

compact disc

**W** SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

F32

2016

3-6

# UW Faculty Chamber Music Recital

with

**Michael Jinsoo Lim, violin**  
**Melia Watras, viola**  
**Sæunn Thorsteinsdóttir, cello**  
**Cristina Valdés, piano**

Sunday, March 6, 2016  
7:30 pm — Meany Theater

## PROGRAM

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CD1 - #17,423

Piano Trio in G Major, "Gypsy," Hob XV:25 .....16:25..... Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

- 1 Andante
- 2 Poco adagio cantabile
- 3 Rondo all'Ongarase: Presto

Duo for Violin and Cello, Op. 7 .....25:36..... Zoltán Kodály (1882-1967)

- 4 Allegro serio non troppo
- 5 Adagio
- 6 Maestoso e largamente, ma non troppo lento: Presto

## INTERMISSION

CD2 - #17,424

Piano Quartet in E<sup>b</sup> Major, Op. 87 .....34:11..... Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

- 1 Allegro con fuoco
- 2 Lento
- 3 Allegro moderato, grazioso
- 4 Finale: Allegro ma non troppo

## Biographies

Violinist **Michael Jinsoo Lim** has been praised by *Gramophone* for playing with “delicious abandon” and described as “bewitching” by the *Seattle Times*. Since 2009, Lim has been concertmaster and solo violinist of the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra (“surely the best ballet band in America”-- *New York Times*). Hailed by the *Los Angeles Times* as a “conspicuously accomplished champion of contemporary music” for his work as co-founder of the renowned Corigliano Quartet, Lim is also a member of Open End, a New York City-based ensemble specializing in new works and improvisation.

Recent highlights include the world premiere of Andrew Waggoner's *Violin Concerto* (written for Lim), live appearances on Danish Public Radio, and performances of the Stravinsky violin concerto at City Center in New York City, as part of Pacific Northwest Ballet's 2016 NYC tour. Next season, Lim will perform concertos by Prokofiev and Stravinsky with PNB. Other solo engagements have included concerto performances with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Seattle Modern Orchestra, Girona International Chamber Orchestra (Spain), Indiana University Philharmonic, Philharmonia Northwest, Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, University of Washington Symphony and Lafayette Symphony Orchestra, as well as a performance in Weill Recital Hall for a tribute concert for celebrated American composer John Corigliano.

With the Corigliano Quartet, Lim has enjoyed critical acclaim across the U.S. and abroad and has won numerous awards, including the Grand Prize at the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition and the ASCAP/CMA Award for Adventurous Programming. Called “musicians who seem to say, ‘Listen to this!’” by the *New York Times*, the Corigliano Quartet has performed in the nation's leading music centers, including Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall, and the Kennedy Center. The quartet's Naxos label CD, featuring string quartet works by John Corigliano and Jefferson Friedman, was honored as one of *The New Yorker's* Top Ten Classical Recordings of the Year.

Lim was a pupil of the legendary violinist and teacher Josef Gingold at Indiana University and studied chamber music at the Juilliard School and taught there as an assistant to the Juilliard String Quartet. He currently serves on the faculties of Cornish College of the Arts and DigiPen Institute of Technology.

Lim has recorded for Naxos, DreamWorks, Albany, Bridge, CRI, Bayer Records, RIAX and New Focus, and appears on numerous television and film soundtracks, including the Oscar-winning score to *Brokeback Mountain*. He has made radio and television appearances in the U.S., Denmark, Spain, Costa Rica, and Korea. In addition to his work as a performer, Lim has also served as a recording producer, most notably for three critically acclaimed CDs by violist Melia Watras: *Viola Solo*, *Prestidigitation* and *Short Stories*.

“Riveting” (NYTimes) cellist, **Sæunn Thorsteinsdóttir**, has appeared as soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Toronto and Iceland Symphonies, among others, and her recital and chamber music performances have taken her across the US, Europe and Asia. Following the release of her debut

recording of Britten's Suites for Solo Cello on Centaur Records, she has performed in some of the world's greatest halls including Carnegie Hall, Suntory Hall and Disney Hall. The press have described her as "charismatic" (NYTimes) and praised her performances for their "emotional intensity" (LATimes).

An avid chamber musician, she has collaborated in performance with Itzhak Perlman, Mitsuko Uchida, Richard Goode and members of the Emerson, Guarneri and Cavani Quartets and has participated in numerous chamber music festivals, including Prussia Cove and Marlboro, with whom she has toured. She is cellist of the Manhattan Piano Trio and a founding member of Decoda; a group that seeks to revitalize the world of chamber music through refreshing concert experiences, creative education, and community engagement.

Along with the masterpieces of the 18th, 19th and 20th century, Sæunn is constantly inspired by works composed in our time and enjoys working with living composers. In addition to working closely with Daníel Bjarnason on his award-winning composition "Bow to String", she has premiered dozens of works, including new pieces by Peter Schikele, Paul Schoenfield and Jane Antonia Cornish.

Sæunn has garnered numerous top prizes in international competitions, including the Naumburg Competition in New York and the Antonio Janigro Competition in Zagreb, Croatia. She received a Bachelor of Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music, a Master of Music from The Juilliard School and a Doctorate of Musical Arts from SUNY Stony Brook. Her principal teachers include Richard Aaron, Tanya L. Carey, Colin Carr and Joel Krosnick.

Sæunn was a fellow of Ensemble ACJW–The Academy, a program of Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and the Weill Music Institute in partnership with the New York City Department of Education–performing chamber music at Carnegie Hall and bringing classical music to students in the New York City Public Schools.

In the fall of 2015, Sæunn joined the faculty of the University of Washington in Seattle, teaching cello and chamber music. For the past two years, Sæunn has been Artist-in-Residence at the Green Music Center's Weill Hall in Sonoma, California, presenting concerts, masterclasses, lectures and informal discussions at Sonoma State University.

Born in Reykjavik, Iceland, Sæunn first moved to the states as a child, however, she still has family in Iceland and enjoys going back, both for concerts and family visits.

Considered one of today's foremost interpreters of contemporary music, **Cristina Valdés** is known for presenting innovative concerts with repertoire ranging from Bach to Xenakis. She has performed across four continents and in venues such as Lincoln Center, Le Poisson Rouge, Miller Theatre, Jordan Hall, and the Kennedy Center. Ms. Valdés has appeared both as a soloist and chamber musician at festivals worldwide including New Music in Miami, the Foro Internacional de Musica Nueva in Mexico City, Brisbane Arts Festival, the Festival of Contemporary Music in El Salvador, Havana Contemporary Music Festival, and the Singapore Arts Festival.

An avid chamber musician and collaborator, Ms. Valdés has toured extensively with the Bang On a Can "All Stars", and has performed with the Seattle Chamber Players, the Mabou Mines Theater

Company, the Parsons Dance Company, and Antares. She has also been a featured performer on both the Seattle Symphony's Chamber Series and [UNTITLED] concerts.

Cristina has appeared as concerto soloist with the Johns Hopkins Symphony Orchestra, the Binghamton Philharmonic, the Seattle Philharmonic, Philharmonia Northwest, the Eastman BroadBand, and the Stony Brook Symphony Orchestra. Most recently, she performed the piano solo part of the Ives 4th Symphony with the Seattle Symphony.

Cristina Valdés joined the faculty of the UW School of Music in Fall 2014 as an artist in residence in the keyboard program.

Hailed by *Gramophone* as "an artist of commanding and poetic personality" and described as "staggeringly virtuosic" by *The Strad*, violist **Melia Watras** ([meliawatras.com](http://meliawatras.com)) has distinguished herself as one of her instrument's leading voices. As a soloist, chamber musician and recording artist, Watras has championed the works of living composers throughout her career, while appearing at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall, and Alice Tully Hall. Recent and upcoming highlights include the release of her fourth solo album *Ispirare*, which features the world premiere recording of Pulitzer Prize-winner Shulamit Ran's *Perfect Storm* (a piece that was written for Watras); and video projects with violist Garth Knox (performing with Knox on his duos, *Viola Spaces for Two*) and video artist Ha Na Lee.

Watras's discography has received considerable attention and praise from the media. In the first week of its release, *Ispirare* was named album of the week by both WQXR-New York's *Q2 Music* and KING-Seattle's *Second Inversion*. *Short Stories* was a *Seattle Times Critics' Pick*, with the newspaper marveling at her "velocity that seems beyond the reach of human fingers." 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," and called her second release (*Prestidigitation*) "astounding and both challenging and addictive to listen to."

With the Corigliano Quartet, Watras has concertized and recorded extensively, with the ensemble's Naxos label CD being named one of the Ten Best Classical Recordings of the Year by *The New Yorker*. As a member of Open End, Watras has performed in France, Denmark and the United States and has recorded for Albany Records. Watras's exploration of improvisation has led her to collaborating with jazz innovators Cuong Vu and Ted Poor, and to writing her own compositions. Her violin/viola duo *Liquid Voices* recently had its European premiere, and 2015-16 will see the world premiere of three of her works.

Watras studied with Atar Arad at Indiana University and served as a teaching assistant to the Juilliard String Quartet while at the Juilliard School. She is currently Associate Professor of Viola and chair of Strings at the University of Washington School of Music, where she holds the Adelaide D. Currie Cole Endowed Professorship and was previously awarded the Donald E. Petersen Endowed Fellowship and the Royalty Research Fund. Watras has given viola and chamber music classes at schools such as Indiana University, Cleveland Institute of Music, Strasbourg Conservatoire (France), and Chosun University (South Korea). This spring she will return to her alma mater, Indiana, for a third time to teach as a guest professor.



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