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Christoph Wagner, cello [and] Joanne Kong, piano

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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University of Richmond
Department of Music

Fall 2022-Spring 2023
Concert Series

Christoph Wagner, cello
Joanne Kong, piano

Monday, March 13, 2023

7:30 p.m.

Perkinson Recital Hall



music.richmond.edu

PROGRAM

- Sonata for Cello and Piano (1915) Claude Debussy
(1862 – 1918)
Prologue: Lent, sostenuto e molto risoluto
Sérénade: Modérément animé
Finale: Animé, léger et nerveux
- Variations on a Theme of Rossini, H. 290 Bohuslav Martinů
(1890 – 1959)
- Variazioni di bravura (on a single string) Nicolò Paganini
(1782 – 1840)
on themes from *Mosé*
by Gioachino Rossini Transcribed by Luigi Silva

INTERMISSION

- Sonata in D Major, op. 58 Felix Mendelssohn
(1809 – 1847)
Allegro assai vivace
Allegretto scherzando
Adagio
Molto allegro e vivace

The Performers

Christoph Wagner is a prize-winning cellist and sought-after chamber musician and pedagogue. He received first prizes at the German youth competition Jugend Musiziert, won the competition Ribalta Mozart Italia in Italy as well as the Peter Pirazzi competition in Germany in 2013, and was prize winner of the National Society

of Arts and Letters competition in Bloomington, Indiana in 2016 and 2017. He is a scholarship holder from the Richard Wagner Verband Frankfurt, the Karlsruhe LIONS Club, and the Theodor Rogler Foundation for Young Musicians. As a member of the Junge Deutsche Philharmonie, he performed in major concert halls in Europe, such as the Berlin Philharmonie and Concertgebouw Amsterdam, under renowned conductors like Jonathan Nott, Lothar Zagrosek, and Stefan Asbury. He played in the Gürzenich Orchestra/Opera Cologne in the 2013-2014 season and has performed in festivals in Switzerland, Croatia, France, Italy, South Africa, South America, China, South Korea, and the United States.

Wagner has been a passionate music ambassador as fellowship holder from the Live Music Now - Yehudi Menuhin Foundation in Germany and as a musician of Classical Connections in Bloomington, Indiana, where he played numerous concerts in underserved areas. In 2018 he received the Sviatoslav Richter Grant from Rice University for outreach concerts in public schools and participated in a summer residency with the Los Angeles Street Symphony. He was a Young Artist Fellow of DA CAMERA Houston from 2018 to 2020, and received the Amici di Via Gabina Fellowship from Rice University for research and performances in Italy in 2019. Wagner received a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Music in Frankfurt, a Master of Music at Indiana University, and his DMA dissertation at Rice University is titled “Injuries in Professional Orchestral Musicians—An Overview of Current Data and Trends.” He currently teaches at Lone Star College in Houston, Texas.

Pianist and harpsichordist **Joanne Kong** captures the attention of audiences in compelling performances that celebrate the vibrancy and eloquence of musical expression. Her performances have been praised for “great finesse and flexibility” (*The Washington Post*), “superb” playing (*The Boston Globe*) and “superb artistry” (*San Antonio Express-News*) for works “sensitively played” (*The New*

Continued ...

York Times). Her versatility includes the distinction of being the first artist to release a harpsichord-piano recording of the *Goldberg* and *Diabelli Variations*, on the BRIOSO label. In 2007, she gave the World Premiere of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Michael Colgrass's *Side by Side*, the first concerto to be written that features a soloist in a dual role as both pianist and harpsichordist.

Kong has performed to critical acclaim in numerous appearances including the Los Angeles and Oregon Bach Festivals, Memphis Chamber Music Society, San Antonio Festival, Los Angeles Monday Evening Concert Series, Virginia Waterfront International Festival of the Arts, the Royal Netherlands Embassy, National Gallery of Art Concert Series in Washington, DC, Strathmore Hall's "Music in the Mansion" series, Columbia University, Harvard University, the Conservatorio Dall'Abaco in Verona, Italy, the Melk Abbey Summer Concert Series and Baden's Haus der Kunst in Austria, and the International Festival of Orchestras and Youth in Cartagena, Colombia. She concertized throughout India in a ten-city tour in 2018, and performed in Brazil in 2015 under the auspices of the Partners of the Americas. A gifted collaborator, she has performed with numerous artists, including the Shanghai String Quartet, Eugenia Zukerman, cellist James Wilson, violinist Karen Johnson, and four-time Grammy Award-winning ensemble Eighth Blackbird. Dr. Kong is in frequent demand as a keyboard, vocal, and chamber coach, and has been guest teacher at New York University, New England Conservatory of Music, and Yale University, among others. She currently directs the accompanying and chamber music programs at the University of Richmond. Website: joannekongmusic.com



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