

Presents

French Connections,
Part III

Robin McCabe, *host*

Celebrating the
150th anniversary of the birth of
CLAUDE DEBUSSY
(1862-1918)

4:30 PM
May 19, 2013
Brechemin Auditorium

PROGRAM

from Book II: *THREE PRELUDES* CLAUDE DEBUSSY

Canope

Les tierces alternées

Feux d'artifice

Rose Cheng, *piano*

LA SOIRÉE DANS GRENADE DEBUSSY

(arranged by James Smith)

Dennis Ha

Taro Kobayashi

Joe Marzullo

Christopher Tien

} *guitars*

THEME & VARIATIONS IN C[#] MINOR, GABRIEL FAURÉ

Op. 73

(1845-1924)

Pei-Jung Huang, *piano*

INTERMISSION

SONATA FOR FLUTE, VIOLA & HARP DEBUSSY

Pastorale

Interlude

Finale

Katherine Isbill, *flute*
Romaric Pokorny, *viola*
Olivia Cacchione, *harp*

NINE SONGS ON POEMS OF VERLAINE FAURÉ
“La Bonne Chanson”

*Une Sainte en son auréole
Puisque l'aube grandit
La lune blanche luit dans les bois
J'allais par des chemins perfides
J'ai Presque peur, en vérité
Avant que t'ne t'en ailles
Donc, ce sera par un clair jour d'été
N'est-ce pas?
L'hiver a cessé*

Stephen Rumph, *tenor*
Robin McCabe, *piano*

THREE PRELUDES

ROSE CHENG is currently studying under the tutelage of Mr. Craig Sheppard for her second Master of Music degree majoring in Piano Performance at the University of Washington, Seattle. Her previous degrees were completed at the University of Auckland, New Zealand with Rae de Lisle, Bryan Sayer and Sarah Watkins. Her most recent success is being announced the winner of Don Bushell Concerto Competition, and next March Rose will play the Grieg Concerto with the Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra. Throughout her studies, she has been the recipient of many academic scholarships; performance-wise, Rose has won many prizes both as a soloist and a collaborator in various competitions around New Zealand: the Registered Music Teachers Competitions; West Auckland, Te Awamutu, and North Shore Performing Arts Competitions; and the Asia-Pacific Competition in Taiwan. After graduation in the middle of this year, she will devote her daytime to starting a piano teaching studio for children, and her evening time for her own practice as she furthers her own performing career.

LA SOIRÉE DANS GRENADE

DENIS HA was born and lived in Austin, Texas until age of four. He moved to Korea until age of fifteen, at which point he returned to Austin. Denis is currently studying Neurobiology at University of Washington pursuing a career in medicine and music therapy. He started playing classical guitar at the age of ten and joined the UW Guitar Ensemble in 2010 and has played duo, trio and quartet in quarterly ensemble concerts. He has performed in masterclasses for David Russell and Rene Izquierdo and currently studies with Michael Partington at the UW. Most recently, he won second prize at the 2013 Northwest Guitar Festival competition.

TARO KOBAYASHI was born and raised in Japan until the age of 12 when he moved to Hawaii with his family. He is currently a junior at the University of Washington, pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Guitar Performance and a Bachelor of Science in Physics. He started playing the classical guitar in Japan at the age of 8 and currently studies under Michael Partington. Taro has played in various ensembles including the UW guitar ensemble, UW Baroque Ensemble, and UW Collegium Musicum. He has played in masterclasses for David Russell, Judicael Perroy, Jeremy Jouve, Rene Izquierdo, and David Leisner. In 2012 he participated in the Accademia d'Amore, an intensive summer program for early music directed by Stephen Stubbs. Taro was the first-prize winner of the 2013 Northwest Guitar Competition.

JOE MARZULLO is a Northwest native and current student of Michael Partington at the University of Washington School of Music. With a background in many different styles Joe prefers to make music that connects the players with the audience. In 2013 he was a semi finalist in the Northwest Guitar competition and has been performing around the Western Washington for half a dozen years. Joe has performed in master classes for Xuefei Yang and Jeffrey McFadden. Currently Joe Marzullo is in his junior year, pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in Guitar Performance.

CHRISTOPHER TIEN is an avid student of music and the guitar. A lover of music from an early age, he began as a self-taught musician and later came under the tutelage of Seattle guitarist Colt Valenti. Currently studying under classical guitarist Michael Partington, he is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in music at the University of Washington, where he has received the Ellen and Maynard Pennell Endowed Scholarship and the Academic Excellence Award. For the past three years, Christopher

has played in the University of Washington Guitar Ensemble, playing in guitar duos, trios, quartets, and with flute. He is an active musician at his church where he leads worship every Thursday, helps direct the band, and arranges songs. He enjoys playing music of many styles including Modern music of Leo Brouwer, Frederic Hand, and Benjamin Verdery; Romantic pieces of Debussy, Tárrega, and Granados; and Baroque music of Bach, Scarlatti, and Weiss.

THEME & VARIATIONS IN C[#] MINOR

Born in Taipei, Taiwan, PEI-JUNG HUANG is currently working on her Doctoral Degree in Piano Performance with Dr. Robin McCabe at the University of Washington. She earned a Bachelor and a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from National Taipei University of Education in Taiwan. In addition to being a soloist, she has participated in chamber music and as an active collaborative accompanist.

SONATA FOR FLUTE, VIOLA & HARP

University of Washington doctoral candidate KATHERINE ISBILL is a third year doctoral student majoring in flute performance. As an active performer, Isbill has performed many concerts with the Gwinnett Ballet Orchestra, Augusta Symphony Orchestra, Seattle Collaborative Orchestra, as well as in solo concerto appearances with the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra and Washington-Idaho Symphony. She has also been a finalist in many competitions including the Atlanta Flute Club's Young Artist Competition, the Ladies' Musical Club Young Artist Competition. Additionally, she has participated as a performer and faculty-artist in summer music festivals, including the Bay View Chamber Music Festival, the Snowater Flute Festival, and the University of Georgia's Flutissimo! workshop. As an active chamber musician, Isbill co-founded the Triskilion Trio and has launched a campaign to organize and write grants for recording the trio's debut album. Her principal teachers include Donna Shin and Angela Jones-Reus. Katherine Isbill is originally from Lawrenceville, Georgia.

ROMARIC POKORNY is a student in Viola Performance at the University of Washington. He was born and raised in France, where he studied violin, piano, and voice for many years. In 2007 he received his Diplôme Supérieur de Solfège at the Music Conservatory of Aulnay-sous-Bois,

before moving to the United-States in 2008. Romaric is an active performer around the Puget Sound area and has played in a variety of concerts and venues throughout the region; among the orchestras he has performed in are the Bellevue Philharmonic and the Northwest Sinfonietta. An avid chamber music player, he has played in several ensembles and groups, as well as with fellow University of Washington students.

OLIVIA CACCHIONE is a DMA candidate studying harp performance at the University of Washington. She began studying the harp at the age of 10, and began freelancing at the age of 11. Since then, she has received numerous fellowships and scholarships to pursue her studies, in programs such as the Marrowstone Music Festival, the University of Washington School of Music, and the Sewanee Summer Music Festival. She has studied under many amazing teachers, including Valerie Muzzolini Gordon, Heidi Lehwalder, Faye Seeman, and Marian Shaffer. She is currently serving as Principal Harpist for the Seattle Collaborative Orchestra and the University of Washington Symphony, and as substitute harpist for the Missoula Symphony and the Skagit Opera. In addition, she is an active freelancer in the greater Seattle area, and maintains a small teaching studio.

NINE SONGS ON POEMS OF VERLAINE

STEPHEN RUMPH is associate professor of music history at the University of Washington. He is the author of *Beethoven After Napoleon* and *Mozart and Enlightenment Semiotics* (University of California Press). Before earning his Ph.D. at UC Berkeley, Professor Rumph studied voice at Oberlin Conservatory and he has continued to perform regularly. Recent concert work includes Beethoven's Ninth with the Seattle Symphony, Mozart's Requiem with the Northwest Sinfonietta and Walla Walla Symphony, and Haydn's *The Creation* with Tacoma and Northwest Symphonies. He has appeared in such roles as Rodolfo, Pinkerton, Tamino, and Don José with Skagit Opera, Tacoma Opera, Berkeley Eastside Opera, and other local companies. Professor Rumph is currently writing a book on Fauré's art songs.

Host ROBIN MCCABE, celebrated American pianist, has established herself as one of America's most communicative and persuasive artists. McCabe's involvement and musical sensibilities have delighted audiences across the United States, Europe, Canada, and in seven concert tours of the Far East. The United States Department of State sponsored

her two South American tours, which were triumphs artistically and diplomatically.

As noted by the *New York Times*, “What Ms. McCabe has that raises her playing to such a special level is a strong lyric instinct and confidence in its ability to reach and touch the listener.” The *Tokyo Press* declared her a “pianistic powerhouse,” and a reviewer in Prague declared, “Her musicianship is a magnet for the listener.” Richard Dyer, the eminent critic of the *Boston Globe*, wrote: “Her brilliant, natural piano playing shows as much independence of mind as of fingers.”

Her recordings have received universal acclaim. Her debut album for Vanguard Records featured the premiere recording of Guido Agosti’s transcription of Stravinsky’s *Firebird Suite*. Critics praised it as “mightily impressive.” *Stereo Review* described her disc of Bartók as “all that we have come to expect from this artist, a first-rate performance!” She was commissioned to record four albums for the award-winning company Grammofon AB BIS in Stockholm, which remain distributed internationally, including the CD “Robin McCabe Plays Liszt” (AB BIS No. 185).

McCabe, a Puyallup native, earned her bachelor of music degree *summa cum laude* at the University of Washington School of Music, where she studied with Béla Siki, and her master’s and doctorate degrees at The Juilliard School of Music, where she studied with Rudolf Firkušny. She joined the Juilliard faculty in 1978 then returned to the UW in 1987 to accept a position on the piano faculty. In 1994 McCabe was appointed Director of the School of Music, a position she held until 2009. She has held a Ruth Sutton Waters Professorship and a Donald Petersen Professorship in the School of Music. In addition, McCabe is a dedicated arts ambassador and advocate for arts audience development, frequently addressing arts organizations across the country. McCabe is a teacher in high demand, with gifted students from throughout the U.S. and abroad seeking admittance to her studio class. With colleague Craig Sheppard, she has created the highly successful *Seattle Piano Institute*, an intense summer “immersion experience” for gifted and aspiring classical pianists that enters its fourth season in 2013.

The winner of numerous prizes and awards, including the International Concert Artists Guild Competition and a Rockefeller Foundation grant, McCabe was the subject of a lengthy *New Yorker* magazine profile, “Pianist’s Progress,” later expanded into a book of the same title.

McCabe has collaborated in concert with many distinguished artists, and toured the United States for several years as the recital partner of the renowned violinist Ruggiero Ricci, who died last year at age 94. In the past three years she has presented duo recitals with violinist Maria

Larionoff, and in February of 2013 their concert launched a two-season project in which they will perform the violin and piano sonatas of Beethoven.

In 1995 McCabe presented the annual faculty lecture (a concert with commentary) at the University of Washington. She is the first professor of music in the history of the University to be awarded this lectureship. *Seattle* magazine selected McCabe as one of 17 current and past University of Washington professors who have had an impact on life in the Pacific Northwest. In 2005, to celebrate its 100th year as an institution, The Juilliard School selected McCabe as one of 100 alumni from 20,000 currently living to be profiled in its centenary publication recognizing distinction and accomplishments in the international world of music, dance, and theater.

McCabe performs regularly throughout the United States, and in September of 2011 she made her first visit to South Korea. She appears often as an invited jurist for international piano competitions, most recently in New Orleans, San Antonio, and Vancouver, Canada.

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