



Advance Program Notes

The Knights and Gil Shaham, *violin*
Friday, February 26, 2016, 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.

The Knights

Colin Jacobsen and Eric Jacobsen, *artistic directors*
Eric Jacobsen, *conductor*
Gil Shaham, *violin*

Les Caractères de la Danse

1. Prelude
2. Courante
3. Menuet
4. Bouree
5. Chaccone
6. Sarabande
7. Gigue
8. Rigaudon
9. Passepied
10. Gavotte
11. Sonate
12. Loure
13. Musette
14. Sonate

Jean-Féry Rebel
(1666-1747)

Violin Concerto no. 2, op. 63
Gil Shaham, violin

Allegro moderato
Andante assai
Allegro ben marcato

Sergei Prokofiev
(1891-1953)

INTERMISSION

Symphony no. 3, op. 55, *Eroica*

Allegro con brio
Marcia funebre. Adagio assai
Scherzo. Allegro vivace—Trio
Finale. Allegro molto

Ludwig Van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

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Opus 3 Artists
470 Park Avenue South
9th Floor North
New York, NY 10016
www.opus3artists.com

A Note from The Knights

In recent years, The Knights have been fortunate to tour North America in various shapes and sizes with incredible guests, including the ever-inventive banjo virtuoso, Bela Fleck; the first lady of the pipa, Wu Man; and Iranian hammered dulcimer wizard, Siamak Aghaei. These collaborations have featured new works and the unique talents of members of The Knights, whose lives are grounded in the classical tradition and extend to countless other musical worlds.

For today's journey, we are thrilled to have with us the incomparable Gil Shaham, whose exploration of the violin concertos of the 1930s gave us the opportunity to put our sounds together on a brand new recording of Prokofiev's G Minor Violin Concerto. Gil's evident joy in the infinite possibilities of the violin inspires us to see the orchestra as an instrument capable of breathing as one—of singing, dancing, crying, laughing, wherever the moment leads us.

We look forward to sharing the music with you.

—Colin and Eric Jacobsen, artistic directors

The Knights

CONDUCTOR

Eric Jacobsen

VIOLIN

Colin Jacobsen, *concertmaster*

Sonya Chung

Christina Courtin

Emily Daggett Smith

Alexander Fortes

Kristi Helberg

Ariana Kim

Salley Koo

Laura Lutzke

John Marcus

Guillaume Pirard

Ross Snyder

VIOLA

Kyle Armbrust

Margaret Dyer

Mario Gotoh

Miranda Sielaff

CELLO

Jane Cords-O'Hara

Caitlin Sullivan

Andrea Lee

Michael Unterman

BASS

Charles Clements

Logan Coale

Shawn Conley

FLUTE

Chris Johnson

Alex Sopp

OBOE

Nick Masterson

Henry Ward

CLARINET

Alicia Lee

Agnes Marchione

BASSOON

Edward A. Burns

Erik Holtje

HORN

Michael P. Atkinson

Zohar Schondorf

Misty Tolle

TRUMPET

Josh Frank

Sycil Mathai

PERCUSSION

David Stevens

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Colin Jacobsen

Eric Jacobsen

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Liz Mahler

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Damian Primis

ADMINISTRATIVE

COORDINATOR

Jesse Diener-Bennett

LIBRARIAN

Ali Verderber

INTERN

Karen Meberg

Biographies

THE KNIGHTS

The Knights are an orchestral collective, flexible in size and repertory, dedicated to transforming the concert experience. Engaging listeners and defying boundaries with programs that showcase the players' roots in the classical tradition and passion for artistic discovery, The Knights have "become one of Brooklyn's sterling cultural products... known far beyond the borough for their relaxed virtuosity and expansive repertory" (*The New Yorker*).

The Knights' 2015-16 season kicked off at Caramoor, a regular stop for the ensemble, with a performance featuring cello superstar, Yo-Yo Ma. The group will be in residence at Brooklyn's BRIC House as part of a series of New York City residencies, undertaken with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. On Gil Shaham's *1930s Violin Concertos, Vol. 2*, to be released in February, The Knights join the master violinist on Prokofiev's Second Violin Concerto. The group teams up again with Shaham for a North American tour with stops in Baltimore, Toronto, Chicago, and Atlanta. Other season highlights include a new collaboration with French pianist Lise de la Salle and residencies at Dartmouth, Penn State, and Washington, D.C.'s Dumbarton Oaks.

Recent season highlights include The Knights' debut at Carnegie Hall in the New York premiere of the Steven Stucky/Jeremy Denk opera, *The Classical Style*; a U.S. tour with banjo virtuoso Béla Fleck; a European tour with soprano Dawn Upshaw, including the group's debut at Vienna's Musikverein; frequent festival appearances at Ravinia and Tanglewood; and seven years of free summer performances at Central Park's Naumburg Orchestral Concerts and Bryant Park. In recent years The Knights have collaborated with Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, Dawn Upshaw, the Mark Morris Dance Group, Joshua Redman, Silk Road virtuoso Siamak Aghaei, and pipa virtuoso Wu Man. Recordings include 2015's "instinctive and appealing" (*The Times, UK*) *the ground beneath our feet* on Warner Classics, featuring the ensemble's first original group composition; an all-Beethoven disc on Sony Classical (their third project with the label); and 2012's "smartly programmed" (NPR) *A Second of Silence* for Ancalagon.

The Knights evolved from late-night chamber music reading parties with friends at the home of violinist Colin Jacobsen and cellist Eric Jacobsen. The Jacobsen brothers, who are also founding members of the string quartet Brooklyn Rider, serve as artistic directors of The Knights, with Eric Jacobsen as conductor. In December 2012, the Jacobsens were selected from among the nation's top visual, performing, media, and literary artists to receive a prestigious United States Artists Fellowship.

The Knights' roster boasts remarkably diverse talents, including composers, arrangers, singer-songwriters, and improvisers, who bring a range of cultural influences to the group, from jazz and klezmer to pop and indie rock music. The unique camaraderie within the group retains the intimacy and spontaneity of chamber music in performance.

For more information, please visit www.theknightsnyc.com or find them on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Biographies, continued

COLIN JACOBSEN, *artistic director*

As the *Washington Post* observes, violinist and composer Colin Jacobsen is “one of the most interesting figures on the classical music scene.” A founding member of two game-changing, audience-expanding ensembles—the string quartet Brooklyn Rider and orchestra The Knights—he is also a touring member of Yo-Yo Ma’s venerated Silk Road Project and an Avery Fisher Career Grant-winning violinist. Jacobsen’s work as a composer developed as a natural outgrowth of his chamber and orchestral collaborations. Jointly inspired by encounters with leading exponents of non-western traditions and by his own classical heritage, his most recent compositions for Brooklyn Rider include *Three Miniatures*—“vivacious, deftly drawn sketches” (*The New York Times*)—which were written for the reopening of the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Islamic art galleries. Jacobsen collaborated with Iran’s Siamak Aghaei to write a Persian folk-inflected composition, *Ascending Bird*, which he performed as soloist with the YouTube Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House in a concert that was streamed live by millions of viewers worldwide. His work for dance and theatre includes *Chalk and Soot*, a collaboration with Dance Heginbotham, and music for Compagnia de’ Colombari’s theatrical production of Walt Whitman’s *Song of Myself*.

ERIC JACOBSEN, *artistic director*

Hailed by *The New York Times* as “an interpretive dynamo,” conductor and cellist Eric Jacobsen has built a reputation for engaging audiences with innovative and collaborative projects. Jacobsen is the founder and artistic director of The Knights and a founding member of the genre-defying string quartet, Brooklyn Rider. As conductor of The Knights, Jacobsen has led the “consistently inventive, infectiously engaged indie ensemble” (*The New York Times*) at New York venues, ranging from Carnegie Hall to Central Park, and at renowned international halls such as the Vienna Musikverein and Cologne Philharmonie. In the 2015-16 season, Jacobsen celebrates his inaugural season as music director of the Orlando Philharmonic and his second season as both music director of the Greater Bridgeport Symphony and artistic partner with the Northwest Sinfonietta. Also in demand as a guest conductor, Jacobsen has recently led the Camerata Bern, the Detroit Symphony, the Alabama Symphony, ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, Deutsche Philharmonie Merck, and Yo-Yo Ma’s Silk Road Ensemble.

Biographies, continued

GIL SHAHAM, *violin*

"The outstanding American violinist of his generation." —*Time*

Gil Shaham is one of the foremost violinists of our time. His flawless technique, combined with his inimitable warmth and generosity of spirit, has solidified his renown as an American master. Highlights of his 2015-16 season include performances with the Berlin Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris, New World Symphony, Singapore Symphony, Chicago Symphony, and Philadelphia Orchestra; residencies with the Montreal Symphony and Carolina Performing Arts; and an extensive North American tour with The Knights to celebrate the release of *1930s Violin Concertos, Vol. 2*. Shaham also continues touring Bach's complete unaccompanied sonatas and partitas to London's Wigmore Hall and key North American venues in a special multimedia collaboration with photographer/video artist David Michalek.

Shaham already has more than two dozen concerto and solo CDs to his name, including bestsellers that have ascended the charts in the U.S. and abroad. These recordings have earned multiple Grammys, a Grand Prix du Disque, Diapason d'Or, and Gramophone Editor's Choice. His recent recordings are issued on his own Canary Classics label, which he founded in 2004, and include *1930s Violin Concertos, Vols. 1 & 2*; *J.S. Bach: Sonatas & Partitas for Violin*; *Nigunim: Hebrew Melodies*; *Haydn Violin Concertos* and *Mendelssohn's Octet* with the Sejong Soloists; *Sarasate: Virtuoso Violin Works*; *Elgar's Violin Concerto* with the Chicago Symphony; and Bach's complete works for solo violin. A passionate advocate for new music, Shaham has also premiered works by composers, including William Bolcom, David Bruce, Avner Dorman, Julian Milone, and Bright Sheng.

Shaham was awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant in 1990, and in 2008 he received the coveted Avery Fisher Prize. He plays the 1699 "Countess Polignac" Stradivarius and lives in New York City with his wife, violinist Adele Anthony, and their three children.

For more information, please visit www.gilshaham.com or find Gil Shaham on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Engagement Activities

Friday, February 26, 2016

TWEET SEATS MASTER CLASS

While experiencing the performance by The Knights and Gil Shaham, Virginia Tech students will participate in a Twitter-based dialogue, led by Tracy Cowden, faculty chair of music and associate professor of voice and piano. Following the performance, participating students will meet with the visiting artists during a reception.

Special thanks to Tracy Cowden

In the Galleries

DATAStream

PHILIP ARGENT, QUAYOLA, CASEY REAS, AND JOHN F. SIMON

Within the emergent and ever-changing realm of digital technologies, rapidly evolving forms of computer- and electronically-generated art are becoming increasingly prominent. Brilliantly colored paintings rooted in the digital ethos of our times; computer-generated, ever-changing, and never repeating Code Art; software art sourced from information and communication systems; contemporary digital aesthetics and icons of classical art and architecture—how do all of these art concepts relate? Come check out the *DATAStream* exhibition to find out!

DATAStream

February 25, 2016-May 7, 2016

Ruth C. Horton Gallery, Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery, Sherwood Payne Quillen '71 Reception Gallery, and Francis T. Eck Exhibition Corridor

DIANA COOPER: GRAND LOBBY WALL MURAL

February 11, 2016-Spring 2018

Grand Lobby

GALLERY HOURS

Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; interesting and free!