

*FACULTY AND
GUEST ARTIST RECITAL*

BRINTON AVERIL SMITH, cello

EVELYN CHEN, piano (guest)

A Tribute to Emanuel Feuermann

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

8:00 p.m.

Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

Sonata in E Major

Grave

Allegro

Allegro. Tempo di Gavotta

Largo

Allegro

Giovanni Valentini

(c.1582-1649)

Sonata in A Minor, Op. 36

Allegro agitato

Andante molto tranquillo

Allegro

Edvard Grieg

(1843-1907)

INTERMISSION

Sonata for Violoncello Solo, Op. 25

Lebhaft, sehr markiert

Mäßig schnell, Gemächlich

Langsam

Lebhafte Viertel

Mäßig schnell

Paul Hindemith

(1895-1963)

Polonaise Brillante, Op. 3

Waltz, Op. 34 No. 2

Nocturne, Op. 9 No. 2

Frédéric Chopin/E. Feuermann

(1810-1849)/(1902-1942)

Zigeunerweisen

Pablo de Sarasate/E. Feuermann

(1844-1908)/(1902-1942)

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

Hailed by New York Newsday for "...extraordinary musicianship ... forceful, sophisticated and entirely in the spirit of the music," American cellist BRINTON AVERIL SMITH has performed as soloist, chamber musician, and in recital throughout the United States as well as in Europe, Asia, Africa, Canada, and New Zealand. Mr. Smith's engagements include performances at Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center, Carnegie Recital Hall, the Marlboro Music Festival, the Aspen Music Festival, the Banff Centre for the Arts, and appearances with orchestras in Detroit, Houston, San Diego, New Jersey, Las Vegas, San Jose, Tucson, Phoenix, Wellington, and Auckland.

Mr. Smith recorded the Miklós Rózsa **Cello Concerto** with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra for a Koch International Classics release that received widespread international critical acclaim. The annual Gramophone awards issue praised Smith as a "hugely eloquent, impassioned soloist," and continued, "The sheer bravura of Smith's reading is infectious." His recent recording of Fauré's **Piano Trio** and **Après un Rêve** with Gil Shaham for Vanguard Classics was chosen as Gramophone magazine's Disc of the Month and was recently selected as one of BBC Music magazine's best albums of the year. Mr. Smith will also be featured on an upcoming Naxos release of the chamber music of composer Steven Gerber with violinists Kurt Nikkanen and Cho-Liang Lin.

Mr. Smith has appeared regularly with the Houston Symphony since joining the orchestra as principal cellist in 2005. Previously he was a member of the New York Philharmonic, and was the first musician appointed by music director Lorin Maazel. He was also previously the principal cellist of the San Diego and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras. Mr. Smith is currently a member of the faculty at The Shepherd School of Music and has also served as a professor at Teachers College, Columbia University.

An active chamber musician, Smith has collaborated with members of the Beaux Arts Trio and the Guarneri, Emerson, Juilliard, Cleveland, and Berg Quartets, and in performances with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the New York Philharmonic Chamber Series, the Marlboro Music Festival, the Aspen Music Festival, the Killington Music Festival, El Paso Pro Musica, the Mainly Mozart Festival, the Bear Valley Music Festival, the Texas Music Festival, the Las Vegas Music Festival, the Ventura Music Festival, and, with violinist Gil Shaham, at the Aspen Music Festival winter recital series and the Linton series in Cincinnati. Mr. Smith was a prize winner of the Leonard Rose International Cello Competition and several consecutive Juilliard and Aspen Music Festival concerto competitions. While at Juilliard, he received the Melini Award for excellence in performance and

was invited to perform at the American Cello Congress. His performances have been broadcast on CBS Sunday Morning and on radio throughout the United States on NPR's Performance Today and in New Zealand, South Africa, and Germany.

The son of a mathematician and a pianist, Brinton Averil Smith began his musical studies at age five. At age ten he was admitted to Arizona State University, where he took courses in mathematics and German and, by age seventeen, completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics. While a scholarship student of Eleonore Schoenfeld at the University of Southern California, he was also a teaching assistant in the mathematics department, and completed work for an Master of Arts degree in mathematics at age nineteen. He subsequently relocated to New York to study with cellist Zara Nelsova at The Juilliard School, where he received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree, writing on the playing of Emanuel Feuermann. Mr. Smith lives in Houston with his wife, the pianist Evelyn Chen, and their daughter Calista.

The New York Times hailed EVELYN CHEN as "a pianist to watch," praising her "brilliant technique, warm, clear tone, and exacting musical intelligence." Ms. Chen's recent engagements have included performances on five continents at venues including Avery Fisher Hall and Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Wolf Trap, the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., the Mozarteum in Salzburg, the National Concert Hall in Taipei, the Central Conservatory Concert Hall in Beijing, the Cultural Center of Hong Kong, and the Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow.

A Steinway Artist, Ms. Chen has performed with numerous orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the National Symphony Orchestra (upon Mstislav Rostropovich's recommendation), the Philharmonia Orchestra of London, the New Zealand Symphony, the National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan, the State Symphony Orchestra of Mexico, and the San Diego Symphony, and has collaborated with renowned conductors including Riccardo Muti, Leonard Slatkin, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Zdeněk Mácal, Joseph Silverstein, Henry Mazer, Alberto Bolet, Enrique Bátiz, and JoAnn Falletta.

Ms. Chen's recent recordings have received international critical acclaim. Her recording of Rachmaninoff's **Piano Concerto No. 2 and Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini** with Leonard Slatkin and the Philharmonia Orchestra of London on BMG was among the top ten best-selling classical recordings in England. Ms. Chen's performance was praised by Fanfare magazine as "eminently musical, particularly sensitive to Rachmaninoff's intimacies." Fanfare further commended Ms. Chen's recording of Miklós

Rózsa's *Piano Concerto* with James Sedares and the New Zealand Symphony on Koch International, stating "it would be hard to imagine a performance more in tune with the music's dynamism than the one turned in by Evelyn Chen, who wonderfully communicates a kind of virtuoso thrill while also capturing every one of the work's Protean changes of mood." Gramophone magazine also marveled that "Evelyn Chen is a dazzlingly secure, marvelously sympathetic exponent that Rózsa fans will rightly welcome with open arms."

Ms. Chen has been featured on the CBS Evening News, and her performances have been broadcast by National Public Radio affiliates WGBH (Boston), WQXR (New York), WNYC (New York), WNCN (New York), WFMT (Chicago), and WGTS (Washington, D.C.), as well as throughout Taiwan and Great Britain (Classic FM). She has collaborated in chamber music with violinist Cho-Liang Lin, cellist Leslie Parnas, and pianist Charles Wadsworth, as well as with members of the New York Philharmonic. While touring Asia as soloist with the Harvard Orchestra, Ms. Chen performed before prominent dignitaries including the Princess of Thailand and the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

A winner of several international competitions, Ms. Chen is the recipient of the 1995 Petschek Award, which awarded her a fully sponsored New York debut recital at Alice Tully Hall. She is also the First Prize Winner of the 1993 Mieczyslaw Munz International Competition as well as the Grand Prize Winner of the 1984 Piano Guild International Recording Competition. As the youngest competitor at the age of fourteen, Ms. Chen captured First Prize in the 1981 Bach International Competition in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Chen received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The Juilliard School, a Master of Music degree from the New England Conservatory, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in composition magna cum laude from Harvard University. Her teachers include pianists Russell Sherman, Constance Keene, Earle Voorhies, and Jerome Lowenthal, and composers Leon Kirchner and David Lewin. She is currently an Associate Professor of Piano at Teachers College, Columbia University, in New York City.