

Presents

French Connections

Robin McCabe, *host*

*Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the
birth of Claude Debussy*

With commentary by
Paul Roberts

4:30 PM
March 3, 2013
Brechemin Auditorium

PROGRAM

IMAGES, BOOK TWO CLAUDE DEBUSSY (1862-1918)

Cloches à travers les feuilles
Et la lune descend sur le temple qui fut
Poissons d'or

Grace Huang, *piano*

“*BEAU SOIR*” DEBUSSY

APRÈS UN RÊVE GABRIEL FAURÉ (1845-1924)

Sol Im, *violin* / Brooks Tran, *piano*

PETITE SUITE DEBUSSY

En Bateau
Cortège
Menuet
Ballet

Britanee Hwee, *piano* / Joseph Dougherty, *piano*

INTERMISSION

STRING QUARTET IN G MINOR, Opus 10 DEBUSSY

Animé et très décidé
Assez vif et bien rythmé
Andantino, doucement expressif
Tres modéré

Oceana String Quartet

Born in Taipei city, Taiwan, GRACE HUANG began studying the piano at age five. She came to the United States in 2009 to pursue the Doctoral of Musical Arts degree in piano performance at the UW with Dr. Robin McCabe. Grace Huang is currently a doctoral candidate, active as a soloist and collaborative musician in the community as well as in the School of Music.

Born in South Korea, SOL IM began her violin studies at age 5. She came to the United States at age 10 and has studied under Kwanbin Park and Ronald Patterson. Following her debut performance at Benaroya Hall with Cascade Youth Symphony at age 16, she has performed in masterclasses with world-renowned artists such as Gil Shaham and Elisa Barston. She has performed with the University of Washington (UW) Symphony. Sol is currently the Donald and Gloria Swisher concertmaster for the UW symphony and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in violin performance. She studies under Professor Ronald Patterson, a student of Jascha Heifetz, at the UW School of Music.

A native of the Pacific Northwest, BROOKS TRAN began playing the piano at the age of seven. He received his Bachelor of Music in piano performance at the University of Washington under the tutelage of Patricia Michaelian, and has given recitals throughout the Seattle area. In 2011, he was featured as a soloist with the University Symphony and the UW Wind Ensemble. Tran is an avid chamber musician, collaborating regularly with chamber partners. He formed the Erös Trio in 2010, and has worked with internationally acclaimed groups, including the Claremont Trio and Cuarteto Casals. Tran is currently pursuing his master's degree, studying with Craig Sheppard. He also maintains a private teaching studio, and is involved in various musical projects outside the classical world.

BRITANEE HWEE is a junior currently studying piano performance with Dr. Robin McCabe at the University of Washington. She grew up in Seattle and began taking piano lessons at six years old with Marissa Rebadulla-Ramos. At age nine she had her orchestral debut with the Port Gardner Bay Chamber Orchestra as a prize for winning the Port Gardner Bay Concerto Competition. As a KING FM Ten Grands competition finalist, she performed a group piece with the Ten Grands artists and the other finalists at Benaroya Hall in 2010. She is also a recipient of the

prestigious Brechemin scholarship and participated in the Summer Piano Institute run by Dr. Robin McCabe and Mr. Craig Sheppard during the summer of 2011. Britanee was a winner of the 2011-2012 UW School of Music Concerto competition and performed with the University Symphony in 2012. She likes listening to all sorts of music and enjoys being involved at her church and spending time with her two younger sisters when she can.

JOSEPH DOUGHERTY is currently pursuing his M.Mus. in piano performance under Craig Sheppard at the University of Washington. He also hopes to obtain his doctorate degree in music in the near future. From the age of eleven, Joseph began intermittent lessons with various teachers after showing an interest in classical music and learning to play on his own. He also studied trombone and enjoyed playing in the Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra for several years and in his community band as well. In addition to playing solo piano repertoire, he enjoys collaborative work playing chamber music and is an active accompanist in the Seattle area. Constantly challenging himself to develop more effective practice methods, Joseph believes this effort will greatly benefit his future career in music performance and especially in teaching. He currently teaches at a studio in Bellevue.

The OCEANA STRING QUARTET was formed in winter 2011 by violinists Emily Choi and Rochelle Nguyen, violist Romaric Pokorny, and cellist Sonja Myklebust, and is currently serving its second year as the official student string quartet of the University of Washington.

The OSQ has performed throughout the Seattle area, including a concert at Daniels Recital Hall downtown, an appearance for Paramount Pictures for their 100th anniversary of the maiden voyage of the Titanic, a live studio broadcast on Classical KingFM's Northwest Focus, and a performance at the Rainier Club of Bolcom's *Three Rags* for composer William Bolcom himself. At the University of Washington, Oceana has performed numerous concerts at Brechemin Auditorium, Alder Hall, Suzzallo Library, as well as at HuskyFest in celebration of the university's 150th birthday, and at the UW Contemporary Group Concert, where they played the UW premiere of George Crumb's *Black Angels*. This past summer, Oceana traveled down to California, where they performed at the Sebastopol Performing Arts Center, and at Stanford University as part of the St. Lawrence String Quartet Chamber Music Seminar.

The quartet is coached by Melia Watras, violist of the Corigliano Quartet, and has also worked with Atar Arad, Elisa Barston, Ronald Patterson and members of Cuarteto Casals, the Emerson String Quartet, the Gryphon Trio and the St. Lawrence String Quartet.

The Oceana String Quartet's spring recital takes place on May 11, 2012, at which they will perform Bartok's Fourth String Quartet as well as premiere a piece by Seattle composer and performer Greg Sinibaldi.

EMILY CHOI, violin, is a scholarship recipient at the UW studying violin with Ronald Patterson, and is pursuing Bachelor's Degrees in both Violin Performance and Speech and Hearing Sciences. She began playing violin at the age of 5 under the tutelage of Larisa and Michael Miropolsky. Emily served as a member of the Bellevue Philharmonic for three years, and has soloed with the Northwest Symphony Orchestra and the Garfield Symphony Orchestra.

ROCHELLE NGUYEN, violin, currently studies violin with Ronald Patterson at the University of Washington, and previous teachers include Robin Sharp at Stanford University, and Daniel Kobialka in San Francisco. She has worked with members of the St. Lawrence, Emerson, Cypress, Concord, American, and Corigliano string quartets. Rochelle has attended several summer music festivals, including Music@Menlo, Youth Music International, and Tanglewood Music Center. She is a graduate student in Bioengineering at the University of Washington.

ROMARIC POKORNY, viola, is a student in Viola Performance at the University of Washington. In 2007 he received his Diplôme Supérieur de Solfège at the Conservatoire de Musique de Aulnay-sous-Bois, France. Romaric is an active orchestral and chamber performer around the Puget Sound area, playing in many of the region's orchestras and organizations. He currently studies with Melia Watras, a member of the Corigliano Quartet and the Associate Professor of Viola at the University of Washington.

SONJA MYKLEBUST, cello, is DMA student in cello performance studying with Toby Saks. Sonja received her M.Mus. from the UW and her BA from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, OR. Performances in Seattle have included shows with Seattle Modern Orchestra, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Collaborative Orchestra, Puget Sound Strings, and Oceana Quartet. Sonja is a founding member of the indie cello group the Portland Cello Project. As well as performing, Sonja works for the presenting organization of Meany Hall, the UW

World Series, as their Campus and Community Engagement Intern and at the UW School of Music as a TA.

PAUL ROBERTS is known internationally as a leading exponent of French piano music. His *Reflections: The Piano Music of Maurice Ravel* was published by Amadeus Press in America and in the UK in April 2012. It will be accompanied later in the year by a recording of the major piano works. *Reflections* joins two acclaimed books on Debussy: a biography, *Debussy* (Phaidon) and *Images: The Piano Music of Claude Debussy* (Amadeus), which has become a seminal text on the subject. Paul Roberts has recorded CDs of the music of Debussy, a DVD lecture-recital (for Amadeus), *Mists, Fairies and Fireworks* on Debussy's Preludes, and lectures for television, from the keyboard, of *La mer* and Ravel's *Bolero*, which have been seen all over the world.

Among extensive appearances throughout the United States Paul Roberts has been a guest of the Juilliard School in New York, the Peabody Institute, the Golandsky Institute, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, the University of Washington and Portland Piano International (where he has been a recitalist and lecturer at the summer festival since its inception in 1999). In July 2012 he will give a lecture recital in New York for the International Keyboard Institute and Festival. He is well known for his special brand of master class, in which he aims to be fully supportive of the student while maintaining a constantly informative rapport with the audience. He has conducted master classes throughout Europe, North America and Australia.

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 and 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. 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 Ruggerio Ricci, who died this year at age 94. In the past three years she has presented duo recitals with violinist Maria Larionoff, and in February of 2013 they 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.

FINAL EVENT IN THE *FRENCH CONNECTIONS* SERIES:

MAY 19: Works by Ravel, Debussy and Fauré. Concert highlights include Ravel's *JEUX D'EAU* for solo piano, Debussy's *IMAGES BOOK II*, and works of Fauré. 4:30 PM, Brechemin Auditorium.

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