the previous Classical period), the piano enters almost immediately with the first theme. Mendelssohn indicates that the first movement should be played *molto allegro con fuoco* (very lively with fire). The tumultuous first theme is followed by a gentle, tuneful second theme before proceeding to the development section and the recapitulation. The three movements are played without a break—another innovation of the Romantic period. The talented David Shiang plays the first movement for us today.

Tragic Overture by Johannes Brahms

Brahms said, "one laughs while the other cries." He was referring to his two concert overtures, the Academic Festival Overture and the Tragic Overture, both written in the summer of 1880. While the former is upbeat, fun and optimistic, the Tragic Overture is serious, dramatic and foreboding. The Tragic Overture does not follow the traditional sonata-allegro model, since the first theme comes last in the recapitulation. The work begins with two loud chords in the orchestra followed by a timpani roll, setting the stage for a deeply moving experience. One way of enjoying this work is to imagine an emotional arc that begins with catastrophe and sadness, followed by a glimmer

of hope and peace in the middle section, only to return to sadness and hopelessness at the end. Of course, any interpretation that gives you the most satisfaction is the correct one!

Jeux d'enfants: Petite suite by Georges Bizet

Most concert-goers know Georges Bizet as the composer of Carmen, one of the most popular operas of all time. But, of course, in his short life he wrote many other fine works, including the operas *L'Ârlésienne* and *Les pêcheurs de perles*, and the piano piece *Jeux d'enfants* ("Children's Games"), a suite of 12 miniatures for piano four hands. Written in 1871, shortly before he began work on Carmen, *Jeux d'enfants* is his most well-known keyboard work. It was so popular in his lifetime that he orchestrated five of the miniatures (numbers 6, 3, 2, 11, 12) and called it *Petit Suite*. This orchestrated version also became quite popular in his lifetime. We hope you enjoy it as much as Bizet's Parisian audiences did.

Concerto No. 1 in G Minor by Max Bruch

One of the greatest violin concertos of all time, the Concerto in G Minor is technically very difficult and physically demanding. Max Bruch was a friend of Johannes Brahms (who also wrote a great violin concerto), and the Romantic style of this work is very much in the conservative style of Brahms, as opposed to the progressive style of Wagner and Liszt. The first movement begins with a series of deeply contemplative and expressive passages on the violin, improvisatory in nature, separated by commentary in the orchestra. A faster middle section gives the soloist a well-deserved break, while the third and final section returns to the dramatic and lachrymose style of the first section. The first movement ends softly and peacefully as it flows seamlessly into the second movement (like the Mendelssohn concerto above and his famous violin concerto). The talented violinist Stephan Saw plays the first movement for us today.

Program notes by Ted Lucas

KuanFen Liu is the Assistant Professor at CSU Channel Islands and the Artistic Director/Conductor of Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra and Channel Islands Choral Association. Originally from Taiwan, KuanFen began her piano study at the age of five and pursued piano, violin and singing throughout her childhood. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Voice Performance from Tunghai University in Taiwan. After coming to the United States in 1995, she has attended graduate schools at the prestigious Eastman School of Music (M.M.) and the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California (D.M.A.). KuanFen was the assistant conductor of the USC Chamber Choir (an international award winning collegiate choir) and taught conducting classes at both undergraduate and graduate levels during her residency as a doctoral student at USC. She received an honorary award at the Honors Convocation during graduation in May 2003. KuanFen was one of the 12 conductors selected internationally to participate at the Oregon Bach Festival where she conducted concerts with the Festival Chorus and Orchestra in 2006. KuanFen has studied choral conducting with Helmuth Rilling (German), William Dehning, and William Weinert; orchestral conducting with Helmuth Rilling, Mark Gibson and David Effron. She also participated in master classes and workshops with Robert Shaw, Charles Dutoit, Helmuth Rilling, Joseph Flummerfelt, James Jordan and Dale Warland. KuanFen currently lives in Ventura, California with her family. KuanFen was the recipient of one of the 2016 Ventura Mayor's Arts Awards in the "Artist in the Community" category.

Daniel Newman-Lessler is conductor of the Kadima Conservatory and Senior Philharmonic, assistant conductor of the Los Angeles Zimriyah Chorale and California State University Channel Islands University Choir, and music director of the Temple Ner Ami Choir. He conducted eleven performances of Bernstein's *Westside Story* at the Rubicon Theatre in 2015. He served as the assistant conductor for the Santa Barbara Symphony's 2017-18 season opening concert: *Mozart in Dance*, and will do so again for their 2019 performance of *Verdi's Requiem*. He teaches piano at Pepperdine University. Daniel graduated from the University of Southern California with an M.M. in Sacred Music from the USC Thornton School of Music and a B.M. in Piano Performance. He has also studied conducting, composition, and piano at the: Idyllwild Arts Academy; International Summer Academy of Music in Ochsenhausen, Germany; Franz Liszt

Academy of Music in Sopron, Hungary; Oregon Bach Festival with Helmuth Rilling; Los Angeles Conductors Workshop with Kenneth Kiesler; and the Conductors Retreat at Medomak in Maine, also with Kenneth Kiesler. As a singer, Daniel has performed and recorded with Andrea Bocelli, Natalie Cole, Jennifer Hudson, Mary J. Blige, and David Foster at the Nokia Theatre, Capitol Records, and Paramount Pictures. He serves as the High Holiday Cantor at Temple Ner Ami. As a pianist, Daniel has won the SYMF and MTAC concerto competitions, repeatedly performed as a soloist with the Thousand Oaks Philharmonic, and performed chamber music as cofounder of the Singer Chamber players. He appeared on the sixth season of Glee as a pianist and has performed as a panelist for MTAC. He served as the music director of the Harmony for Humanity Daniel Pearl World Music Days Festival in Camarillo for ten years. His research on Dave Brubeck's Gates of Justice received grant funding from University of the Pacific. His compositions have been performed by the Torrance Civic Chorale, Los Angeles Zimriyah Chorale, and USC Thornton University Chorus.

David Shiang, age 15, started playing the piano at the age of five. He is currently under the guidance of Mr. Mark Richman. His prior piano teacher was Mrs. Shirley Hsieh. David won the MTAC Contemporary Music Festival (2010-2016), Bach Festival (2012-2016), and VOCE (2018). David also learned to play the violin from Mrs. Teresa DiTullio, of Thousand Oaks, Ca. David was a member of Conejo Valley Youth Orchestra. In his free time, he volunteered at senior homes and church events. David is a long distance runner at Oak Park High School's Track team. He also likes watching movies, drawing, and playing basketball.

Noah Laber, 15, recently completed his sophomore year at Ventura High School and is in his fifth year of playing the oboe. He studies under Mr. Fredric Beerstein of Thousand Oaks. He is a member of the Ventura High School Honors Wind Ensemble and Ventura Youth Symphony. He has participated in several chamber groups, All County Honor Band, and California All-State Band for the past four years. Noah received the outstanding soloist award at the Nationally Adjudicated Forum Music Festival at San Mateo College in 2016 and the Ventura High School outstanding musician award in 2018. He performed with the Thousand Oaks Philharmonic as a featured soloist in July 2018. In addition to playing the oboe, Noah is a competitive tennis player who consistently ranks in the top fifty of Southern California juniors. When Noah is not playing oboe or tennis, he enjoys reading, ping pong, and beach volleyball.

Stephen Saw is an incoming junior at Westlake High School. He began learning piano at the age of five with Mrs. Ornela Ervin, and soon after, started violin lessons with Mrs. Shuwei Liu. Stephen has passed the Advance Level of CM in piano with honor, and won numerous awards, including YouTube Festimantic!, SCJBF Regional, SYMF, and MTAC Contemporary Music Festival. He is a member of the TO Philharmonic Appassionata program and has worked with violin masters Mr. Lorenz Gamma and Dr. Ernest Salem, as well as performing as a soloist with the Philharmonic twice in the 2018 season. In addition to his personal pursuit of music, Stephen has shared his passion and knowledge with young students at the Conejo Valley Summer Music Camp. He also enjoys playing cards, reading a wide range of subjects from comics to politics, hanging out with friends, and taking naps at the most inconvenient times. Stephen is honored to have been granted the privilege to perform with the Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra. He would like to thank his family, Mrs. Ornela Ervin, and Mrs. Shuwei Liu for nurturing his musical journey, as well as his friends for their unwavering support.

*Channel Islands Choral Association
is auditioning **TENORS and BASSES** from the community
to join the CSU Channel Islands Choir*

Sing Opera Choruses with Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra!

The choir meets Monday nights 7:00 - 8:50 p.m. on the CSUCI Campus

Rehearsals start January 28, 2019

Email Dr. KuanFen Liu at downbeatplus@gmail.com to schedule an audition.

Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra

KuanFen Liu, Artistic Director and Conductor

Violin I

Steven Chang
Co-concertmaster
Sharon Cooper
Co-concertmaster

Barbara Poehls
Karen Darnall
Gary Chandler
Vera Dragicevich

Violin II

Cyndi Hall
Katie Helms Banday
Ruth Kay
Karen Nelson
Paul Kerstein
Christine Snipes

Viola

Judy Garf
Bill Hamilton
James Rumenapp
Jonathan Morgan

Cello

John Fare
Celine Gietzen
Ervin Klinkon
Chris Dimond

Double Bass

Hal Onserud
Paul Sharp

Flute

Mariana Smith
Ann Erwin

Piccolo

Ann Erwin

Oboe

Paula Dublinski
Louis Grace

Clarinet

David Singer
Steve Marsh

Bassoon

Cavit Celayir-Monezis
John Marston

French Horn

Lynne Doherty
Anna Pierson
Rachel Howerton
Margaret Henrikson

Trumpet

Randy Jones
Linda Rhymes

Trombone

Michael Vaughn
Cathy Sanders

Tuba

John Robinson

Timpani

Tyler Smith

Percussion

Angel Velez

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Chico 2018-2019 Season

Opening Gala - New World Symphony

Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 and music by Bernstein, Strauss, and Shostakovich

Friday, Oct 12th at 7:30pm - St. Mary Magdalen Church

Sunday, Oct 14th at 3pm - First United Methodist Church of Ventura

Hark! A CHICO Holiday Concert

Featuring fresh, contemporary arrangements of carols and holiday songs.

Directed by Miriam Arichea, the cast will include

local professionals and a youth ensemble.

Friday, Nov 30th at 7:30pm - Rancho Campana High School

Sunday, Dec 2nd at 3pm - First United Methodist Church of Ventura

Young Artists Series

Daniel Newman-Lessler, guest conductor; Stephen Saw, violin;

David Shiang, piano; Noah Laber, oboe

Friday, Jan 25th at 7:30pm - St. Mary Magdalen Church

Sunday, Jan 27th at 3pm - First United Methodist Church of Ventura

World Music Gala - Music of the Orient

Award winning Double Erhu Concerto by the young Chinese composer, Bo-Chan Li, performed by internationally renowned Taiwanese erhu masters, Dr.

Ming-Yen Lee and Dr. Hsin-Chih Lin.

Yellow River Piano Concerto featuring Miriam Arichea on piano.

Friday, March 1st at 7:30pm - St. Mary Magdalen Church

Sunday, March 3rd at 3pm - First United Methodist Church of Ventura

Choral Spectacular 2019 - Opera Choruses

CHICO, joined by Channel Islands Choral Association and outstanding soloists, will present some of the best and most beloved opera choruses.

Pieces by Wagner, Bellini, Puccini and Verdi.

Fri, April 26th at 7:30pm - Rancho Campana High School

Sunday, April 28th at 3pm - Rancho Campana High School

VENUE ADDRESSES

St. Mary Magdalen Church - 25 N. Las Posas Rd, Camarillo

First United Methodist Church of Ventura - 1338 E. Santa Clara St, Ventura

Rancho Campana High School Performing Arts Center - 4235 Mar Vista Dr, Camarillo

\$20 suggested donation; kids and students free

visit www.chicovc.org for more information

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