



The Music Department Presents

Sterne Virtuoso Series

Westhuizen Duo

Pierre & Sophié van der Westhuizen

piano

Friday, March 21st, 2025, 7:30PM
Arthur Zankel Music Center
Helen Filene Ladd Concert Hall

Program

Ma Mère l'Oye (Mother Goose)

M. Ravel

(1875-1937)

1. Pavane de la Belle au bois dormant
2. Petit Poucet
3. Laideronnette, impératrice des pagodes
4. Les entretiens de la belle et de la bête: Mouvt
de valse très modéré
5. Le jardin féerique

Fissures

Evan Mack

(b. 1981)

Legends, op. 59

A. Dvorak

(1841-1904)

- No. 6 in C-sharp Minor
- No. 1 in D Minor
- No. 2 in G Major
- No. 3 in G Minor

Dolly Suite, op. 56

G. Fauré

(1845-1924)

- i. Berceuse
- ii. Mi-a-ou
- iii. Le jardin de Dolly
- iv. Kitty-valse
- v. Tendresse
- vi. Le pas espagnole

Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, op. 46

E. Grieg

(1843-1907)

- i. Morning Mood
- ii. Death of Åse
- iii. Anitra's Dance
- iv. In the Hall of the Mountain King

Bios

With performances described as showcasing the “utmost polish,” “impressive control” with a “broad stylistic spectrum” (Beeld, South Africa), South African pianist **Pierre van der Westhuizen** has established himself as an accomplished and versatile musician, with critically acclaimed and enthusiastically received performances across South Africa, the USA, and Europe.

Pierre graduated from Northwest University (Potchefstroom) with a double major in Piano Performance and Composition. Pierre has received several prizes, awards and scholarships, which included the M.C. Rhooide Memorial Performance Prize, a grant from the National Research Foundation, winner of the Tuesday Musical Competition (Akron, OH), and an international competition to perform chamber music at the Rome Festival in Italy. He made his concerto debut in 1998, performing with the National Chamber Orchestra of South Africa. He continued his studies in the U.S., completing the Doctor of Musical Arts in piano performance at the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati (2007), under the guidance of Frank Weinstock. His performances have been heard on WCLV (Cleveland) and WYSU (Youngstown), and he continues to perform internationally as soloist and collaborative pianist all over South Africa, the USA, and Europe. He has also appeared as soloist with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra under the direction of maestro Chelsea Tipton.

Pierre is also part of the Westhuizen Piano Duo, with his wife Sophié. Their interest in new music has led them to premiere numerous works by young South African and American composers. They were the first piano duo to receive fellowships as Young Artists at the prestigious PianoTexas International Academy and Festival (formerly the TCU/Cliburn Institute), as well as Shouse Artists at the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival. Their performances were heard on WGTE (Toledo), Radiosonder Grense and ClassicFM. They were featured as guest artists at the Volksblad Arts Festival, Grahamstown National Arts Festival, Northwest University (Potchefstroom) and the University of South Africa UNISA Concert Series in South Africa, as well as venues across the USA. They were featured on the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series in Chicago, which was broadcast live on NPR and PBS, and have recorded the complete works for two pianos by Poulenc, which has been released by AMP Recordings.

Pierre also enjoys teaching, and has previously served as guest artist and faculty member at the Colorado International Piano Academy, Cleveland Institute of Music's Summer Sonata, and Chautauqua Institute. He has also served as juror for competitions like UNISA (South Africa), Scriabin (Italy), MozArte (Germany) American Pianists Association, and more. Pierre served as President of the Cleveland

International Piano Competition from 2010 - 2017, and is currently the Executive and Artistic Director of The Gilmore: www.thegilmore.org

"Exceptional pianism through evocative coloring" and "superlative interpretative abilities" (CUE Magazine, 2011) are phrases used to describe the playing of South African pianist **Sophié van der Westhuizen**. She was the winner of numerous prizes, awards and scholarships during the course of her studies, which culminated in a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy, from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. Sophié continues to perform internationally as both soloist and collaborative pianist, with a specialization in piano duo with her husband Pierre. They regularly appear in residence at the Cleveland Institute of Music's Summer Sonata Festival as guest artists and teachers, and have done the same at the Colorado International Piano Festival, Chautauqua Piano Institute, Kent State University Piano Institute, and CCM at the University of Cincinnati, among others. They received fellowships as Young Artists at the prestigious PianoTexas International Academy and Festival, and were Shouse Artists at the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival. Their performances are regularly broadcast on radio, including NPR, WCLV, WGTE, and ClassicFM (South Africa), and they are often featured as guest artists at music festivals across the globe. Their performance on the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series in Chicago, with live broadcast on NPR, remains a highlight. Most recently, they were the featured guest artists at the 85th Baldwin Wallace Bach Festival in concerto and recital, and also made their New York debut at Steinway Hall. They recorded Francis Poulenc's music for two pianos for AMP recordings. Sophié has served on the faculty of Heidelberg University, Youngstown State University, University of Mount Union, the Music Settlement, Aurora School of Music and Cleveland State University, and now teaches at Kalamazoo College. She also maintains a private piano studio, ranging from young beginners to adults, and teaches at Interlochen Center for the Arts' Arts Camp in the summer. Sophié served as director of ArtsConnect, a community outreach program for the Cleveland International Piano Competition and currently serves as chair of the music committee on the board of the Stulberg International String Competition. Sophié is a Steinway Artist.

Upcoming Events

Timeless Tones, Modern Melodies: An
Evening of Chinese Music Redefined
Friday, March 28, 7:30pm

Voices of Ukraine
Sunday, March 30, 3:00pm

Skidmore String Festival
w/ Sphinx Virtuosi
Saturday, April 5, 7:30pm

Skidmore String Festival w/Sphinx Virtuosi
and Skidmore Students
Sunday, April 6, 2:00pm

Senior Bass Recital: August DuClos
Friday, April 11, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert: Brass & Woodwind
Ensembles
Saturday, April 12, 3:00pm
in Wilson Chapel

Young Kim & Skidmore Pianists
Saturday, April 13, 4:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Vocal Soul Collective
Tuesday, April 15, 7:00pm
in Filene Recital Hall

Senior Voice Recital:
Mary Timmons
Saturday, April 19, 1:00pm

Senior Recital: Alex Ciardullo
Saturday, April 19, 4:00pm

Senior Voice Recital:
Rhea Fitzpatrick
Saturday, April 19, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert: Orchestra
Tuesday, April 22, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert: Chorus
Thursday, April 24, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
String Ensembles
Friday, April 25, 4:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Guitar Ensemble
Friday, April 25, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Global Music Showcase
Saturday, April 26, 1:00pm
in Thomas Amphitheater

Skidmore in Concert:
Concert Band
Sunday, April 27, 1:00pm

Senior Guitar Recital:
Rimmele Wood
Sunday, April 27, 4:00pm

Senior Recital: Arielle Lam
(Piano & Voice)
Sunday, April 27, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert: Big Band +
Cuban Music Ensemble
Monday, April 28, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert: Small Jazz Ensembles +
Jazz Guitar Ensemble
Wednesday, April 30, 7:00pm