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SCHOOL OF MUSIC • UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

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FACULTY CONCERT SERIES

# *Eloquence, Verve and Fantasy*

**PAMELA HIGHBAUGH ALONI**

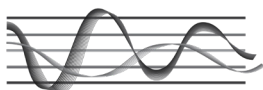
CELLO

&

**JANE HAYES**

PIANO

**UVIC**  
**music**



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023 | 8 PM**

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

MacLaurin Building, University of Victoria

# PROGRAM

We acknowledge and respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

## Variations Concertantes, Op. 17 for Cello and Piano

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy  
(1809-1847)

## Tree Spirit\* for Cello and Piano (July 2022) *Lento*

Leila Lustig  
(b. 1944)

## Fantasy Pieces, Op. 73

*Zart und mit Ausdruck*  
*Lebhaft, leicht*  
*Rasch und mit Feuer*

Robert Schumann  
(1810-1856)

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INTERMISSION

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## Sonata for Cello and Piano, Op. 6

*Allegro con brio*  
*Andante ma non troppo*  
*Finale: Allegro vivo*

Richard Strauss  
(1864-1949)

\*World premiere, commissioned by Pamela Highbaugh Aloni

## PROGRAM NOTES & BIOGRAPHIES

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### A few words about “Tree Spirit”

In this song for cello and piano, a tree slowly rises from below the soil and becomes a sapling, steadily growing until its mature crown of leaves rustles in the wind, birds nesting in its branches.

A cruel logger fells the tree, which crashes to earth, bouncing in the underbrush to stillness.

But the tree slowly rises again from its root, beginning the journey as it did before – an enduring tree spirit.

### PAMELA HIGHBAUGH ALONI

Praised for her “meltingly beautiful solos” (The Detroit News) and performances of “depth and insight” (Times Colonist), cellist Pamela Highbaugh Aloni is a founding member of the prize-winning Lafayette String Quartet. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Victoria where she has been teaching cello, chamber music and string pedagogy since 1991.

The Lafayette Quartet celebrated over 37 years of musical life together with the same four members and took their final bow in August 2023. Highlights of their years include a celebration in 2000 performing all sixteen of Beethoven’s string quartets, a 30th anniversary Shostakovich Cycle, a Second Viennese School project, the commissioning of five new quartets by women composers, and the initiation of the Lafayette Health Awareness Forum. Their CBC recording “Death and the Maiden” was awarded “Outstanding Classical Recording of the Year” by the Western Canada Music Awards.

An enthusiastic and devoted teacher, Ms. Highbaugh Aloni served for ten years on the faculty at the Courtenay Youth Music School and Festival and has been the coach for the Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra cello section since 2004. She performs both as a soloist and recitalist and has been a guest artist with the Vetta Ensemble of Vancouver, Victoria Chamber Orchestra, Victoria Summer Festival, Sooke Philharmonic, Eine Kleine Summer Music, Chamber Music San Juan, and served as principal cellist with the Galiano Ensemble from 2000-2018. Pamela plays on a George Craske cello made in England, 1850.

### JANE HAYES

Since her debut with the Toronto Symphony, pianist, Jane Hayes’ concerts have taken her across Canada, the United States, Europe, Asia and Mexico. An active recording artist, she has over 30 CDs available on many prestigious labels. Jane moved to BC in 1993 to become a faculty member in the newly opened Music Department

of Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Her passion for teaching was recognized when she received the 2015 Distinguished Teaching Award in the Faculty of Arts. She has established a strong link with Chinese music schools, giving a series of recitals and master classes in 2017 at universities and private music schools to foster professional development among Chinese piano professors.

In recent years she has appeared on concert stages in every combination from duo through large ensemble, as soloist with orchestra to chamber collaborator. She has been a partner of such esteemed artists as cellist Harvey Shapiro, violinist Robert Davidovici, and flutists Julius Baker and Bonita Boyd. Jane's *Four Jays* performance for Vetta Chamber Music was recognized with a nomination for the 2021 Western Canada Music Awards as was *Sassicaia*, a CD devoted to Canadian repertoire for clarinet and piano. Her recent performance on a CD commemorating the life and musical legacy of composer Nikolai Korndorf was listed on CBC's Top 22 of 2022. As an active member of Vancouver's Turning Point Ensemble, Yarilo Ensemble and the Stellar Jays, recent tours have taken her to Spain and Eastern Europe.

Since leaving Kwantlen in 2020, Jane is maintaining an active performing, recording, teaching and adjudicating career. No matter what hat she wears, her focus is always on communication through music, talking a language that doesn't need words.

## **LEILA LUSTIG**

Leila Lustig studied music composition at UCLA and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, earning MA and PhD degrees. She spent 14 years in radio as a music producer and program director; producer of a number of classical music programs for the National Public Radio and American Public Radio networks, and creator/host of the long-running series "Music in Buffalo" for WVED-FM in Buffalo, NY, for which she composed the theme music. She was president of the Composers' Alliance of Buffalo for two years.

Although she did not follow the usual academic path following graduation, she continued writing music, emigrating to Canada and becoming a citizen in 2003. Her output includes music for voice, choral and chamber groups, orchestra and wind ensemble. One of her major works is a cantata in memory of her father, "Angels in My Way," using as texts the Hebrew Kaddish, the *Gloria* from the Latin Mass, and excerpts from Ralph Waldo Emerson's poetry. She has set to music all 26 poems in Barbara Hollender's "Ladies of Genesis," intimate monologues by women in the Bible, combining the female voice with various combinations of instruments.

Leila also co-composed, "Singing Through Generations" with singer/drummer Nicole Mandryk which is one of the five works commissioned by the Lafayette String Quartet for their BK Weigel commissioning project. She is an associate composer of the Canadian Music Centre and a BMI composer.