

presents

THE UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY
Jonathan Pasternack, *conductor*

with faculty artist

MELIA WATRAS, *viola*

June 3, 2011

7:30 PM

Meany Theater

PROGRAM

SYMPHONY NO. 39 IN E^b MAJOR, K. 543

.....WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756-1791)

- I. Adagio – Allegro*
- II. Andante con moto*
- III. Menuetto – Trio*
- IV. Allegro*

Meena Hwang, *conductor*

CONCERTO FOR VIOLA AND ORCHESTRA

.....KRZYSZTOF PENDERECKI (b. 1933)

Melia Watras, *viola*

INTERMISSION

“PINES OF ROME”OTTORINO RESPIGHI (1879-1936)
 The Pines of the Villa Borghese
 Pines near a Catacomb
 The Pines of the Janiculum
 The Pines of the Appian Way

MEENA HWANG is a doctoral candidate in instrumental conducting under Maestro Peter Erös at the University of Washington School of Music. A pianist and cellist since age four, she graduated from the Seoul Arts High School with a composition emphasis, and then entered the prestigious Korean National University of Arts where she received the B. Mus. Degree in orchestral conducting. During her time at the KNUA, Ms. Hwang served as an assistant conductor for the KNUA’s orchestra and opera productions and directed numerous ensembles for concerts of contemporary music and competitions for young composers. Since coming to the University of Washington, where she earned her master’s degree in instrumental conducting, she has served as an assistant conductor and teaching assistant for the UW Symphony Orchestra and Opera, and made her opera conducting debut at Meany Theater in a production of Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro*. Ms. Hwang has conducted such ensembles as the Sofia Festival Orchestra, Rouse Philharmonic, and Rose City Chamber Orchestra, and her stage credits include productions of Mozart’s *Così fan Tutte*, *La Finta Giardiniera*, and *Die Zauberflöte*; Puccini’s *Suor Angelica*; Tchaikovsky’s *Eugene Onegin*; Haydn’s *Il Mondo della Luna*; and Pasatieri’s *The Women*. She also has studied conducting with Jorma Panula, Gianluigi Gelmetti, Christopher Zimmerman, Kenneth Woods, and Chiyong Chung.

Dr. JONATHAN PASTERNAK is Director of Orchestral Activities at the University of Washington School of Music during the 2010-11 academic year. He has conducted orchestras, opera and ballet in the United States and Europe, with such ensembles as the London Symphony Orchestra, Residentie Orkest of The Hague, Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center, among many others. His debut recording, leading the London Symphony Orchestra in Béla Bartók’s *Miraculous Mandarin* suite and the *Symphony No. 1* by Johannes Brahms, was released in January 2011 on the Naxos label.

His opera conducting experience includes productions of *Tosca*, *Don Carlos*, *Die Fledermaus*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *Les Dialogues des Carmélites*, *Cendrillon*, *L’enfant et les sortilèges* and *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. He led the Paris pre-

miere of Robert Clerc's *À l'ombre du grand arbre* and the world premiere of *The Prestigious Music Award* by Gloria Wilson Swisher at Shoreline Community College. He recently conducted performances of Wayne Horvitz's chamber opera-oratorio, *The Heartsong of Charging Elk*, as part of an educational tour presented by Washington State University in Pullman and Vancouver.

Born and raised in New York City, Jonathan Pasternack studied violin, cello, trombone, piano and percussion. He won a trombone scholarship to the Manhattan School of Music at the age of sixteen and later transferred to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to pursue studies in astronomy, philosophy and political science. He earned master's and doctorate degrees in music from the University of Washington, where he studied conducting with Peter Erös and trombone with Stuart Dempster. His other conducting teachers and mentors have included Neeme Järvi, Hans Vonk, Valery Gergiev, Jorma Panula, James DePreist, Murry Sidlin, and David Zinman. At the invitation of Mr. Zinman, Jonathan Pasternack attended the Aspen Music Festival and School as a featured Academy Conductor, where he was the recipient of fellowships in both conducting and trombone. In 2002, he was awarded Second Prize at the Sixth Cadaqués International Conducting Competition in Barcelona, Spain, where he was the only American invited to compete.

Dr. Pasternack has served as Assistant Conductor with the Oregon Symphony, Resident Conductor and Managing Director of the Icicle Creek Music Center in Leavenworth, and Visiting Director of Orchestral Activities at Pacific Lutheran University. He has served as guest faculty at the University of Washington, Central Washington University, East Oregon University, Pacific University, Conservatoire de Maurepas in France and Conservatoire Supérieur de Musique de Genève in Switzerland.

Described as "staggeringly virtuosic" by The Strad, violist MELIA WATRAS has been hailed by audiences and critics alike for her electrifying and vibrant performances. Throughout her career Watras has championed the works of living composers, commissioning, premiering and recording numerous new works for the solo viola and for string quartet, while appearing in the nation's leading venues including Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall, Alice Tully Hall and the Kennedy Center.

Watras' expanding discography has garnered considerable attention and praise from the media. Of her debut solo CD, *Viola Solo*, Strings remarked, "Watras is a young player in possession of stunning virtuosic talent and deserving of the growing acclaim." The Strad called her "excellent" and "authoritative," while the American Record Guide proclaimed, "Watras is a terrific violist." For the CD, Watras adapted John Corigliano's *Fancy on a Bach Air* for viola. Her edition of this work is published by G. Schirmer, Inc. Watras' recently released second solo CD, *Prestidigitation* features world premiere recordings of five works written especially for her and was described by Strings as "astounding, and both challenging and addictive to listen to." Her upcoming third disc will include short, stylistically diverse works from composers ranging from Henri Vieuxtemps to Gyorgy Ligeti.

With the Corigliano Quartet, Watras has concertized extensively throughout the United States and abroad, performing to much critical acclaim. Described as "musicians who seem to say 'Listen to this!'" by the New York Times, the quartet's 2007 CD release on the Naxos label was named one of the Ten Best Classical CDs of the Year by the New Yorker and prompted Gramophone to proclaim, "the unbridled force and full-metal virtuosity that the Corigliano Quartet unleash on this music is astounding." The group has won awards such as the Grand Prize at the Fischhoff Competition and the ASCAP/CMA Award for Adventurous Programming, and has appeared at the Isaac Stern Chamber Music Workshop at Carnegie Hall and festivals including Aspen and Ravinia. The Corigliano Quartet has recorded for Naxos, Albany, Bayer, CRI, Riax, and Aguava and has appeared on NPR's All Things Considered and Performance Today and WFMT-Chicago's Live from Studio One.

A versatile performer, Watras has enjoyed collaborations with dance and theater. She made her dance debut at the Merce Cunningham Studio in New York City, where she played viola and danced in the premiere of Kathryn Sullivan's *At Home*. Music from her Viola Solo CD was featured in director Sheila Daniels's production of *Crime and Punishment* at Intiman Theatre, and she will soon work as a consultant for Braden Abraham's production of *Opus* at Seattle Repertory Theatre.

Melia Watras was born in Honolulu, Hawaii and began her musical studies on the piano at age five. Soon after, she turned to the viola and made her debut at age sixteen, soloing with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra. While still in high school, Watras drew attention by winning the National Wendell Irish Award. Her formal studies took her to Indiana University, where she studied with Abraham Skernick and Atar Arad, earning Bachelor's and Master's degrees and the prestigious Performer's Certificate. While at Indiana, Watras served as Professor Arad's assistant for many years, and was a member of the faculty as a Visiting Lecturer. She went on to study chamber music at The Juilliard School while also teaching there as an assistant to The Juilliard String Quartet. Watras then served as Musical Artist in Residence at Dickinson College and on the faculty of the New York Youth Symphony Chamber Music Program.

In 2004, Watras was appointed Assistant Professor of Viola at the University of Washington, where she teaches viola and chamber music. Watras currently resides in Seattle with her husband, Corigliano Quartet violinist Michael Jinsoo Lim. She plays a viola made by Samuel Zygmuntowicz.

For more information on Melia Watras, please visit www.meliawatras.com.

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