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Duo Recital: Donald Oehler, clarinet, and Benjamin Rawitz, piano

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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Duo Recital

Donald L. Oehler, clarinet
Benjamin Rawitz, piano

SEPTEMBER 21, 2005, 7:30 PM
CAMP CONCERT HALL, BOOKER HALL OF MUSIC

PROGRAM

3
Duo, Op. 15 für Klarinett und Klavier Norbert Burgmüller
(1810-1836)

1
Introduzione & Allegro Appassionato, Op. 256 Carl Reinecek
für Klarinette und Pianoforte (1824-1910)

2
Sonate, Op. 49 As-dur für Klarinette und Pianoforte Max Reger
Allegro affanato (1873-1916)
Vivace (*ma non troppo*)
Larghetto (*ma non troppo un poco con moto*)
Prestissimo assai

INTERMISSION

3
~~Capriccio for solo clarinet in A~~ Heinrich Sutermeister
(1910-1995)

4
Sonate für Klarinette und Klavier Harald Genzmer
Allegro (b. 1906)
Tranquillo
Vivace leggiero
Presto

“Oehler’s performance was outstanding. The technical work in fast passages was flawless. The subtle use of dynamics in phrase structure indicated not only a fine understanding of the instrument, but a real love and respect for the score.” Dr. Jim Smith Longview Symphony opens with near-perfect performance.” (*Longview News-Record*, Texas)

Donald Oehler, clarinetist and Professor of Music at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has drawn high praise as a soloist, chamber musician, conductor, and educator. His performing and teaching activities have taken him throughout the United States, Central America, Canada, Great Britain, Eastern and Western Europe, and the Middle East.

He began his career as principal clarinet of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Teheran before moving to North Carolina to join the University of North Carolina music faculty. Mr. Oehler was a charter member of the St. Stephen’s Chamber Orchestra and performs with the Mallarme Chamber Players, The Carolina Wind Quintet, the Trio Sonsa, and the chamber ensemble “27514” and has been a featured artist in the Encounter Series - Music of Our Times at Duke University.

Additionally, Mr. Oehler has appeared with the North Carolina Symphony, the Handel and Haydn Society (Boston), Banchetto Musicale (Boston), the 18th Century player (New York), and Ensemble Courant. From 1976 to 1990, Mr. Oehler was principal clarinet of the Saskatchewan Summer School of the Arts Faculty Wind Ensemble in Canada.

“Throughout the years our few contacts and mutual students have reinforced my admiration for your work, your investigation of new music and the knowledge and inspiration you give to your students.” (Leon Russianoff, Clarinet Faculty, The Juilliard School)

For over thirty years Mr. Oehler has placed a priority on his role as educator. In addition to his many performance activities, he has de-

veloped a widely-respected studio during his tenure at the University of North Carolina. He has been a conductor of professional ensembles, high school bands and youth orchestras, and presently serves the community as conductor of the Chapel Hill Philharmonia. The demand for his conducting, chamber coaching, teaching skills in the studio and in clinic continues to grow. Mr. Oehler has presented master classes in England, Wales, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Iran, Israel, Haiti, Canada, and across the United States.

Eager to explore all facets of clarinet performance, Mr. Oehler was one of the first American clarinetists to become active on classical instruments, including performance on the basset clarinet. He has, likewise, sustained activity in the performance of new literature for the clarinet having given world premiers of Peter Lieuwen's Trio for Clarinet, Cello, and Piano and T.J. Anderson's work "Huh, What Did You Say?" for Clarinet and String Quartet. He also gave the US premier of Peter Maxwell Davies' Sonata for clarinet and Piano.

"We might have been in another century as our senses were lulled by the dream-like purity of Mozart's Clarinet Quintet performed by Donald L. Oehler and the Haydn String Quartet." (Gordon Lewin ClarFest at Ghent, Collected Impressions. Clarinet & Saxophone Society of Great Britain)

It is in chamber music, both as performer, teacher, and director that Mr. Oehler focuses a great part of his energies. He is founder/director of the University Chamber Players, past director of the University New Music Ensemble and founder/member of the Qu'Appelle Winds, a Canadian-American wind octet. Mr. Oehler founded and directs Chapel Hill Chamber Music and is co-director and host of Clarinet Chamberfest.

He is on faculty of the Cours International de Musique in Morges, Switzerland, and serves as director for the University of North Carolina Study Abroad program in music. He served as director of winds for MusicFest International in Aberystwyth, Wales and also as faculty member of the Utah State University Summer Music Festival.

Other chamber performances have included the Bartok Festival in Szombathely, Hungary, and the International Clarinet Festival in Ghent, Belgium. He has recorded for the BRT I and BRT III in Brussels, the CBC in Canada and Centaur Records. Mr. Oehler has appeared as soloist with the Haydn Quartet, Chester Quartet, Ciampi Quartet and the North Carolina String Quartet.

Mr. Oehler is a graduate of the Juilliard School. He has studied with Orville Matthias, Bernard Portnoy, Joseph Allard, Robert Listokin, and Jack Brymer.

Pianist **Benjamin Rawitz-Castel** made his debut at the age of 15 as a soloist in Beethoven's First Piano Concerto with the Haifa symphony Orchestra conducted by Sergiu Comissiona. Since then, he has played and recorded in Europe, Israel, the United States, Mexico, Colombia,

Venezuela, South Africa, Namibia, India, Japan and South Korea. He is a graduate of the Tel-Aviv University, the Royal Flemish Conservatorium in Brussels and the Conservatoire in Geneva. His teachers were Ilona Vincze, Eduardo del Pueyo, Peter Feuchtwanger, Louis Hiltbrand and Benjamin Kaplin.

Apart from studying the cello and the saxophone in his youth, his passion for voice was highly nourished during five very inspiring years as a coach at the Theatre Royal de la Monnaie. Rawitz has gained distinction in various styles, receiving the Mozart Prize awarded by Géza Anda in Zurich, the Albeniz Prize at the Maria Canals Competition in Barcelona as well as international prizes for his interpretations of Beethoven, Hindemith and Shostakovich in Geneva and Bratislava.

His Schubert record with violinist Janos Maté has received much critical acclaim and was followed by an invitation to accompany Nathan Milstein's master classes in Zurich. A member of Honour of the 20th Century Piano Competition in Orléans, he has won recognition by performing lesser-known repertoire such as Paul Dukas' Piano Sonata, and works by Bizet, Bridge, Chaminade, Dohnanyi, Gubaidulina, Jolivet, Samazeulih, and Szymanowsky. Benjamin Rawitz-Castel is on the faculty of the Royal Flemish Conservatorium in Brussels and a visiting faculty member at the Chetham School in Manchester and the Cours International de Musique in Morges, Switzerland. He was one of the first coaches at the yearly Chamber Music Performing Workshop for Adults at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Rawitz-Castel has performed for the Festivals of Flanders, Ljubljana, Assisi, Bergen, Polvdiv, MusicFest in Aberystwyth and the Schubertiade Concerta at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.