

FACULTY RECITAL

BRINTON AVERIL SMITH

Violoncello

Monday, March 15, 2010

8:00 p.m.

Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

Suite No. 1 in G Major, Op. 131c **Max Reger**
(1873-1916)
Vivace
Adagio
Allegro

Suite No. 1 (1956) **Ernest Bloch**
(1880-1959)
Prelude
Allegro
Canzona
Allegro

Toccata capricciosa, Op. 36 **Miklós Rózsa**
(1907-1995)

INTERMISSION

Sonata for Violoncello Solo, Op. 28 **Eugène Ysaÿe**
(1858-1931)
Grave
Intermezzo
In modo di Recitativo
Finale con brio

Theme and Variations **Jean Sibelius**
(1865-1957)
for Solo Violoncello (c. 1887)

Suite for Violoncello Solo (1926) **Gaspar Cassadó**
(1897-1966)
Prelude - Fantasia
Sardana (Danza)
Intermezzo e Danza Finale

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.

BIOGRAPHY

Hailed by New York *Newsday* for "... extraordinary musicianship ... forceful, sophisticated, and entirely in the spirit of the music," American cellist BRINTON AVERIL SMITH's performances have won rave reviews throughout the United States and in Europe, Asia, Africa, Canada, and New Zealand. Mr. Smith's North American engagements have included performances at Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Marlboro Music Festival, the Aspen Music Festival, and the Banff Centre for the Arts, and concerti with orchestras in cities including Detroit, San Diego, Houston, New Jersey, Fort Worth, San Jose, Las Vegas, Tucson, and Phoenix.

Smith's debut recording of Miklós Rózsa's *Cello Concerto* with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra for Koch Classics received widespread international critical acclaim, including the 1998 Gramophone Awards Issue which 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 selected as one of BBC Music magazine's best albums of the year and the American Record Guide praised Smith's performance as "Stunningly beautiful," continuing "I cannot imagine a better stylistic match for Shaham." Mr. Smith is also featured on a recent Naxos release of the chamber music of composer Steven Gerber for which *Strings* magazine recently hailed him as "an extraordinary cellist."

Mr. Smith has appeared regularly as a soloist with the Houston Symphony since joining the orchestra as principal cellist in 2005. Prior to this, he was a member of the New York Philharmonic and 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 regularly gives master classes throughout the United States. Mr. Smith is also a co-founder and artistic director of Restoration Chamber Music, a festival that pairs historic Galveston buildings with relevant classical concerts to benefit the island's preservation efforts.

An active chamber musician, Smith has collaborated with members of the Beaux Arts Trio and the Guarneri, Emerson, Juilliard, Cleveland, and Berg Quartets, and has presented performances with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and in 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 Festi-

val, the Brevard Music Festival, The Texas Music Festival and, with violinist Gil Shaham, at the Aspen Music Festival, the Linton Series in Cincinnati, and in Carnegie Hall's Gil Shaham and Friends series. Mr. Smith was a prize winner in the Leonard Rose International Cello Competition and in 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's Sunday Morning and on radio, throughout the U.S., including NPR's Performance Today.

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 resides in Houston with his wife, the pianist Evelyn Chen, and their daughter Calista.



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