



presents

The Ciompi String Quartet
with pianist
Ieva Jokūbavičiūtė



Saturday, November 2, 2024, at 7:30 PM,
Sweeney Concert Hall / Sage Hall,
Smith College, Northampton, MA

About Today's Concert

John Montanari, Artistic Director

If you are unfamiliar with the name and music of Mieczysław Weinberg, you have lots of company. Twenty years ago, even I was among you. Since then, his works have appeared on some 200 CDs and hundreds of concert programs, making him one of the hottest composers around. But if this is your first encounter, you're in for a major discovery.

Born Mojsze Wajnberg in Warsaw in 1919 to parents in the Yiddish theater, Weinberg (whose name has been rendered in multiple spellings) studied piano and conducting and started to compose at a young age. Turning down an invitation to study at the Curtis Institute in 1938, Weinberg fled Poland in the year following the Nazi invasion, ending up in the Soviet Union and never again seeing his family, who were subsequently killed in the Holocaust.

Life as a Jewish artist in 1940s Russia became increasingly perilous, but his friendship with Dmitri Shostakovich, who interceded on Weinberg's behalf after his arrest and internment in the notorious Lubyanka Prison, allowed him to continue his career, at first in stage and film music, then in concert works composed for the top Soviet musicians of the day.

The music of Shostakovich is an inevitable point of reference for Weinberg's, whose Piano Quintet of 1945 is similar in its five-movement design to the Shostakovich Quintet from five years earlier. But if you were to put aside such comparisons and follow the Weinberg Quintet's cogent and wide-ranging narrative, you would be sure to recognize an original and powerful artist, one who can take his place among the major figures of 20th century music.

THE CIOMPI QUARTET

Eric Pritchard, violin Jonathan Bagg, viola
Hsiao-mei Ku, violin Caroline Stinson, cello
with pianist Ieva Jokūbavičiūtė

PROGRAM

William Grant Still (1895-1978)

Lyric Quartette: Musical Portraits of Three Friends (1960)

- I. The Sentimental One
- II. The Quiet One (based on an Inca melody)
- III. The Jovial One

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

String Quartet in B-flat, K. 589 (1790)

- I. Allegro
- II. Larghetto
- III. Menuetto; moderato
- IV. Allegro assai

INTERMISSION

John Dowland (1563?-1626)

Suite of Songs

arranged for piano quintet by Andrew Waggoner (b. 1960)

Tell Me True Love

The Lowest Trees Have Tops

Come Heavy Sleep

Mieczysław Weinberg (1919-1996)

Piano Quintet, Op. 18 (1944)

- I. Moderato con moto
- II. Allegretto
- III. Presto
- IV. Largo
- V. Allegro agitato

The Ciompi Quartet of the Duke University Department of Music is self-managed.

Artist Information

THE CIOMPI QUARTET

Eric Pritchard, violin; Hsiao-mei Ku, violin; Jonathan Bagg, viola; Caroline Stinson, cello.

Since its founding in 1965 by the renowned Italian violinist Giorgio Ciompi, the Ciompi Quartet of Duke University has delighted audiences and impressed critics around the world. All its members are professors at Duke, where they teach instrumental lessons, coordinate and coach chamber music, and perform across campus in concert halls, libraries, dormitories, and classrooms. In a career that spans five continents and includes many hundreds of concerts, the Ciompi Quartet has developed a reputation for performances of real intelligence and musical sophistication, with a warm, unified sound that allows each player's individual voice to emerge.

In recent years, the Ciompi Quartet has performed from Washington State to California, Texas, New York, Washington DC, and New England, and abroad from China to France, Italy, Germany, the Czech Republic, Serbia, and Albania. In the summer the Quartet has performed at the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival in Detroit, North Carolina's Eastern Music Festival and Highlands Chamber Music Festival, and at Monadnock Music in New Hampshire.

The Quartet's commitment to creative programming often mixes the old and the brand new in exciting ways. Its extensive catalog of commissions includes many that the group continues to perform on tour. Close ties to composers such as Paul Schoenfield, Stephen Jaffe, Scott Lindroth, and Melinda Wagner have produced important contributions to the repertoire. The quartet recently premiered Stephen Jaffe's Third String Quartet and two new quintets by Lindroth: "Schley Road" for quartet and saxophone,

and his Cello Quintet, written for the Ciompi and cellist Ashley Bathgate. The group's most recent recordings are on Toccata Classics (a string quartet by 19th century violin virtuoso Heinrich Ernst), and Naxos, which released "Journey to the West" by Chiayu Hsu in 2015. Also on Naxos online is a recording of the quartets of Paul Schoenfield, including the popular "Tales from Chelm." Numerous other discs are on the CRI, Arabesque, Albany, Gasparo, and Sheffield Lab labels, with music from Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven through the present. In 1994 Albany Records released the Ciompi's recording of string quartets by Smith College Professor Emeritus of Music Donald Wheelock.

IEVA JOKŪBAVIČIŪTĖ, piano

Lithuanian pianist Ieva Jokūbavičiūtė's powerfully and intricately crafted performances have earned her critical acclaim throughout North America and Europe. Her ability to communicate the essential substance of a work has led critics to describe her as possessing 'razor-sharp intelligence and wit' and 'subtle, complex, almost impossibly detailed and riveting in every way' (The Washington Post) and as 'an artist of commanding technique, refined temperament and persuasive insight' (The New York Times). In 2006, she was honored as a recipient of a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship.

Labor Records released Ieva's debut recording in 2010 to critical international acclaim, which resulted in recitals in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, DC, Vilnius, and Toulouse. She made her orchestral debuts with the Chicago Symphony; in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; with the American Youth Philharmonic in 2016; and in February 2017, with the Orquesta Filarmónica de Montevideo in Uruguay. Her piano trio, Trio Cavatina, won the 2009 Naumburg International Chamber Music Competition. Ieva's recording, "Returning Paths: Solo Piano Works by Janáček and Suk," was released to critical acclaim in 2014.

In the fall of 2016, Ieva began a collaboration with the violinist Midori, with recitals in Canada, at the Cartagena International Music Festival in Colombia, and in Germany and Austria. They have since given recitals in Japan, Germany, Austria, Poland, Peru, Colombia, Mexico, India, and Sri Lanka.

Jokūbavičiūtė's latest solo piano recording, "Northscapes," was released in 2021. This recording project weaves works, written within the last decade by composers from the Nordic and Baltic countries of Europe, into a tapestry of soundscapes that echo the reverberations between landscape, sound, and the imagination. The recording includes works by Kaja Saariaho, Anna Thorvaldsdottir, Raminta Šerkšnyte, Lasse Thoresen, Bent Sorensen, and Pēteris Vasks.

A much sought-after chamber musician and collaborator, Ieva regularly tours and appears at international music festivals including Marlboro; Ravinia; Bard; Caramoor; Chesapeake Chamber Music; Prussia Cove in Cornwall, England; and Festival de la musique de chambre at La Lointaine in France. She has participated in the Schleswig-Holstein Festival in Lubeck, Germany; the Katrina Chamber Music Festival, Aland Islands, Finland; the Oulunsalo Chamber Music Festival in Oulunsalo, Finland; the Joaquin Turina Chamber Music Festival in Seville, Spain; and Music in the Vineyards in Napa Valley, CA; the Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival in Burlington, VT; Salt Bay Chamber Music Festival in Maine, and the Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival at East Carolina University. In February 2024 she joined violinist Itamar Zorman on the Valley Classical Concerts stage.

Earning degrees from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and from Mannes College of Music in New York City, her principal teachers have been Seymour Lipkin and Richard Goode.

Currently, Ieva is Associate Professor of the Practice of Piano at Duke University in Durham, NC, having previously been on the faculty at Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, VA. Ieva is also on the faculty at the Kneisel Hall Chamber Music School and Festival in Blue Hill, ME and has established herself as a mentoring artist at the Marlboro Music Festival in Marlboro, VT.

Please Note: The use of cameras or recording devices is strictly prohibited.

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From the Valley Classical Concerts President

On behalf of the Board of Valley Classical Concerts, I would like to welcome you to our 2024-25 season. Founded as Music in Deerfield, VCC is now celebrating its 45th year of presenting internationally known classical chamber music ensembles for the enjoyment of music lovers in the Pioneer Valley and beyond.

We hope you are as excited as we are to hear these fabulous artists, from young prizewinners to musicians who have played together for decades. Many of them are returning simply because they appreciate the enthusiasm of our audience, and the marvelous acoustics of Sweeney Concert Hall.

I would like to thank and to gratefully acknowledge our many generous corporate sponsors, individual and Board donors, and Smith College, who have helped make this season possible and who have supported VCC over the years. They are all listed in the playbill.

Enjoy the music, encourage friends and family and younger adults and students to come to the concerts, and please consider donating to Valley Classical Concerts! Without continued financial support from our loyal patrons and lovers of chamber music, Valley Classical Concerts would not exist.

Dr. William Harbison, Board President

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Saturday December 21, 2024 at 7:30 at Grace Church, Amherst

Vermeer's "The Concert"
March 7-8, 2025 in the Warbeke Room, Pratt Hall, Mount Holyoke College,
South Hadley
Two performances: Friday March 7 at 7:30pm and Saturday March 8 at 3pm

Venetian Vespers
Saturday May 3, 2025 at 7:30 at Grace Church, Amherst

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Sunday, October 20, 3:00 pm

The Israeli Chamber Project

Saturday, November 2, 7:30 pm

*The Ciompi String Quartet with pianist Ieva
Jokūbavičiūtė*

Sunday, December 15, 3:00 pm

*The Lysander Trio
(note date change)*

Sunday, February 9, 3:00 pm

*The Lydian String Quartet
with pianist Jiayan Sun*

Sunday, March 9, 3:00 pm

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Sunday, March 30, 3:00 pm

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