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UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA • SCHOOL OF MUSIC

ORION SERIES IN FINE ARTS

presents

MELIA WATRAS

VIOLA

&

MICHAEL JINSOO LIM

VIOLIN

Friday, January 20, 2017 • 8 p.m.

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

MacLaurin Building, University of Victoria

Free admission

PROGRAM

Lament for viola solo (2016)	Melia Watras (b. 1969)
Luminous Points for violin solo (2013)	Melia Watras
Esther for violin and viola (2008)	Atar Arad (b. 1945)
Passacaglia, from Viola Sonata, Op. 11, No. 5	Paul Hindemith (1895–1963)

INTERMISSION

Liquid Voices for violin and viola (2013)	Melia Watras
Duo in B-flat major for violin and viola, K. 424 <i>Adagio-Allegro</i> <i>Andante cantabile</i> <i>Tema con variazioni</i>	W.A. Mozart (1756–1791)

Please tell us about your concert experience in this quick **Audience Survey**:
<https://finearts.uvic.ca/forms/music/audience/>

PROGRAM NOTES

Melia Watras: *Lament for viola solo* (2016)

Lament was written for the memorial service of my father, Joseph Watras, who passed away in 2016 after battling cancer. It is impossible for me to express how much my father meant and continues to mean to me and my music. Joseph Watras was a philosophical man, and following his lead, I began to think of the loss we all experience as human beings when we lose someone close to us. The piece became not only a lament for him, but an expression of a shared sense of mourning that we all feel as part of humanity.

—Melia Watras

Melia Watras: *Luminous Points for violin solo* (2013)

I began with the image of a mysterious, secret garden, where the night sky, brilliantly studded with unending stars, is reflected in a pond. The sky becomes the water and the water the sky. I wrote *Luminous Points* for violinist Michael Jinsoo Lim, hoping to imbue the work with his gentle character and *molto dolce* E string playing.

—Melia Watras

Atar Arad: *Esther for violin and viola* (2008)

My late mother, Esther, to whom this music is dedicated, was born in Bulgaria to a Sephardic family before moving to Israel at a very young age. I remember her as a woman who could never stop singing: joyful and lively Bulgarian songs for the benefit and delight of her family and friends (hence the inspiration for my *Toccata*), or melancholic, tender, sweet Sephardic tunes while on her own, mostly when working on her paintings (she was a well known artist). Esther, I believe, is a brief nostalgic reflection on my childhood and the music I used to hear a long time ago.

—Atar Arad

Melia Watras: *Liquid Voices for violin and viola* (2013)

Liquid Voices takes its inspiration from Virginia Woolf's short story, *The Fascination of the Pool*. Woolf has been a profound, influential and special author to me. Her experimental nature and ever-changing writing style make her elusive. She was lyrical, poetic and forward thinking.

I was taken with the story's fluidity, imagery and depth, which helped shape the structure and basic concept for my piece: voices floating on top of each other. The pitch centers of *Liquid Voices* are taken from the harmonic series played by the violin in the first few measures of the work.

—Melia Watras

BIOGRAPHIES

MEILA WATRAS

Hailed by *Gramophone* as “an artist of commanding and poetic personality” and described as “staggeringly virtuosic” by *The Strad*, violist Melia Watras has distinguished herself as one of her instrument’s leading voices. She has performed in major venues such as Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall, and Alice Tully Hall, while achieving acclaim as an important recording artist. Watras has recorded 5 albums, while performing on 13 others as a chamber musician. Recent and upcoming highlights include the release of her latest disc from the Sono Luminus label, *26*, which features world premiere recordings of her own compositions, and video projects with violist Garth Knox (performing with Knox on his duos, *Viola Spaces for Two*) and video artist Ha Na Lee.

Watras’s discography has received considerable attention and praise from the media. *Ispirare*, which features the world premiere recording of Pulitzer Prize-winner Shulamit Ran’s *Perfect Storm* (a piece that was written for Watras), made numerous Best of 2015 lists, including the *Chicago Reader’s* (“Watras knocked the wind out of me with the dramatically dark beauty of this recording”). *Short Stories* was a *Seattle Times* Critics’ Pick, with the newspaper marveling at her “velocity that seems beyond the reach of human fingers.” Of her debut solo CD (*Viola Solo*), *Strings* praised her “stunning virtuosic talent” and called her second release (*Prestidigitation*) “astounding and both challenging and addictive to listen to.”

As a composer, Watras’s music has been performed in New York City, Chicago, Seattle, Bloomington (IN), Denmark and Spain, by artists such as violist Atar Arad, cellist Sæunn Thorsteinsdóttir and violinist Michael Jinsoo Lim, and has been recorded for two upcoming CDs. With the Corigliano Quartet, Watras has concertized and recorded extensively, with the ensemble’s Naxos label CD being named one of the Ten Best Classical Recordings of the Year by *The New Yorker*. She is violist of *Frequency*, for whom she has also composed, and a member of Open End, with whom she has performed in France, Denmark and the United States and recorded for Albany Records.

Watras studied with Atar Arad at Indiana University and served as a teaching assistant to the Juilliard String Quartet while at the Juilliard School. She is currently Professor of Viola and chair of Strings at the University of Washington School of Music, where she holds the Adelaide D. Currie Cole Endowed Professorship and was previously awarded the Donald E. Petersen Endowed Fellowship and the Royalty Research Fund. Watras has given viola and chamber music classes at schools such as Indiana University, Cleveland Institute of Music, Strasbourg Conservatoire (France), and Chosun University (South Korea). She has thrice returned to her alma mater, Indiana, to teach as a guest professor.

MICHAEL JINSOO LIM

Violinist Michael Jinsoo Lim has been praised by *Gramophone* for playing with “delicious abandon” and described as “bewitching” by the *Seattle Times*. He is concertmaster and solo violinist of the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra (“surely the best ballet band in America”—*New York Times*) and is in-demand as a chamber musician and performer of new music. Hailed by the *Los Angeles Times* as a “conspicuously accomplished champion of contemporary music” for his work as co-founder of the renowned Corigliano Quartet, Lim is also artistic director and violinist of the Seattle-based ensemble Frequency.

Recent performance highlights include the world premiere of Andrew Waggoner’s violin concerto (written for Lim), live performances on Danish Public Radio and appearances as soloist for the Stravinsky violin concerto at New York’s City Center, as part of Pacific Northwest Ballet’s 2016 NYC tour. Lim’s 2016-17 season will include performances of concertos by Prokofiev and Stravinsky with PNB.

As a member of the Corigliano Quartet, Lim has won numerous awards, including the Grand Prize at the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition and the ASCAP/CMA Award for Adventurous Programming, and has performed in the nation’s leading music centers, including Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall, and the Kennedy Center. The quartet’s Naxos label CD was honored as one of *The New Yorker’s* Ten Best Classical Recordings of the Year.

As a theater artist, Lim appeared in director Nick Schwartz-Hall’s *Tempo of Recollection*, a show about composer Erwin Schulhoff, and served as music consultant for Seattle Repertory Theatre’s production of *Opus*, directed by Braden Abraham. Lim has performed onstage with Pacific Northwest Ballet in George Balanchine’s *Duo Concertante* and Christopher Wheeldon’s *After the Rain*. Lim has also worked as a record producer on three critically acclaimed albums by violist Melia Watras and co-producer on a fourth.

Lim attended Indiana University, where he was a pupil of the legendary Josef Gingold. He later studied chamber music at the Juilliard School and taught there as an assistant to the Juilliard String Quartet. He currently serves on the faculty of Cornish College of the Arts. Lim has recorded for Naxos, DreamWorks, Albany, Bridge, CRI, Bayer Records, RIAX and New Focus, and has been heard on NPR programs such as *Performance Today* and *All Things Considered*.

Dmitri Shostakovich: The Complete String Quartets

February 3–9, 2017

The **Lafayette String Quartet** celebrates its 30th anniversary with the complete cycle of Shostakovich's 15 String Quartets.



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Nos. 1, 2, 3

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Nos. 4, 5, 6

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Nos. 7, 8, 9

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Nos. 10, 11, 12, 13

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Nos. 14, 15

All concerts at 8 PM

7 PM Pre-concert talks by visiting scholars

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UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 (Free admission)

Orion Series in Fine Arts presents

Lorna McGhee, flute

Known for her “exceptionally rich and vibrant tone” (Washington Post),

Scottish-born flutist Lorna McGhee has been principal flute of the

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra since 2012.

Masterclass: 10:15 AM–11:45 AM | Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

Concert: 12 PM | Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

Performing J.S. Bach's *Sonata BWV 525*, *Le Moment de Cristal* by Yuko Uebayashi,

East Wind by Schulamit Ran and Carl Frühling's *Fantasie Op. 55*.

Reception to follow

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 | 2:30 PM (By donation)

Saxophone Class Recital

Featuring saxophone students from the studio of Wendell Clanton.

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 | 8 PM (\$10-\$20)

Faculty Concert Series

Deep in the Groove: Organ Jazz with the Patrick Boyle/Tony Genge Trio

Patrick Boyle, trumpet/guitar

Tony Genge, Hammond B3 organ

Kelby MacNayr, drums

With Phil Dwyer, saxophone

A concert of classic compositions by organ giants Jack McDuff and Jimmy Smith, as well as original compositions. Let's get deep in the groove!

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 | 2:30 PM (By donation)

Piano Class Recital

Featuring UVic School of Music piano students from the studio of Bruce Vogt.

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27 | 12:30 PM (By donation)

Fridaymusic

Take an afternoon break to enjoy a concert of varied repertoire and instruments featuring UVic School of Music students.

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

Tickets available at the UVic Ticket Centre (250-721-8480),
online (www.tickets.uvic.ca) and at the door:

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