

*FACULTY AND
GUEST ARTIST RECITAL*

JOAN DERHOVSEPIAN, viola

*RODNEY WATERS, piano
and harpsichord (guest)*

with

RITA PORFIRIS, viola (guest)

CHRISTOPHER FRENCH, cello

KEVIN DVORAK, cello (guest)

STEVEN LAVEN, cello (guest)

ERIK GRONFOR, double bass

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

8:00 p.m.

Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

Lachrymae, Op. 48a *Benjamin Britten*
(Reflections on a song of Dowland) (1913-1976)

Sonata for Viola and Piano *Johannes Brahms*
in F Minor, Op. 120 No. 1 (1833-1897)

Allegro appassionato – Sostenuto ed espressivo

Andante un poco Adagio

Allegretto grazioso

Vivace

INTERMISSION

Chahagir, for viola solo, Op. 56a *Alan Hovhaness*
(1911-2000)

Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 *Johann Sebastian Bach*
in B-flat Major, BWV 1051 (1685-1750)

Allegro

Adagio ma non tanto

Allegro

In consideration of the performers and members of the audience, please check audible paging devices with the ushers and silence audible timepieces. The taking of photographs and use of recording equipment are prohibited.

BIOGRAPHIES

Violist JOAN DERHOVSEPIAN became a member of the Houston Symphony in 1999 after serving two seasons as Principal Violist of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. She has been an instructor in Viola Orchestral Repertoire at the Shepherd School of Music since the fall of 2001. As a member of the Everest String Quartet, Ms. DerHovsepian concertized throughout the U.S. and Canada and won top prizes in the Banff and Fischhoff competitions, as well as holding the string quartet residency with the Midland-Odessa Symphony. She played in the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra from 1992-94.

Ms. DerHovsepian performs in the Grand Teton Music Festival and the Peninsula Music Festival each summer and has participated in the Aspen and Tanglewood Music Festivals. She has been a soloist with the Peninsula Music Festival, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, the National Repertory Orchestra, and the Concord Chamber Orchestra of Milwaukee. Ms. DerHovsepian was a top prizewinner of the 1995 William Primrose Memorial Scholarship Competition.

Her teachers include James Dunham and Kim Kashkashian.

Pianist RODNEY WATERS, a native of Lubbock, Texas, earned his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the Mannes College of Music in New York, where he studied chamber music with Felix Galimir and piano with Leon Pommers and Richard Goode. He has performed as soloist and chamber musician in such venues as Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall (New York), Orchestra Hall (Detroit) and Asahi Recital Hall (Tokyo). Summer appearances include the Round Top Festival in Texas, Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, California, and the Toga and Takefu festivals in Japan. 2000 marked his seventh trip to Japan, where he has performed in critically acclaimed performances with soprano Lucy Shelton, baritone Yaron Windmueller, violinist Asako Urushihara, flutist Lisa Nickl, and violist Mai Motobuchi. In 2003 Naxos released his recording with Curt Thompson of the complete Sonatas for Violin and Piano by Charles Ives on their American Classics series.

In Houston he performs regularly with the ensemble CONTEXT, directed by Sergiu Luca, and the Houston Symphony. From 1992-2001 he served as a staff pianist at the Shepherd School of Music.

Also an award-winning photographer, Waters has exhibited work in several galleries in the Houston area. His work with refugees resettled in Houston by Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston has resulted in a several projects that utilize his musical and photographic talents. In collaboration with Interfaith Ministries he created the CD **Seeking Refuge** which combines music, poetry, and photography to raise money and awareness for refugees in the United States. His first solo exhibition, a series of refugee portraits, will be exhibited during Fotofest in March 2004, an international photography event held biannually in Houston.

Violist RITA PORFIRIS joined the Houston Symphony in 1995. Born in New York, she received both her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in Viola Performance from The Juilliard School. She has been Guest Principal Violist with the Indianapolis Symphony, Principal Violist with the New World Symphony and the Schleswig-Holstein Orchester, and in the section of the Radio-Sinfonie Orchester Berlin and the Baroque Orchester Berlin. An active chamber musician, Ms. Porfiris was a longtime member of the Plymouth Quartet, touring the United States, Europe, and South America to critical acclaim.

She is a recipient of Austria's prestigious Prix Mercure and one of the top prize winners in the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition, William Primrose Memorial Competition, and laureate of the Paolo Borciani International Quartet Competition.

Numerous recital and solo appearances include engagements at Lincoln Center, Merkin Hall, the Salzburg Mozarteum, the Eroicaaal in Vienna's Lobkovitz Palace, and Miami's Lincoln Theater, and the Moores' Opera House. She is a frequent performer with the Greenbriar Consortium, the Foundation for Modern Music, and the Milwaukee Chamber Music Festival, as well as on the faculty music series at the University of Houston. She is currently on the faculty of the University of Houston Moores' School of Music, the Texas Music Festival, and the Intensive String Quartet Seminar at New York University, and has also been on the faculties of Florida International University and the Harlem School for the Arts in New York. She has given master classes in conservatories and universities throughout the United States, Brazil, Argentina, and Japan. Her various chamber music recordings can be found on Opus One and Modern Masters labels.

Cellist CHRISTOPHER FRENCH grew up surrounded by music and seven musical siblings. Graduating from North Park College in Chicago, he was a recipient of the Performance Award Certificate. Before joining the Houston Symphony in 1986, he was principal of the Shreveport Symphony and associate principal of the Honolulu Symphony. In addition to his duties as acting principal in the Houston Symphony, Christopher French teaches orchestral repertoire at the Shepherd School of Music. He has also enjoyed playing chamber music with the Houston Symphony Chamber Players, Da Camera of Houston, the Greenbriar Consortium, and giving concerts with the Bad Boys of Cello (alter ego of the Houston Symphony cello section). The irreverent Bad Boys have performed in venues as varied as the Star of Hope Mission and city high schools to area hospice care centers. He and his wife, Kari, live in the historic Houston Heights.

Winner of several youth competitions, Texas-born cellist KEVIN DVORAK has appeared as soloist with the Dallas, Fort Worth, and Midland-Odessa Symphony Orchestras. He has performed on the Houston

Symphony's Innova and Mostly Mozart Chamber Music Series, as well as the Da Camera Society. An ardent chamber music lover, he frequently has concerts in his home with other Houston Symphony musicians. He has been a member of the Houston Symphony since 1978.

STEVEN LAVEN is a member of the Houston Ballet Orchestra and of the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra. Originally from South Bend, Indiana, he received his Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music and earned his Master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music. Upon graduation he returned to South Bend as principal cellist of the South Bend Symphony, later performing a concerto with them. Prior to coming to Houston, Mr. Laven served as principal cellist of the Omaha Symphony for nine years. He was the featured soloist with that orchestra for six consecutive seasons. During the past thirteen summers, he has performed at the Grand Teton Music Festival. There he enjoys playing in the internationally acclaimed orchestra and with his string quartet, The Wind River 4. Locally he has also performed with the Houston Symphony, the Greenbriar Consort, and on frequent chamber music programs. A highlight of his 2002-03 season was performing two Vivaldi Cello Concertos with the Moscow State Symphony at the Bolshoi Theatre while touring with Houston Ballet. Mr. Laven also composes chamber music for various instrumental combinations. He and his wife Cynthia Meyers, principal piccolo of the Houston Symphony, enjoy traveling and biking with their two sons Andrew and Christopher.

Bassist ERIK GRONFOR is a 1992 graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, and a 2003 graduate of the Shepherd School of Music, where he received his master's degree. His principal teachers have been Roger Scott and Paul Ellison. From 1994 to 1999 Mr. Gronfor served as Principal Bass of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and taught at the College of Charleston. Before moving to Charleston, he played in the Albany Symphony Orchestra as Principal Bass and was a member of the St. Cecilia Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Gronfor has been a member of the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra since 2001. He and his wife, Joan DerHovsepien, spend part of their summers playing at the Grand Teton Music Festival. He has also participated in Spoleto USA's Dock Street Chamber Music series, and the Tanglewood Music Festival.