

University of Washington
THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents a Faculty Recital:

P 398

2003

4-21

RONALD PATTERSON,
VIOLIN

⋮

“1 / 2 / 4”

Solo / Duo / Quartet

7:30 PM
April 21, 2003
MEANY THEATER

School of Music

D.AT # 14,389

CDs # 14,390 - 14,391

➤ PROGRAM ↵

CD # 14,390

THE SEASONS.....(44:01).....ANTONIO VIVALDI (1678-1741)

- [1] "SPRING" IN E MAJOR
Allegro 10:21
Largo
Allegro
- [2] "SUMMER" IN G MINOR 10:23
Allegro non molto
Adagio e piano - Presto e forte
Presto
- [3] "AUTUMN" IN F MAJOR 12:02
Allegro
Adagio molto
Allegro
- [4] "WINTER" IN F MINOR 10:04
Allegro non molto
Largo
Allegro

Ronald Patterson, *soloist*

String Orchestra

<i>Violins</i>	<i>Violas</i>
Hsuan Lee (leader)	Nathan Medina
Neil Hollister	Mitsuru R. Kubo
Nicolas Addington	Felisa Hernandez-Salmeron
Emily Terrell	
Miodrag Veselinovic	<i>Cellos</i>
Evelyn Gottlieb	Jeffrey Wang (solo)
Monica Boros	Anna K. Alexander

Harpsichord
Martin Welzel

➤ INTERMISSION ↵

1 PASSACAGLIA.....6:13.....HANDEL/ HALVORSEN (1864-1935)

2 IMPROVISATION À DEUX...3:10.....JACQUES CHAILLEY (1910-1999)

Duo Patterson

Ronald Patterson, *violin*
Roxanna Patterson, *viola*

3 STRING QUARTET IN F MAJOR..... MAURICE RAVEL (1875-1937)

29:16
Modéré – Très doux
Assez vif – Très rythme
Très lent
Agité

Rainier String Quartet

Ronald Patterson & Ella Marie Gray, *violins*
Roxanna Patterson, *viola*
Walter Gray, *cello*

PROGRAM NOTES

VIVALDI, SEASONS

These concerti, written approx. 1725, are some of the most well-known and most recorded works in all of classical music. One of the earliest examples of program music, they are the first four of Op. 8 entitled "Il Cimento dell' Armonia e dell'Inventione." Vivaldi based each concerto on a descriptive sonnet, printed in its entirety at the beginning of the 18th century edition printed by Le Cene in Amsterdam, and repeated line for line over the solo and orchestral parts when applicable. Attributed to Vivaldi, the descriptions are colorful depictions of birds, bugs, animals, weather, and real and imaginary characters. The solo violin part takes on the roll of a storyteller in a musical fantasy. Raymond Leppard gave the following English translation to me in preparation of our performances together in Houston in 1977 with the Houston Symphony.

SPRING

Allegro

Spring has come and the birds
Salute it with their happy song
Before the breath of the little Zephyr
The stream murmurs sweetly
Covering the air with a black cloak
Thunder and lightening announce the season
Then, when these have become quiet
The birds return to their melodic incantations

Largo

On the flowered field
The shepherd sleeps to the rustle of leaves
With his faithful dog at his side

Allegro

Nymphs and shepherds dance
On the shining carpet of spring
To the sound of rustic bagpipes.

SUMMER

Allegro non molto

During the oppressive season burned by the sun
Man and flock languish, and the pines are scorched
The cuckoo lifts its voice
The dove and gold finch are heard singing
Sweet Zephyrs breathe
But Boreas suddenly advances against his neighbors
And the little shepherd cries because he fears
The fierce gathering tempest and its results

Adagio e piano – Presto e forte

Fear of thunder and lightening
And of swarms of flies and hornets
Rob his tired limbs of rest

Presto

Ah, his fears are borne out
Thunder and lightening strike
Hail cuts down the wheat and grain.

AUTUMN

Allegro

Peasants celebrate the rich pleasure
Of a good harvest with dance and song
Lit up by the liquor of Bacchus
The festivities end with sleep

Adagio molto

The pleasant air of the season
Which invites all things to sleep
Make all leave
The dancing and singing

Allegro

The hunters go to the chase
With all their horns, dogs and guns
The beast flees, and they follow its tracks
Finally, with sinking heart
Worn by the noise of guns and dogs
Tired of fleeing, he dies.

WINTER

Allegro non molto

Trembling frozen beneath the icy snow
To the harsh breath of the wind
Running while stamping feet at every moment
Teeth chattering from the frost

Largo

Spending quiet contented days by the fire
While outside rain drenches everyone
Walking on ice, with fearful steps
Going about carefully

Allegro

Running, gliding, falling to the ground
Again proceeding on ice and running hard
Until the ice breaks and comes apart
The ice opens up
Reeling Siroco, Boreas and all the walking winds
All these bring winter, but they do bring joy.

HANDEL/HALVORSEN, *PASSACAGLIA*

The Passacaglia of Handel originally appeared in Suite VII of Pièces à un & deux clavcins (Amsterdam: Roger, 1721). The 1894 arrangement heard tonight is by the Norwegian violinist and composer, Johan Halvorsen. Professor Anne Schnoebelen has written: "Halvorsen was skillful at adapting the Baroque keyboard idiom to virtuosic string pieces in a Romantic style. Handel's Passacaglia consists of sixteen statements, combining some into eight measure variations, exchanging and balancing materials between the two instruments. Beginning with his variation 9, he invents his own highly idiomatic virtuoso variations that increase in difficulty, energy and tension until the final triple-forte adagio measures." Duo Patterson has recorded the Passacaglia for Vox and Ante Aeternum records.

JACQUES CHAILLEY, *IMPROVISATION À DEUX*

Jacques Chailley was a powerful force in the musical life of France for over half a century. He studied composition with Nadia Boulanger and conducting with Willem Mengelberg, Bruno Walter and Pierre Monteux. Chailley was appointed deputy director of the Paris Conservatoire in 1947, a full professor at the Sorbonne in 1952 while being the founder of the Institute of Musicology at the Université de Paris, director of the renowned Schola Cantorum in 1962, and finally founder and first director of the Department of Music and Musicology at the Sorbonne in 1969, retiring in 1979 to pick up his composing pen again. *Improvisation à deux* was composed in 1952. Duo Patterson video recorded it in 1987 for FR3, the French national television station, which used it during six months to close down their broadcasting at night.

MAURICE RAVEL, *STRING QUARTET IN F MAJOR*

"In the name of all the gods of music, and for my sake, don't alter a note of what you have written." With these words Claude Debussy succeeded in dissuading Maurice Ravel from revising his Quartet in F Major. The work had been premiered in 1904, while Ravel was still a student at the Paris Conservatoire, and the conservative musical circles were extremely critical. Even Ravel states in his autobiography, "My String Quartet in F Major, 1902-1903, responds to a desire for musical construction, which undoubtedly is inadequately realized but which emerges much more clearly than in my preceding compositions." Performers and critics have since called this irresistible quartet that exploits all the colors and shades of the four instruments one of Ravel's most perfect achievements.

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES

Violinist **Ronald Patterson** is the Professor of Violin and Chair of the Strings at the University of Washington School of Music, violinist in Duo Patterson, 1st Violin of the Rainier String Quartet, and Concertmaster of the New Hampshire Music Festival Orchestra. He was a student of Jascha Heifetz, Eudice Shapiro and Manuel Compinsky. Mr. Patterson has concertized extensively in the United States and Europe since the age of 11, performing 45 works (including 6 world premieres) in more than 150 solo performances with orchestra. He has been acclaimed for his "skill, authority and imagination" by the New York Times. From 1965 to 1999, he was Concertmaster of the Monte-Carlo, Houston, Denver, and Miami symphonies, St. Louis Little Symphony and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. He was a founder and Associate Professor of the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University (Houston, 1974-1979). Assistant Professor at Washington University (St. Louis, 1967-1971), as well as on the faculty of Stetson University (Florida, 1975-1979), MacMurray College (Illinois, 1966) and the University of Miami (Florida, 1965), Mr. Patterson has recorded for CRI, ERATO, ORION, VOX, Ante Aeternum, Virgin Classics, Serenus, Philips, and EMI. A five time First Prize Winner of the Coleman Chamber Music Com -

petition, he has performed chamber music with some of the greatest musicians of our day, including Heifetz, Piatigorsky and Szeryng. In 1998 he was named Officier de l'Ordre du Merite Culturel, one of the Principality of Monaco's highest honors.

Ella Marie Gray began her career in New York as a member of the Kronos Quartet. She is currently a member of the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra and frequently performs with the Seattle Symphony and Seattle Opera. Ms. Gray is a founding member of the newly formed Quake Ensemble and has also performed with the Northwest Chamber Orchestra, Dallas Opera, Fort Worth Symphony, and the Dallas Chamber Orchestra. Ms. Gray has been praised by the press as having "great panache" and in Lou Harrison's *Concerto in Slendro* "violinist Ella Gray and the music triumphed." With her husband, Walter, she has performed the Brahms Double and Beethoven Triple concertos as well as the world premier of *Out and Back Again* by Ken Benshoof. Ms. Gray has been a faculty member at Western Washington University and Cornish College of the Arts. She has also performed and recorded as solo violinist with the New Performance Group in Seattle and across the country. Ms. Gray has been a member of the New Hampshire Music Festival since 1982 where she has performed as soloist and Concertmaster. In the summer of 2000 she toured the Midwest with fellow musicians from the Festival in a series of chamber music recitals. She has also participated in the Cabrillo, Tidewater, Olympic, and Waterloo Music Festivals.

Roxanna Patterson began her professional career at age 16 as a member of the Fort Worth Symphony and the Fort Worth Opera Orchestras. She later attended the Shepherd School of Music (Rice University) and played in the Houston Symphony, Houston Opera Orchestra and served as Concertmaster or the Houston Ballet Orchestra. Her teachers included Ron Patterson, Eudice Shapiro, Wayne Crouse and Karen Tuttle. In 1979 she moved to Monte Carlo with her husband Concertmaster Ron Patterson. There she changed from violin to viola and the couple formed the unique violin/viola ensemble Duo Patterson. A chamber music enthusiast, Roxanna has performed extensively in this capacity, recently recording the Hindemith Trio Op.47 for Viola, Heckelphone and Piano for the Centaur label. Roxanna has also recorded for the Ante Aeternum, CRI, and VOX labels, and appeared on European and American television. She has also appeared in recital and as soloist with orchestras in France, Italy, Germany, England, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, and the U.S.. She was recently decorated by Prince Rainier of Monaco with Chevalier de l'Ordre du Merite Culturel. She is the violist of the Rainier String Quartet and Principal Viola of the New Hampshire Music Festival. She and Ron have three children and reside in Seattle, Washington.

Walter Gray attended the Curtis Institute of Music and was a founding member of the Kronos Quartet. Currently a member of the Seattle Symphony, he presented the premier of a new concerto by David Kechley last season. Critics of the Seattle Times say "Gray played with his usual intensity and flair...the cello's

lyrical possibilities are realized." Mr. Gray returned to Seattle in 1999 after a highly successful year as a member of the Artist Faculty at the University of North Texas. The year included solo performances of Ken Benshoof's Double Concerto, *Out and Back Again*, Alfred Schnittke's *dialogue*, and the Ibert Cello Concerto. He has also been on the faculty of Western Washington University and Cornish College of the Arts. Mr. Gray's recent recordings include the Benshoof Double Concerto and works of composers Janice Giteck and Bun-Ching Lam with the New Performance Group. He has also served as producer of recordings for the Seattle Symphony, Northwest Chamber Orchestra, New Hampshire Music Festival Orchestra, New Performance Group, and the London Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Gray is Principal Cello with the New Hampshire Music Festival Orchestra and recently premiered the revised version of *Voice of the Wood*, a concerto for cello quartet and orchestra by Russell Peck. Following the Festival he joined fellow musicians for a chamber music tour of the Midwest. Mr. Gray has also participated in the Waterloo, Mostly Mozart, Mt. Gretna, Olympic, Cabrillo, and Tidewater Music Festivals.

Duo Patterson was formed in 1980 in Monte Carlo with the encouragement of Princess Grace of Monaco. During the years since, Duo Patterson has performed in recitals and as soloist with orchestras in the major cities of France, Italy, Monaco, England, Spain, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Germany (both East and West) and the United States. They have performed often on European and American television, and have recorded for VOX, CRI and Ante Aeternum records. They have given many world premiers, as well as having duos for violin and viola and double concertos with orchestra written for them. In 1984 Duo Patterson received the first Special Award from the Princess Grace Foundation USA in New York City. The Star Telegram called them "The epitome of ensemble playing...a virtuoso tour de force". The St. Louis Post Dispatch exclaimed "The extraordinary playing of Ronald and Roxanna Patterson...their display of technique was brilliant; their musicianship a sample of the cream of the crop."

Only into their second season, the **Rainier String Quartet** has already dazzled audiences across the country. "Their variety of tonal color and wide range of dynamics give the group's performances a high-energy excitement," (Spokesman-Review, Spokane). From their very first notes the potential for extraordinary music making was obvious to all. The combined histories of the Kronos Quartet and Duo Patterson have ignited the formation of one of the most exciting new ensembles in years. The Rainier String Quartet is the resident quartet of the New Hampshire Music Festival and in June of 2003 will be in residence at the inaugural season of the Santa Barbara Chamber Music Festival.

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