

Compact disc

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2015

11-17

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
STRINGS CONCERTO COMPETITION

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

7 PM

Brechemin Auditorium

Susan Gulkis Assadi and Cordula Merks, guest judges

UW students of Ronald Patterson (violin), Melia Watras (viola), Sæunn Thorsteinsdóttir (cello),  
and Barry Lieberman (bass)

CD1-#17,284

1 Tzigane.....9:47.....Maurice Ravel

Heather Borrer, violin  
Daniel Richardson, piano

2 Viola Concerto.....13:18.....Béla Bartók  
I. Moderato

Yi Zhou, viola  
Grace Huang, piano

3 Cello Concerto in A minor, Op. 129.....10:43.....Robert Schumann  
I. Nicht zu schnell

Hye Jung Yang, cello  
Theodora Carson, piano

Violin Concerto in B minor, Op. 61.....13:52.....Edward Elgar  
I. Allegro

Judith Kim, violin  
Zeze Xue, piano

CD2-#17,285

Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104.....11:33.....Antonín Dvořák  
I. Allegro

Christian Selig, cello  
Megan McElroy, piano

Double Bass Concerto No. 2 in B minor.....6:05.....Giovanni Bottesini  
I. Allegro

Darian Woller, double bass  
Kay Yeh, piano

Poème.....12:55.....Ernest Chausson

Erin Kelly, violin  
Irena Ahkrin, piano

Principal Violist of the Seattle Symphony since the 1992-1993 season, **Susan Gulkis Assadi** enjoys a varied career as an orchestral player, chamber musician, soloist and teacher. After playing in numerous chamber orchestras, including The Brandenburg Ensemble, Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia and the European-based New American Chamber Orchestra, she began her orchestral career as the Principal Violist of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra before coming to Seattle.

Hailed by the Seattle Post Intelligencer for her "uncommon warmth and beauty of timbre," Gulkis Assadi has appeared often as soloist with the Seattle Symphony. In 1998, she helped inaugurate Seattle's Benaroya Hall with Yo-Yo Ma in the Orchestra's performance of R. Strauss' Don Quixote. David Stock's Viola Concerto, written for Susan Gulkis Assadi and the Seattle Symphony, was released spring 2004 on Innova Records to critical acclaim. In June 2006, Ms. Gulkis Assadi played the west coast premiere of Paul Schoenfield's Viola Concerto. Most recent solo performances include Mozart's Clarinet Concerto (for viola), Dittersdorf's Sinfonia Concertante for Viola and Double Bass, and Berlioz's Harold in Italy.

Susan Gulkis Assadi also performs regularly with the Seattle Opera, the Seattle-based Music of Remembrance, The Governor's Chamber Music Series and was a founding member of the Bridge Ensemble. She has happily spent the last seventeen summers performing with the Grand Teton Music Festival. She has coached and given master classes at the University of Washington, the New World Symphony in Miami, Florida and the National Orchestral Institute in College Park, Maryland.

Ms. Gulkis Assadi received her Bachelor of Music from The Curtis Institute of Music where she studied with Michael Tree from The Guarneri Quartet and Karen Tuttle.

German violinist **Cordula Merks** joined the first violin section of the Seattle Symphony in May of 2011.

Before moving to Seattle, she held concertmaster positions with Germany's Essen Philharmonic, Bochum Symphony and Bergische Symphony. She has served as a guest concertmaster for many orchestras, including the Dresden Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, West German Radio Orchestra, Cologne Opera and Portuguese National Opera. This last summer she played as part of Claudio Abbado's famous Lucerne Festival Orchestra and toured in Europe as concertmaster of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra.

When not playing in the orchestra, Merks enjoys playing as a soloist and especially as a chamber musician and has performed in the US, Israel and all over Europe.

Merks was born in Germany and spent her childhood in Holland. She started playing the violin at the age of 6 and was accepted by the Young Talent Department of the Royal Conservatory in The Hague at the age of 12. Her teachers have included Shmuel Ashkenasi and Herman Krebbers, among others and she holds degrees from the Amsterdam Conservatory and Northern Illinois University.

She has won prizes at all Dutch national competitions, at various concerto competitions and at several international competitions, including the International Johannes Brahms Competition in Austria.

Cordula is married to Seattle Symphony contrabassoonist Mike Gamburg, and together they have a daughter, Mia.