

VCC Valley Classical Concerts

presents

The Junction Trio



Sunday, April 21, 2024, at 4:00 PM,
Bombyx Center for Arts and Equity,
Florence, MA

About Today's Concert

John Montanari, Artistic Director

From Wikipedia: “John Zorn (born September 2, 1953) is an American composer, conductor, saxophonist, arranger and producer who "deliberately resists category." His avant-garde and experimental approaches to composition and improvisation are inclusive of jazz, rock, hardcore, classical, contemporary, surf, metal, soundtrack, ambient, and world music. In 2020 Rolling Stone noted that "[al]though Zorn has operated almost entirely outside the mainstream, he's gradually asserted himself as one of the most influential musicians of our time.”

The Piano Trio makes an ideal introduction to the wild world of Charles Ives. In the first movement, we meet Ives the Innovator. It consists of 27 bars of music played three times. The first iteration features cello and piano, the second violin and piano, the third the entire trio. In the second movement, labeled “TSIAJ” (“This Scherzo is a Joke”), we meet Ives the Humorist. The three players play like barn dance musicians who’ve taken a few nips from the jug before launching into a madcap mashup of popular tunes (see how many you can pick out), ensemble unity and other technical niceties be damned. In the third and longest movement, we meet Ives the Transcendentalist. It reminds me of the composer’s description of his String Quartet No. 2 as four men who "converse, discuss, argue (in re 'Politick'), fight, shake hands, shut up – then walk up the mountain side to view the firmament!"

The namesake of Beethoven’s Trio, Op. 97, Rudolph Johann Joseph Rainier, Archduke of Austria, Prince Royal of Hungary and Bohemia, Cardinal-Archbishop of Olomouc, was Beethoven’s most generous patron, dedicatee of 14 of Beethoven’s works, and a minor composer in his own right. Thanks to all you Archdukes and Archduchesses for your own generous patronage!

The Junction Trio

Stefan Jackiw, Violin
Jay Campbell, Cello
Conrad Tao, Piano

PROGRAM

John Zorn (b. 1953)

Philosophical Investigations (2023)

Charles Ives (1874-1954)

Trio for violin, cello, and piano (1911, revised 1915)

- I. Moderato
- II. TSIAJ (This Scherzo Is A Joke): Presto
- III. Moderato con moto

INTERMISSION

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Piano Trio in B-flat major, Op. 97

“Archduke” (1811)

- I. Allegro moderato
- II. Scherzo. Allegro
- III. Andante cantabile
- IV. Allegro moderato - Presto

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Artist Information

CONRAD TAO, piano

Conrad Tao has appeared worldwide as a pianist and composer and has been dubbed “the kind of musician who is shaping the future of classical music” by New York Magazine, and an artist of “probing intellect and open-hearted vision” by The New York Times. Tao has performed as soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, and Boston Symphony. As a composer, his work has been performed by orchestras throughout the world; his first large scale orchestral work, *Everything Must Go*, received its world premiere with the New York Philharmonic, and its European premiere with the Antwerp Symphony. He is a recipient of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, an artist-in-residence at the Hermitage Artist Retreat, and was named a Gilmore Young Artist—an honor awarded every two years, highlighting the most promising American pianists of the new generation.

In the 2023-24 season, Tao makes his subscription debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra performing Gershwin’s *Concerto in F major* with James Gaffigan. He also re-unites with the New York Philharmonic to perform Mozart’s *Piano Concerto No. 17*, following his curated program for them last season as part of the Artist Spotlight series. Meanwhile, he celebrates the 100th anniversary of *Rhapsody in Blue* with multiple performances of the work and a new companion piece commissioned from him by the Santa Rosa Symphony. As part of the celebration of Rachmaninoff’s 150th birthday, Tao brings the *Rachmaninoff Songbook* to the 92NY and Germany’s *Klavierfestival Ruhr*, presenting a direct line from Rachmaninoff to the music of Billy Strayhorn, Harold Arlen, and Stephen Sondheim.

A Warner Classics recording artist, Tao’s debut disc, *Voyages*, was declared a “spiky debut” by The New Yorker’s Alex Ross.

His next album, *Pictures*, with works by David Lang, Toru Takemitsu, Elliott Carter, Mussorgsky, and Tao himself, was hailed by *The New York Times* as “a fascinating album [by] a thoughtful artist and dynamic performer...played with enormous imagination, color and command.” His third album, *American Rage*, featuring works by Julia Wolfe, Frederic Rzewski, and Aaron Copland, was released in the fall of 2019.

STEFAN JACKIW, violin

Stefan Jackiw is one of America’s foremost violinists, captivating audiences with playing that combines poetry and purity with impeccable technique. Hailed for playing of “uncommon musical substance” that is “striking for its intelligence and sensitivity” (*Boston Globe*), Jackiw has appeared as a soloist with the Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Philadelphia, and San Francisco symphony orchestras, among others.

Following his summer performance with the New York Philharmonic, Jackiw opened the 2023-24 season returning to the orchestra to perform the Barber Concerto with Jaap van Zweden. His season also included a quadruple World Premiere of new works at Roulette. He was recently invited to perform and curate a series of programs at the Edinburgh Festival (‘Stefan Jackiw and Friends’).

During the 2022-23 season, Jackiw returned to the Cleveland Orchestra to perform Britten’s Violin Concerto with Thomas Søndergård, and to the Vancouver Symphony to perform Brahms with Otto Tausk. He also appeared at the 92NY with cellist Alisa Weilerstein and pianist Daniil Trifonov.

Jackiw has performed in numerous major festivals and concert halls around the world, including the Aspen Music Festival, Ravinia Festival, Caramoor International Music Festival, Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, New York’s Mostly Mozart

Festival, the Philharmonie de Paris, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, the Celebrity Series of Boston, and the Washington Performing Arts Society.

JAY CAMPBELL, cello

Jay Campbell is a cellist actively exploring a wide range of creative music. He has been recognized for approaching both old and new music with the same curiosity and commitment, and his performances have been called “electrifying” by the New York Times and “gentle, poignant, and deeply moving” by the Washington Post.

The only musician ever to receive two Avery Fisher Career Grants — in 2016 as a soloist, and again in 2019 as a member of the JACK Quartet — Jay made his concerto debut with the New York Philharmonic in 2013. In 2016, he worked with Alan Gilbert as the artistic director for Ligeti Forward, part of the New York Philharmonic Biennale at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In 2017, he was Artist-in-Residence at the Lucerne Festival along with frequent collaborator violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja, where he gave the premiere of Luca Francesconi's cello concerto, *Das Ding Singt*. He has recorded the concertos of George Perle and Marc-Andre Dalbavie with the Seattle Symphony, and in 2023/2024 will premiere a new concerto, *Reverdecer*, by Andreia Pinto-Correia with the Gulbenkian Orchestra in Portugal, and in Brazil with the Orquestra Sinfonica do Estado de Sao Paulo.

Jay's primary artistic interest is the collaboration with living creative musicians. He has worked in this capacity with Catherine Lamb, John Luther Adams, Marcos Balter, Tyshawn Sorey, and many others. His close association with John Zorn resulted in two discs of new works for cello, *Hen to Pan* (2015) and *Azoth* (2020). Deeply committed as a chamber musician, he is the cellist of the JACK Quartet as well as the Junction Trio and the multidisciplinary collective AMOC.

Coming in 2024-25!

Valley Classical Concerts proudly presents

The Israeli Chamber Project

Sunday, October 20, 2024

The Ciompi String Quartet with

pianist Ieva Jokūbavičiūtė

Saturday, November 2, 2024

The Lysander Trio* with

violinist Itamar Zorman*

Saturday, December 14, 2024

The Lydian String Quartet* with

pianist Jiayan Sun

Sunday, February 9, 2025

The Espresso! Piano Quartet*

Sunday, March 9, 2025

The Ulysses String Quartet

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Look for our detailed season announcement soon!

Subject to change at press time.

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From the Valley Classical Concerts President

On behalf of the Board of Valley Classical Concerts, I would like to welcome our audience to the final concert of the 2023-2024 season. We are looking forward to an exciting program of six concerts starting in the Fall.

Since 1979, Valley Classical Concerts has presented chamber music performed exclusively by internationally acclaimed ensembles, for music lovers in the Pioneer Valley and Western Massachusetts. We hope you, our audience, is as excited as we are to hear these fabulous chamber ensembles, from young prize winners to musicians who have played together for decades.

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

So enjoy the music, encourage friends and family and younger adults and students to come to the concerts. Keep an eye out for newsletters and brochures which will appear early this summer.

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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MARCH 10, 2024 *Tea and Trumpets*

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& works of Quinn Mason & Piotr Tchaikovsky

MAY 5, 2024 *'Bone Appetit!*

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The Junction Trio

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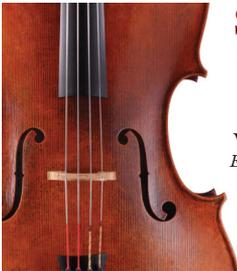
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