

GUEST ARTIST RECITAL

PAUL CORTESE, Viola

BRIAN CONNELLY, Piano

Saturday, December 12, 1998

11:00 a.m.

Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

First Sonata for Viola and Piano (1944)
*(on unpublished and anonymous themes
from the 18th century)*

Darius Milhaud
(1892-1974)

Entrée
Française
Air
Final

Sonata in F minor for Viola and Piano,
Op. 120 No. 1 (1894)

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Allegro appassionato
Andante un poco Adagio
Allegretto grazioso
Vivace

BIOGRAPHY

Violist PAUL CORTESE, an active protagonist of his instrument, has performed and recorded various works for solo viola. Mr. Cortese graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied with famed violist Joseph de Pasquale. Previously, under the tutelage of Stanley Nosal, Guillermo Perich, and Burton Fine, he pursued his studies at the University of Illinois and the New England Conservatory in Boston.

While still a student, Mr. Cortese performed with the Boston Symphony and the Philadelphia Orchestra and was appointed principal viola of the Teatro alla Scala Orchestra in Milan. Instead of beginning the 1986 season in Milan, he decided to accept the principal viola chair in the Gothenburg Symphony of Sweden under music director Neeme Jarvi. Although he has been principal violist in several orchestras in various countries, Cortese has given up orchestral responsibilities to dedicate more time to the cause of the viola. He made his debut with orchestra in New York's Alice Tully Hall in 1991.

Mr. Cortese has performed extensively as a soloist and chamber musician in the United States, Canada, and throughout the European Community. Having collaborated with the Arden, Bowdoin, and Kandinsky trios, and numerous string quartets, he has participated in international music festivals such as Tanglewood, Grand Teton, Evian, Banff, Musicades de Lyon, and many others.

Born in the United States to Italian parents, Mr. Cortese currently lives in Barcelona (Spain) where he is professor of viola and chamber music at the conservatories of Badalona, Cervera, and the School of Music Juan Padre Carrero in Barcelona.

As a soloist, Mr. Cortese has recorded the complete works for viola by Paul Hindemith (in honor of his centenary) and Max Reger and works for solo viola by George Rochberg, Vincent Persichetti, Alan Hovhaness, William Bergsma, and numerous chamber works for the labels ASV, Crystal, Pash Boy, Audio Visuals de Sarrià, and Chandos. In 1995 Mr. Cortese recorded the complete works for viola and orchestra of Paul Hindemith with the Philharmonia Orchestra, Martyn Brabbins conducting, for the ASV label.

Mr. Cortese plays a viola made by David Bagué i Soler, 1995.