

*FACULTY AND
GUEST ARTIST RECITAL*

EVELYN CHEN, Piano (guest)
FRANK HUANG, Violin (guest)
BRINTON AVERIL SMITH, Cello
JEFFREY BUTLER, Cello (guest)
JAMES DENTON, Cello (guest)
ANTHONY KITAI, Cello (guest)

Monday, November 1, 2010

8:00 p.m.

Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

Celebrating

35

1975-2010

Years

THE SHEPHERD SCHOOL OF MUSIC RICE UNIVERSITY

PROGRAM

Piano Trio in F Minor, Op. 65

Antonín Dvořák

Allegro ma non troppo

(1841-1904)

Allegretto grazioso

Poco adagio

Finale: Allegro con brio

Evelyn Chen, piano
Frank Huang, violin
Brinton Averil Smith, cello

INTERMISSION

*A selection of works for cello quartet
to be announced from the stage.*

Jeffrey Butler, cello
James Denton, cello
Anthony Kitai, cello
Brinton Averil Smith, cello

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

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 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 critical acclaim internationally, and her recording of Rachmaninoff's piano concertos with Leonard Slatkin and the Philharmonia Orchestra of London on BMG was among the top ten best-selling classical recordings in England. 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). Ms. Chen performed before prominent dignitaries including the Princess of Thailand and the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Ms. Chen has been a winner of several international competitions, including First Prize in the 1981 Bach International Competition in Washington, D.C. Ms. Chen is the recipient of the 1994 Petschek Award at the Juilliard School, where she received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree. Having received a Bachelor of Arts degree in composition from Harvard University, Ms. Chen is currently Associate Professor of Piano at Teachers College, Columbia University.

First Prize Winner of the 2003 Walter W. Naumburg Foundation's Violin Competition and the 2000 Hannover International Violin Competition, FRANK HUANG has established a major career as a violin virtuoso. At the age of eleven, he performed with the Houston Symphony Orchestra in a nationally broadcast concert and has since performed with orchestras throughout the world, including the Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony, NDR-Radio Philharmonic Orchestra of Hannover, Amadeus Chamber Orchestra, and the Genoa Orchestra. He has performed on NPR's Performance Today, Good Morning America, and CNN's American Morning. Mr. Huang's first commercial recording, comprised of Fantasies by Schubert, Ernst, Schoenberg, and Waxman, was released on Naxos in the fall of 2003.

He has had great success in competitions since the age of fifteen with top prize awards in the Premio Paganini International Violin Competition and the Indianapolis International Violin Competition. He also received Gold Medal Awards in the Kingsville International Competition, the Irving M. Klein International Competition and the D'Angelo International Competition.

Recent concerts include debuts in Wigmore Hall (London), Salle Cortot (Paris), Kennedy Center (Washington), Herbst Theatre (San Francisco), and also his second recital in Alice Tully Hall (New York).

In addition to his solo career, Mr. Huang has attended the Marlboro Music Festival, Ravinia's Steans Institute, The Seattle Chamber Music Festival, and the Caramoor Festival, and frequently participates in Musicians from Marlboro tours. He was also selected by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center to be a member of the prestigious Chamber Music II program.

In 2009, Mr. Huang was Associate Professor of Violin and Chamber Music at the Eastman School of Music and the first violinist of the Grammy-Award winning Ying Quartet. Currently, he is the concertmaster of the Houston Symphony and on the faculty of the University of Houston. He is on faculty during the summers at Great Mountains Music Festival in South Korea, Bowdoin International Music Festival, and Texas Music Festival. Mr. Huang is also the violinist of the Huang-Altstead-Vonsattel Trio, and the concertmaster and leader of the Sejong Soloists, a conductorless chamber orchestra based in New York.

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 at leading venues and music festivals throughout the world, including Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center, Carnegie Recital Hall, and with orchestras throughout the United States. Mr. Smith's recent recording of Fauré's **Piano Trio and Après un Rêve** with Gil Shaham for Shaham's Canary Classics label was chosen as one of BBC Music magazine's best albums of the year. His recording of Miklós Rózsa's **Cello Concerto** with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra for Koch received widespread international critical acclaim. Gramophone praised Smith as a "hugely eloquent, impassioned soloist," and continued, "The sheer bravura of Smith's reading is infectious."

Prior to joining the Houston Symphony in 2005, Mr. Smith was a member of the New York Philharmonic and the principal cellist of the San Diego and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras. A prize winner of the Leonard Rose International Cello Competition, his performances have been broadcast throughout the world, including in the United States, on CBS Sunday Morning and NPR's Performance Today. Mr. Smith was admitted part-time to Arizona State University at age ten, and by age seventeen completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics. At the University of Southern California, he worked as a teaching assistant in the mathematics department, and completed work for an Master of Arts degree in mathematics at age nineteen while continuing his music studies. He then went on 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.

JEFFREY BUTLER been a cellist in the Houston Symphony since 1986. He holds degrees in music performance from Boston University and the University of Michigan School of Music, where he was recipient of that school's highest award, the prestigious Stanley Medal. He is a member of the *Fidelis Quartet*, which is scheduled for a return performance at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in May 2011, and has appeared as soloist in recent years with the Houston Chamber Orchestra and the Galveston Symphony.

Trained in the third graduating class of The Shepherd School of Music in 1982, *JAMES R. DENTON* has been a member of the Houston Symphony since 1988. Prior to that, he was in the Honolulu Symphony, during which time he served as Acting Principal Cellist, taught at the Punahou Music School, and performed recitals with José Feghali and Joseph Silverstein. After returning to Houston, he combined his love of music with his enthusiasm for the digital revolution to enable a unique and creative approach to internet marketing which the Houston Symphony adopted on its 1997 European Tour. Denton's efforts garnered a presentation to the Marketing and Development heads of all major symphonies at the 1997 League of American Orchestras convention in Washington, D.C. In addition, his pioneering work has been featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Symphony*, *Houston Business Journal*, and *Texas Business* magazines. Denton's instructors included William Pleeth, Lev Aronson, Anthony LaMarchina, Peter Rejto, and Shirley Trepel.

ANTHONY KITAI joined the Houston Symphony in 2001, serving as Acting Associate Principal Cellist from 2003 to 2005. Previously, he was a member of the Memphis Symphony and the Iris Chamber Orchestra. As a soloist, Anthony Kitai has appeared with the Galveston Symphony, Doctors Orchestra of Houston, Jonesboro Symphony, Fort Smith Symphony, and Pine Bluff Symphony. He has participated in music festivals including Grand Teton, Schleswig-Holstein, Aspen, and Sewanee. As a chamber musician, Anthony Kitai has performed with Mercury Baroque and on *Col Canto* and *Foundation for Modern Music* concerts. He frequently collaborates with his wife, pianist Shannon Hesse, and has performed with her on the Galveston Island Arts Academy Concert Series, Westminster Summer Concerts, and Greenbriar Consortium Concerts. Anthony Kitai enjoys teaching and maintains an active private studio where his students regularly play in Texas All-Region and All-State Orchestras.

Anthony Kitai received his bachelor's degree and performer's certificate from the Eastman School of Music and his master's degree from The Shepherd School of Music. His major teachers include Desmond Hoebig, Steven Doane, Paul Katz, and Peter Spurbeck.