

Chamber Music Corvallis presents:
Haerim Elizabeth Lee & David Fung

April 12th, 2024

First Presbyterian Church



Haerim Elizabeth Lee • *violin*

David Fung • *piano*

Chamber Music Corvallis receives support from the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency supported by the State of Oregon.



Program — "Gershwin: My Time is Today"

Sonata for Violin and Piano in G minor

Claude Debussy (1862 –1918)

- I. Allegro vivo
- II. Intermède: Fantasque et léger
- III. Finale: Très animé

Violin Sonata No. 2

Maurice Ravel (1875 – 1937)

- I. Allegretto
- II. *Blues*. Moderato
- III. *Perpetuum mobile*. Allegro

Intermission

Three Preludes for Violin and Piano

George Gershwin (1898 – 1937)

- I. Allegro ben ritmato e deciso
- II. Andante con moto
- III. Agitato

Arr. Jascha Heifetz (1901 – 1987)

Selections from *Porgy & Bess*

George Gershwin

Summertime

Arr. Jascha Heifetz

A woman is a sometime thing

My man's gone now

Bess, you is my woman now

It ain't necessarily so

Program Notes

French composer **Claude Debussy** is one of the most important modernist composers from the turn of the 20th century for his exploration of harmony, timbre, and orchestral color. Sonata for Violin and Piano in G minor was composed in 1917, the final year of his life. Debussy had planned for a cycle of six sonatas that went unfinished at his death, so he only completed the Sonata for Cello and Piano, Sonata for Flute, Viola, and Harp, and this Sonata for Violin and Piano. Despite suffering debilitating pain, Debussy performed the premiere of this work with violinist Gaston Poulet, which ended up being his last public performance. Debussy's highly original musical aesthetic was greatly influential on contemporary and future composers, including Maurice Ravel.

Maurice Ravel, like his contemporary Debussy, also sought new expressive possibilities of timbre and styles. He was fascinated by the exotic sounds of jazz and blues. He was so convinced that jazz would become the national music of the United States that he published an article titled "Take Jazz Seriously!" (*Musical Digest*, 1928), arguing against negative perceptions of jazz being "cheap, vulgar, and momentary." The second movement of the Violin Sonata No. 2, titled "Blues," certainly exemplifies Ravel's love for the genre. He premiered his sonata during one of his most successful trips across to North America in 1928 where he finally got to hear jazz and the blues first hand.

George Gershwin, owes his own compositional style to the legacy of French composers like Debussy and Ravel on the one hand, and his early career as a song plugger in New York City's Tin Pan Alley, on the other. Gershwin's *Preludes* began as a series of short piano pieces to complement a recital in which he accompanied the contralto Marguerite d'Alvarez performing a group of American popular songs in December 1926. Published as a set of three preludes for solo piano the following year, these short works reveal an undeniable reliance on popular American jazz and bear resemblance to his *Rhapsody in Blue* and *American in Paris*, both composed around the same time. Gershwin's folk opera *Porgy and Bess* continues to be one of his most popular works for its incorporation of the blues and its storytelling of the American

South. The versions of both the *Preludes* and selections from *Porgy and Bess* were arranged for violin and piano by Russian-Born American violinist Jascha Heifetz, one of the most famed and virtuosic violinists of his time.

—Kimary Fick, Ph.D.

Upcoming Concerts

Spanish Brass - Tuesday, September 25, 2024
First Presbyterian Church

Tickets can be purchased online at www.chambermusiccorvallis.org

Join us for our 65th Season (2024–2025) at the Patricia Valian Reser Center for the Creative Arts (PRAX) on OSU's campus!

Tickets will be available at www.prax.oregonstate.edu

Akropolis, co-presentation with PRAX
“Are We Dreaming the Same Dream”
Friday, November 8, 2024

Lincoln Trio
Sunday, December 8, 2024

Les Dèlices,
“Bohemian Rhapsody”
Sunday, February 2, 2025

Tesla String Quartet
Sunday, March 23, 2025

Brooklyn Rider, co-presentation with PRAX
“Upon One Note”
Saturday, April 19, 2025