

Central Conservatory of Music Honor Prep
Saturday, February 7, 2015, 7:30 PM

These Advance Program Notes are provided online for our patrons who like to read about performances ahead of time. Printed programs will be provided to patrons at the performances. Programs are subject to change.

Central Conservatory of Music Honor Prep Virtuosi of Beijing



中央音樂學院鼎石實驗學校
Central Conservatory Preparatory School

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| <i>Air</i> , from Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D Major, BWV 1068 | J. S. Bach (1685-1750) |
| <i>A Nodding from Her</i>
Singer: Yang Shengnan | J. Ping
(b. 1964) |
| Caprice No. 24
Solo: Li Bingyang | N. Paganini (1782-1840) |
| Caprice No. 11
Solo: Huang Changhui | N. Paganini (1782-1840) |
| <i>Navarra</i> for two violins, Op. 33
Solo: Wang Xinyi and Wang Xinyue | P. de Sarasate (1844-1908) |
| <i>The Four Seasons</i>
Winter: <i>Andante moderato</i>
Solo: Chai Liang | A. Piazzolla (1921-1992) |
| Intermission | |
| String Serenade Op. 6
I. <i>Andante con moto</i>
II. <i>Adiagio</i>
III. <i>Allegro giocoso, ma non troppo presto</i> | J. Suk (1874-1935) |
| <i>The Godfather</i>
Solo: Chai Liang | Movie soundtrack |
| <i>Why Is the Flower So Red</i>
Solo: Chai Liang | Movie soundtrack |

Program Notes

AIR, FROM THE ORCHESTRAL SUITE NO. 3 IN D MAJOR, BWV 1068

J. S. Bach

This is one of the most popular movements of the Baroque period, and it is often performed as a piece by itself. The name *Air* is old English and it means aria or song. The five movements are *Overture*, *Air*, *Gavotte 1 and 2*, *Bourree*, and *Gigue*. One of the reasons for the popularity of this great short is that the famous violinist August Wilhelm of the 19th century transcribed the melody for violin and piano and changed the key to C Major. He played the whole tune on one string, and it became known as *Air on the G string*, which is now a standard repertoire piece for violinists.

A NODDING FROM HER

J. Ping

Program notes to be announced from the stage

CAPRICE NUMBERS 24 AND 11

N. Paganini

The ultimate in violin virtuosity, Paganini composed and performed these Caprices to wow his audiences, who were sure that he made a pact with the devil. Today, these are the standard of brilliance; prospective students at the very top music conservatories need to prepare usually one or two in order to qualify for admission. Each one concentrates on a specific aspect of violin technique. On stage, these are often used as encores.

NAVARRA FOR TWO VIOLINS, OP. 33

P. de Sarasate

Pablo de Sarasate was to Spain what Paganini was to Italy and Wieniawski was to Poland: they were all great virtuosos who had techniques much beyond what the literature of their time demanded, and they had to compose brilliant works to show off their incredible mastery of the violin. They traveled the world as soloists with orchestras and also performed in recitals accompanied by piano. *Navarra*, composed in 1889, is unique in the fact that it is written for two brilliant violinists that must be able to play very well together, while entertaining the audience with all the pyrotechnics that the works demands. This is very enjoyable music and clearly has the Spanish identity.

WINTER FROM THE FOUR SEASONS

A. Piazzolla

Piazzolla was a great Argentine composer, mainly known for his tangos. He was formally educated in Paris, but his composition teacher told him he should keep writing the folk music of his people. He was a very accomplished bandoneon player (the bandoneon is similar to an accordion), and he toured all over Argentina and other countries performing with his band. Piazzolla composed *The Four Seasons* as single movement works, which didn't reference or remind us of the famous Vivaldi works of the same name. However, a later rendition by a Russian called Desyatnikov combines the style of Piazzolla and his special effects and rhythms with the many themes and characters of the Vivaldi *Seasons*. The version you will hear tonight is another arrangement that combines some elements from these different versions. It is very entertaining and powerful.

Program Notes, continued

STRING SERENADE OP. 6

J. Suk

Suk was the most advanced student of Antonin Dvorak, and later become Dvorak's son-in-law. He was also a professional violinist and a member of the Czech National String Quartet. For many string players, this is the most special of the great serenades, including the famous ones of Dvorak and Tchaikovsky. This work is very demanding on the ensemble and very technically demanding on all players. Each movement is quite different in style, starting with a lighter lyrical movement and followed by a very romantic, passionate, and slow movement, which features solos by the principal cellist. Finally, we have a virtuoso last movement to end the piece. Each movement has many changes of tempo, dynamics, and moods.

THE GODFATHER

Movie soundtrack

Program notes to be announced from the stage

WHY IS THE FLOWER SO RED

Movie soundtrack

Program notes to be announced from the stage

Biographies

CHAI LIANG, *soloist and conductor*

Born in Shenyang, China, and currently residing in New York, Chai Liang is a young violinist active in the American and world music scenes, and he is considered one of the foremost artists of his generation. Chai Liang was born into a musical family: his father is a composer, and his mother is a vocalist. He began learning the piano at the age of five and the violin at the age of nine. In 1980, he was admitted to the secondary school officiated by the Shenyang Conservatory of Music, where he received training under Guan Qingwu, Wang Guan, Jin Yanping, and Wu Peiru. Three years later, he was recommended to receive training in the senior high school section of the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing under the tutelage of Wang Zhirong. In 1986, he was admitted without audition to the Conservatory proper, where he was trained by famous violinist Lin Yaoji. After graduating in 1990, he went to the United States in 1991 on a full scholarship to study violin under Alice Schoenfeld of the University of Southern California. One year later, he received a full scholarship from the Starling Foundation to attend the Juilliard School in New York, where he studied with the pre-eminent violin pedagogue Dorothy Delay and her associate Hyo Kang. He was awarded an artist diploma (1994) and a master's degree (1997) from the Juilliard School. Since then, Chai Liang has been active on the concert stage and serving on the faculty of music institutions: he was a fellow of the Delay-Starling Institute of the Juilliard School and is currently on the faculty of the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music. At the same time, he also gives master classes and conducts orchestras in various parts of the world. Chai Liang has won many prizes in his career as a violinist, including the first National Violin Competition for Arts Institutions in China, the second Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition in England, and the third Japan International Music Competition. Chai Liang has performed with London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra; the Manchester Symphony Orchestra; Sweden's Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra; the Sydney Philharmonic Orchestra (with whom he also worked as a visiting soloist); the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra; the Korean Symphony Orchestra; the Singapore Symphony Orchestra; and American orchestras in New York and Los Angeles, including the Grand Canyon Music Festival Orchestra and the Aspen Festival Orchestra; as well as major orchestras of China. Chai Liang has been heard in recital and with chamber orchestras in famous venues around the world, including London's Royal Albert Hall, Moscow's Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, Paris's Auditorium de Louvre, Germany's Städtisches Konservatorium, the Concert Hall of the Sydney Town Hall, Singapore's Victoria Concert Hall, and Taipei's National Concert Hall, as well as the Lincoln Center in New York.

WANG XINYI, *soloist*

First violin Wang Xinyi studied with professor Chai Liang at Central Conservatory Preparatory School and, before that, with professors Xiaolei Ding and Biao Xue at Music Middle School Affiliated to Shanghai Conservatory of Music; Wang Xinyi is currently studying violin with professor Masao Kawasaki. Wang Xinyi has participated in master classes with Joseph Silverstein, Leon Spierer, Malcom Layfield, Zakhar Bron, Kurt Sassmannshaus, Kathleen Winkler, Xue Suli, and He Wei. Wang Xinyi received first prize in the Shanghai Rising Star Youth Artist Competition (2006); the China Excellent Artist Performance and Competition (2007); and the Shanghai International String Festival Competition (2008), and third prize in the Concerto Competition of Great Wall International Music Academy (2009). Wang Xinyi's performances include Shanghai Conservatory of Music's He Lvting Concert Hall, Central Conservatory Preparatory School, Qingdao People's Hall, People's Republic of China Political Consultative Auditorium, Shanghai Concert Hall with Lang Lang, and Weifang Theatre with conductor Liu Ju, and with Flamenco guitar player Alberto Cuellar, as well as a series of performances in Beijing Concert Hall with conductor Fan Tao. Wang Xinyi has performed with Stradivarius and Guarneri violins. Wang Xinyi has also performed alongside Hugh Wolff, Robert Spano, Jane Glover, and Leon Spierer. Wang Xinyi's summer festival credits include Aspen Music Festival and School (2014).

Biographies, continued

WANG XINYUE, *soloist*

Second violin Wang Xinyue studied with professor Chai Liang and, before that, with professors Xiaolei Ding and Biao Xue at Music Middle School Affiliated to Shanghai Conservatory of Music; Wang Xinyue is currently studying violin with professor Masao Kawasaki. Wang Xinyue has participated in master classes with Joseph Silverstein, Leon Spierer, Malcom Layfield, Zakhar Bron, Li Weigang, Kathleen Winkler, Kurt Sassmannshaus, Xue Suli, and He Wei. Wang Xinyue received first prize of the junior class at the Shanghai "Rising Star" Youth Artist Competition (2006); first prize at the Shanghai International String Festival Competition (2008); and third prize at the Concerto Competition of Great Wall International Music Academy (2009); and was named champion of underage students at the Chinese Art Competitions for Students (2007). Wang Xinyue's performances include Shanghai Concert Hall, Shanghai Conservatory of Music's He Lvting Concert Hall, People's Republic of China Political Consultative Auditorium, Shanghai Concert Hall with Lang Lang, and Weifang Theatre with conductor Liu Ju. Wang Xinyue has also performed with Flamenco guitar player Alberto Cuellar, the Chinese Broadcast Movie Symphony Orchestra, and the National Ballet of China Symphony, as well as a series of performances in Beijing Concert Hall with conductor Fan Tao. Wang Xinyue has performed using Stradivarius and Guarneri violins. Wang Xinyue has also performed in three programs of China Central Television and alongside Hugh Wolff, Robert Spano, Jane Glover, and Leon Spierer. Wang Xinyue's summer festival credits include the Great Wall International Music Academy (2009) and Aspen Music Festival and School (2014).

YANG SHENGNAN, *vocalist*

Yang Shengnan has been studying vocal music at Central Conservatory Preparatory School since 2013. She was instructed by mezzo-soprano singer and Helsinki vocal competition winner Liang Ning. In 2012, she participated in the spring festival gala in Qiqihar City, Heilongjiang province, and sang the Chinese song *Sunset*. In May of the same year, she won first place in the 2012 division of Qiqihar China Youth Group Vocal Competition. During 2012-2014 she was been invited to attend the Spring Festival and Lantern Festival Gala in Heilongjiang province. Last April she participated in World Tour at the Beijing Concert Hall. The theme of the concert was performed by the Chinese Accent Symphony Orchestra with Chai Liang, internationally recognized Chinese-American violinist and the conductor. In May, 2014, Yang Shengnan performed in the concert *Show Your Love to People*. She sang Italian songs *Caro Mio Ben* and *Son Tutta Duolo* along with pianist and composer for Accent China Youth Symphony Orchestra, Dai Bo, with Fan Tao acting as conductor.

CHEN QIAN, *concertmaster*

Chen Qian is a violinist, who began playing at age five. When she was 13 years old, she successfully launched her first solo concert. A proud graduate of Central Conservatory of Music, she received both a bachelor's and master's degree in music performance from the institution. Chen Qian has enjoyed a prolific career as a soloist, performing with orchestras and other musicians, including Yoyo Ma and Lang Lang. In 2003, she joined the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra, one of the finest orchestras in China. In 2009, Chen Qian and her violin teacher, professor Chai Liang, founded the music charity Wings of Music. The charity uses classical music instruction to help the emotionally vulnerable children of poverty overcome the various problems that they face in life. Wings of Music is the first and only El Sistema program in China. In addition to her position as the executive director of Wings of Music, Chen Qian also serves as the deputy principal of Beijing's Central Conservatory Preparatory School.

Biographies, continued

HUANG CHANGHUI, *soloist*

Huang Changhui was born in 1986 in Benxi, China. He began learning the violin at the age of seven. Originally, he only intended it as a hobby, but he demonstrated great progress and his teachers were eager to see him develop as a professional. Huang was admitted to Shenyang Conservatory of Music, Mid-Level Subsidiary at the age of 13. Three years later, he won the second prize in floor, youth violin competition. In 2005, he earned first place at the Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, China. Huang Changhui studies under the famous violinist and current Central Conservatory of Music String Department professor Chai Liang. Huang Changhui served as chief in China Youth Symphony Orchestra, first violin with Seiji Ozawa Music Sook, and special violin performer with National Ballet of China under many world-class maestros, such as Daniel Barenboim, Seiji Ozawa, and Max Pommer. Huang Changhui currently serves as assistant professor to Chai Liang and as a violin teacher at Central Conservatory Preparatory School.

LI BINGYANG, *soloist*

Li Bingyang is currently studying at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, China and is instructed by professors Chai Liang and Yu Bing.

Central Conservatory of Music Honor Prep

FIRST VIOLIN	CELLO
Chen Qian	Sun Xiaoqi
Huang Changhui	Chen Guanlin
Li Bingyang	Kuang Zheng
Yang Yu	Liang Kun
Wang Xinyi	
	BASS
SECOND VIOLIN	Xu Yongchun
Xing Fang	Yao Lin
Wang Huilian	
Wang Xinyue	SINGER
Liu Yaqi	Yang Shengnan
VIOLA	PIANIST
Qu Jialu	Shi Jiajia
Xie Yuhan	
Wang Xiaohua	SOLO
Wang Yupei	Chai Liang