



presents

**Itamar Zorman, violin
and
Ieva Jokūbavičiūtė, piano**



**Sunday, February 24, 2024, at 7:30 PM
Sweeney Concert Hall / Sage Hall
Smith College, Northampton , MA**

About Today's Concert

John Montanari, Artistic Director

Between the beautiful A Major sonatas by Schubert and Franck on tonight's program, Itamar Zorman and Ieva Jokūbavičiūtė will play works by two composers with whom you may be unfamiliar, but who are very much worth getting to know. Let me give you a paragraph of introduction to each of them.

Still with us in her 94th year, Sofia Gubaidulina is one of the last surviving composers of the Soviet era of Russian music. In her early years, her music was viewed with disfavor by Soviet authorities for its modernist leanings and western orientation but earned the encouragement of the great Dmitri Shostakovich. Her works frequently investigate unusual instrumental colors, either with non-traditional deployment of traditional instruments, as you'll hear in "Dancer on a Tightrope," or with the use of folk instruments such as the bayan (Russian accordion) or koto (Japanese zither). For a good example of her often intensely spiritual work – she is a devout exponent of the Orthodox faith – check out the YouTube of Gidon Kremer and Gennady Rozhdestvensky's rendition of her Violin Concerto No. 1, "Offertorium." It's way out there, but stick with it.

Then go over to a video from Warsaw featuring soloist Bartłomiej Nizioł in the Violin Concerto No. 4 by Grażyna Bacewicz, herself a virtuoso violinist, and whose eminence in 20th century Polish music has grown through increasingly frequent performances and recordings. A pupil of the legendary Nadia Boulanger (whose pupils range from Aaron Copland and Virgil Thomson to Philip Glass and Astor Piazzolla), Bacewicz composed a substantial body of major works in many forms, including superb symphonies, concertos and chamber works. Isn't it great how much interesting music is right there for us, ready for discovering?

Itamar Zorman and Ieva Jokūbavičiūtė, violin and piano

P R O G R A M

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Sonata for violin and piano in A major, D. 574
(Grand Duo)

- I Allegro moderato
- II Scherzo. Presto
- III Andantino
- IV Allegro vivace

Sofia Gubaidulina (b 1931)

Dancer on a tightrope

INTERMISSION

Grażyna Bacewicz (1909-1969)

Slavonic Dance
Witraż (Stained-Glass Window)
Oberek No. 1

César Franck (1822-1890)

Sonata in A Major for violin and piano

- I Allegretto ben moderato
- II Allegro
- III Recitativo - Fantasia: Ben moderato -
Molto lento
- IV Allegretto poco mosso

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Artist Information

Itamar Zorman

Itamar Zorman is one of the most soulful, evocative artists of his generation, distinguished by his emotionally gripping performances and gift for musical storytelling. Since his emergence with the top prize at the 2011 International Tchaikovsky Competition, he has wowed audiences all over the world with breathtaking style, causing one critic to declare him a “young badass who’s not afraid of anything.” His “youthful intensity” and “achingly beautiful” sound shine through in every performance, earning him the title of “virtuoso of emotions.”

Awarded the Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award for 2014, violinist Itamar Zorman is the winner of the 2013 Avery Fisher Career Grant, and the 2011 International Tchaikovsky Competition in Russia.

Mr. Zorman has performed as a soloist with such orchestras as the Mariinsky Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic, New World Symphony, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, KBS Symphony Seoul, Frankfurt Radio Symphony, German Radio Philharmonic, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Kremerata Baltica, RTE National Symphony Orchestra (Dublin), and American Symphony. He has worked with conductors such as Zubin Mehta, Michael Tilson-Thomas, David Robertson, Valery Gergiev, James DePreist, Karina Canellakis, Yuri Bashmet, and Nathalie Stutzmann.

Mr. Zorman was invited to the Verbier, Marlboro, Rheingau, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Brevard, Classical Tahoe, MITO SettembreMusica, and Radio France Festivals. He has also collaborated with such legendary artists as Richard Goode (including performances at Carnegie Hall and the Library of Congress), Mitsuko Uchida, Steven Isserlis, and Jörg Widmann.

Described as a “poet of the violin”, Itamar Zorman is also a committed chamber player. He is a founding member of the Israeli Chamber Project and a member of the Lysander Piano Trio. The trio won the 2012 Concert Artists Guild Competition, the Grand Prize in the 2011 Coleman Chamber Music Competition, 1st prize in the 2011 Arriaga Competition, and a bronze medal in the 2010 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition.

Mr. Zorman’s CDs include “Violin Odyssey,” a collection of works for violin from five continents, which was released in 2022 receiving critical acclaim, “Evocation,” featuring works for violin and orchestra, and his first solo CD recording, entitled “Portrait,” which features works by Messiaen, Schubert, Chausson, Hindemith, and Brahms.

Mr. Zorman is currently on faculty at the Eastman School of Music. He plays on a 1734 Guarneri del Gesù, from the collection of Yehuda Zisapel.

Ieva Jokūbavičiūtė

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.

In February 2017, Ieva was the soloist with the Orquesta Filarmónica de Montevideo in Uruguay. Her piano trio, Trio Cavatina, won the 2009 Naumburg International Chamber Music Competition. Ieva's latest recording, "Returning Paths: solo piano works by Janacek and Suk," was also 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.

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, Åland 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.

Ieva has earned 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.

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Monica Jakuc Leverett, fortepiano, Emlyn Ngai, violin, Alice Robbins, cello

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For tickets and further information:

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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 Spring 2024 series of four amazing classical chamber music concerts.

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

I would like to thank and to gratefully acknowledge 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 and encourage friends, 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.

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Dr. William Harbison, Board President

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Itamar Zorman & Ieva Jokūbavičiūtė

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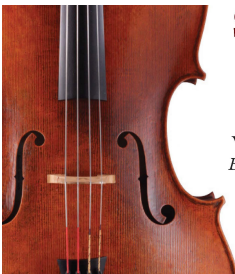


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