



The Music Department Presents

Senior Cello Recital
Zack Barnett

with
Richard Cherry
Carol Ann Elze
Piano

Saturday, March 30th, 4:00 PM
Arthur Zankel Music Center
Helen Filene Ladd Concert Hall

Cello Suite No. 4 in E-Flat Major
IV. Sarabande

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Perhaps from “Figures of Speech”

Reena Maria Esmail
(b. 1983)

Cello Concerto in E Minor Op. 85
I. Adagio–Moderato

Edward Elgar
(1857-1934)

Richard Cherry, piano

Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5

Heitor Villa Lobos
(1887-1959)

Jessica Byers, voice
Carol Anne Elze, piano

String Quartet in F Major
II. Assez vif. Tres rythme

Maurice Ravel
(1875-1937)

Violin 1- Marlowe Jacques
Violin 2- Owen Ritzau
Viola- Adam Warner

Program Notes

For the program opening, I want to invite audiences in with a familiar piece of music: the Bach cello suites. Whether you are a seasoned musician, or this is the first classical music concert, you have likely heard of Bach's arguably most famous compositions for cello. I chose the Sarabande from Suite No. 4 for my program because it is one of my favorites. A Sarabande is a slow French court dance that developed from a Spanish dance which drew inspiration from aspects of Arabic culture. It is written in triple meter and became a staple of baroque compositions in the 18th century. Each of Bach's cello suites contains a Sarabande as the fourth movement.

I want to follow the Sarabande, filled with beautiful and complex harmonies, with another unaccompanied piece, titled "Perhaps". This contemporary piece was written by Indian American composer, Reena Maria Esmail, for the short film "Figures of Speech". This piece provides a stark contrast to the Sarabande, with dissonant chords and an improvisational style, but still bears some resemblance to the baroque cello suite. "Perhaps" contains rich chord structures similar to the Sarabande, but they often have a contemporary twist. The piece evokes a sense of wonder as if the musician is discovering the melody as they play.

The next piece is the first movement of Elgar's Cello Concerto in E minor. This piece was composed in the wake of World War I and is the last major work that the British composer completed. Although the premiere of this piece in 1919 was a disaster, its public image was redeemed by recordings by Beatrice Harris in the late 1920s. Several decades later, the piece garnered international attention in the 1960s when it was recorded by one of the greatest female cellists, Jacqueline du Pre. The powerful and commanding opening of the concerto creates an impactful start to the first movement, followed by an expressive melody meant to emulate the rolling hills of England.

For my last two pieces, I want to highlight chamber music. My favorite experiences in my musical career have been collaborating with other musicians, and I felt it was important to include that repertoire in my senior recital program. The fourth piece on the program is *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5* by Brazilian composer Villa Lobos. This piece was my first opportunity to collaborate with a vocalist, and it was a joy to put together! In this piece, Villa-Lobos combines the style and tonal structures of baroque music with aspects of Brazilian folk music that are captivating to listen to.

The final piece on the program is the second movement of Ravel's *String Quartet in F Major*. This quartet holds a dear place in my heart because it is the piece that made me fall in love with playing chamber music. I performed this movement six years ago at a music camp in Ontario, Canada, and I've been thinking about it ever since. It was a joy to return to Ravel after several years and work on the piece for more than one week! Thank you for attending my senior recital, and I hope you enjoy the program!

Bio

Zack Barnet began his cello studies at the age of five at Hoff-Barthelson Music School in Scarsdale NY, first with Peter Seidenberg and later with Nicole Johnson. He was inspired to play cello after hearing "The Swan" by Saint-Saëns, in a music class. In addition to private lessons, Zack took music theory classes, and played in string ensembles. When he was twelve, he began to work with Maxine Neuman, and also began to play in the Hoff-Barthelson Festival Orchestra, eventually as a principal cellist. In addition to orchestra and chamber music, Zack has played in master classes for Pamela Devenport, Alan Harris, Peter Wiley, Peter Stumpf, Natasha Brofsky, and Alan Stepansky, and he has performed in ensembles with violinist Rachel Barton Pine and jazz bassist John Patitucci for Hoff-Barthelson Gala Benefit concerts.

During the summer, he attended music programs at Hartt Suzuki Institute, Bayswater Suzuki Group in London, England, Music at Port Milford in Ontario, Canada, and Kinhaven Music School, in Vermont. Most recently, Zack spent his summer in Waterville Maine, at the Atlantic Music Festival. Here at these music festivals, Zack discovered his love of chamber music, and the joy of collaborating with other musicians.

In 2020, Zack was accepted into Skidmore College and awarded the Filene Music Scholarship. For the past four years, he has studied with Jameson Platte, played in the Skidmore Orchestra, and performed in various chamber groups. One of his favorite experiences was playing the Arensky String Quartet No. 2, with faculty member Michael Emery, in the fall of his junior year!

In addition to his love for music, Zack is passionate about science, and will be graduating with a degree in Biology this May. While spending the spring of his junior year abroad in New Zealand, Zack discovered his love for conservation; he plans to pursue ecological research after graduation.

Zack would like to thank all of his teachers, especially Jameson Platte and Michael Emery, his collaborators on this concert, both faculty and students, and most of all his wonderful parents John and Laura Barnet, who instilled their love of classical music in him, and have been endlessly supportive throughout his musical career.

Upcoming Events

Senior Voice Recital:
Lucrezia Zichichi
Friday, April 5, 4:00pm

Skidmore String Festival
with the Miró Quartet
Saturday, April 20, 7:30pm

Skidmore in Concert: Brass &
Woodwind Ensembles
Saturday, April 6, 1:00pm

Senior Piano Recital:
Raisa Ihnat & Dylan Salinger
Sunday, April 21, 12:00pm

Young Kim & Skidmore Pianists
Saturday, April 6, 3:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Small Jazz Ensembles
Tuesday, April 23, 7:00pm

Sr Voice Recital: Maggie Besthoff
Saturday, April 6, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert: Chorus
Thursday, April 26, 4:00pm

Senior Cello Recital: Anna Cates
Sunday, April 7, 1:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
String Ensembles
Friday, April 26, 4:00pm

Senior Flute Recital: Lydia Watkins
Sunday, April 7, 4:00pm

Sr Voice Recital: Johnny Mulcahy
Sunday, April 7, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Global Music Showcase
Saturday, April 27, 4:00pm

Sr Jazz Recital: Elan Stadelmann
Friday, April 12, 4:00pm

Skidmore in Concert: Concert Band
Sunday, April 28, 1:00pm

Skidmore in Concert: Big Band &
Vocal Soul Collective
Saturday, April 13, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Guitar Ensemble
Sunday, April 28, 4:00pm

Skidmore in Concert: Orchestra
Monday, April 29, 7:00pm