

FACULTY RECITAL

THE FISCHER DUO

NORMAN FISCHER, Cello

JEANNE KIERMAN, Piano

Thursday, October 2, 2008

8:00 p.m.

Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

Dual Velocity (1998) * †

Pierre Jalbert
(b. 1967)

Sonata in G Minor (1925)

Franco Alfano
(1875-1954)

Assai lento

Allegretto con grazio (come un' Aria de danza)

Presto, appassionato

Trois Pièces (1915) *

Nadia Boulanger
(1887-1979)

Moderato

Sans vitesse et à l'aise

Vite et nerveusement rythmé

INTERMISSION

Die Zelle in Nonnenwerth (1880) *

Franz Liszt
(1811-1886)

Sonata in A Major, Op. 69 (1807-08)

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Allegro ma non tanto

Scherzo: Allegro molto

Adagio cantabile; Allegro vivace

* Recorded by The Fischer Duo.

† Commissioned by The Fischer Duo.

The reverberative acoustics of Duncan Recital Hall magnify the slightest sound made by the audience. Your care and courtesy will be appreciated. The taking of photographs and use of recording equipment are prohibited.

BIOGRAPHIES

With over thirty-five years of performing together, THE FISCHER DUO has been widely praised by music critics for their choice of repertoire. Thoroughly versed in the classical repertoire of Brahms, Beethoven, and Schumann, the Fischer Duo has acquired an equally impressive reputation for rediscovering neglected works of the past (Busoni, Boulanger, Foote, and Liszt). They have commissioned many new scores by gifted contemporary composers such as Karim Al-Zand, Anthony Brandt, Shih-Hui Chen, Pierre Jalbert, Richard Lavenda, George Rochberg, Robert Sirota, Kurt Stallmann, David Stock, Augusta Read Thomas, and Richard Wilson. "One felt like applauding the Fischer Duo before they even played a note for programming rarely-heard cello music by Chopin and Liszt," wrote a reviewer in the Washington Post. In October 2005, the Fischer Duo launched a new chamber music festival in Vermont with violinist Curtis Macomber.

The Fischer Duo is also known for enlightened residency work. In 1996, the United States Information Agency (USIA) selected the Fischer Duo as Artistic Ambassadors, and they toured South America and South Africa, receiving the highest ratings for musical maturity and open access to audiences.

The critic from the Toledo Blade summed up a concert experience with the Fischer Duo: "If there was a prize for Most Elegant Sound by a Chamber Group, the Fischer Duo would surely win it. The two together have a sort of slow-burning combustion on stage that makes for some really exciting and spontaneous music. This is a pair that really knows their repertoire, and more importantly, knows how to absorb an audience into their own musical universe."

The Fischer Duo has frequently performed on public television and National Public Radio. Their compact disc debut, **Imaginées: Music of French Masters**, was given Fanfare magazine's highest recommendation: "For fine sound, on top of probing duo teamwork and elegant program-making." They have three other compact discs available on the Gasparo label. **American Music in the 1990s** [GSCD-349] includes commissioned works for the duo by George Rochberg, Pierre Jalbert, Samuel Jones, and Augusta Read Thomas. The Strad magazine said, "The duo gives thoroughly persuasive performances of all four works, scratching through the surface gesture to get to the heart of the music's expressive potential." Also available on Gasparo is **Robert Sirota: Works for Cello** [GSCD-350] and **Born in America in 1938** [GSCD-351] featuring works by William Bolcom, John Corigliano, Ellsworth Milburn, John Harbison, Joan Tower, and Charles Wuorinen. 2006 brought the release on Bridge Records [Bridge 9187] of the Duo's recording of the complete music for cello and piano by **Frédéric Chopin and Franz Liszt**. Strings Magazine states, "Technically effortless and secure; the playing is simple, direct, intense, and expressive. A most impressive record, both for the music and the playing." 2007 has seen the release of the complete cello music of **William Bolcom** on Naxos Records.

NORMAN FISCHER first graced the international concert stage as cellist with the Concord String Quartet, a group that won the Naumburg Chamber Music Award, an Emmy and several Grammy nominations, and recorded over forty works on RCA Red Seal, Vox, Nonesuch, Turnabout, and CRI. The New

York Times recently said, "During its sixteen years, the supervirtuosic Concord String Quartet championed contemporary work while staying rooted in the Western tradition." In addition to performing the major concertos, Mr. Fischer has premiered and recorded many new scores for cello and orchestra. Recitals of unaccompanied cello works have received rave reviews such as "Inspiring" (New York Times) for his New York debut recital of the complete Bach Suites in one evening, and "Coruscating" (Boston Globe) for his performance of Osvaldo Golijov's *Omaramor* at the opening of the 1998 Tanglewood festival. His chamber music expertise has led to guest appearances with the American, Audubon, Blair, Cavani, Chester, Chiara, Ciompi, Cleveland, Emerson, Ensò, Juilliard, Mendelssohn, and Schoenberg string quartets, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Chamber Music International, Chamber Music Ann Arbor, CONTEXT, and Da Camera of Houston.

A devoted teacher and mentor to younger players, Mr. Fischer has taught at Dartmouth College, the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and currently is Professor of Violoncello at the Shepherd School of Music. Since 1985, he has taught at the Tanglewood Music Center, where he is the Coordinator of Strings and Chamber Music.

JEANNE KIERMAN is a leading advocate of the piano as a collaborative instrument. A graduate of Oberlin College, the Dalcroze School, and the New England Conservatory, she studied with master pianists Miles Mauney, Victor Rosenbaum, William Masselos, and Menahem Pressler. Ms. Kierman is equally adroit as a collaborator with voice or instrument and is in great demand as a recital partner. She has performed for Da Camera of Houston, Chamber Music Ann Arbor, Mohawk Trail Concerts, Skaneateles, and the Marrowstone Festival among others. Since 1992 she has shared her chamber music expertise with students at the Greenwood Music Camp. Formerly on the faculties of Dartmouth College and the Oberlin Conservatory, Ms. Kierman currently serves as Artist Teacher at the Shepherd School of Music.



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