

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music



FACULTY RECITAL

CAMILLA WICKS, violin

MICHELE COOKER, piano

Friday, September 25, 1987
8:00 p.m. in the
Shepherd School Recital Hall

BIOGRAPHY

CAMILLA WICKS, Visiting Professor of Violin at The Shepherd School of Music, and Professor of Violin at The University of Michigan School of Music since 1984, was a child prodigy who began the study of violin at the age of three and, after a year, gave a public performance of a Vivaldi Concerto from memory. When she was seven, she made her orchestral debut, playing the Mozart D Major Concerto; at eight, she performed the Bruch Concerto with orchestra. Two years later, she was awarded a special non-degree fellowship at The Juilliard School, where she studied violin with Louis Persinger and took classes in music theory for four years. She continued her studies with Persinger for a total of eleven years and her studies of theory with composer Gerald Strang for 3 years.

Camilla Wicks made her New York Town Hall recital debut when she was thirteen years old, and before her eighteenth birthday she had appeared as soloist with such major ensembles as the Chicago Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. She then began regular yearly concert tours of Europe and the United States. Typical critical responses were "A violin phenomenon ... among the great violinists" (Amsterdam), "... an artist of the highest importance" (Paris, "... a violin genius" (Stockholm), "This wonderful soul of music raises everything to nobility" (The Hague), and "... without doubt one of our times' greatest virtuosi" (Helsinki).

Sibelius called her performance of his Concerto "masterly" and invited her to his home; she studied all of Ernest Bloch's compositions for violin with the composer who characterized her as "a great artist and a marvelous human being"; she played a Command Performance for the Norwegian Royal Family. She recorded for His Master's Voice (London, Sweden, and Norway), Capitol, and Toshiba EMI.

In 1958, with a growing young family, Camilla Wicks decided to limit her solo performances and to commence teaching. Her success as a teacher has been as emphatic as her success as a concert artist. Having taught at

North Texas State University, the Royal Academy of Music in Oslo, Norway, the San Francisco Conservatory, the University of Southern California, The Banff School of Fine Arts, and the University of Washington, she has become a violin pedagogue of national distinction.

Although limited in number, Professor Wicks' solo performances have continued to gather artistic acclaim from audiences in the United States, Canada, and Norway, with critical reviews describing her as among the greatest violinists of her generation.