

FACULTY RECITAL

BRINTON AVERIL SMITH, cello
EVELYN CHEN, piano (guest)

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

8:00 p.m.

Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

Celebrating 1975-2010
35 Years

THE SHEPHERD SCHOOL OF MUSIC RICE UNIVERSITY

PROGRAM

12 Variations on the theme
“Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen”
from The Magic Flute, Op. 66 Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Sonata in G Major, Op. 78 Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)
Vivace ma non troppo
Adagio arr. Paul Klengel
Allegro molto moderato

Figaro Variations from Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco
Rossini's The Barber of Seville (1895-1968)
arr. Brinton Averil Smith

INTERMISSION

“Was Du mir bist...” Erich Wolfgang Korngold
from Drei Lieder, Op. 22, No. 1 (1897-1957)

Suite Populaire Espagnole Manuel de Falla
(1876-1946)
El Paño Maruno
Asturiana arr. Maurice Maréchal
Jota
Nana
Canción
Polo

Rosenkavalier Waltzes Richard Strauss
(1864-1949)
arr. Váňa Přihoda

“It Ain't Necessarily So” George Gershwin
from Porgy and Bess (1898-1937)
arr. Jascha Heifetz

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

Praised 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 received rave reviews throughout the United States and the world. 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 annual 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 proclaimed 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 the first musician chosen by Lorin Maazel to join the New York Philharmonic and the principal cellist of the San Diego and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras. Mr. Smith's other North American engagements have included performances at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center, the Marlboro Music Festival, the Aspen Music Festival and the Banff Centre for the Arts and concerti with orchestras in Detroit, San Diego, Houston, New Jersey, Fort Worth, San Jose, Tucson and Phoenix as well as at the Texas, Las Vegas and Bear Valley Music Festivals. Mr. Smith is a member of the faculty at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, and has given masterclasses throughout the United States, including at the New World Symphony and the National Orchestral Institute. Mr. Smith is also an artistic director of the Restoration Chamber Music festival in Galveston.

An active chamber musician, Smith has collaborated with violinist Gil Shaham on numerous occasions including at the Aspen Music Festival and Carnegie Hall's Gil Shaham and Friends series. He has also collaborated with cellists Yo-Yo Ma and Lynn Harrell and members of the Beaux Arts Trio and the Guarneri, Emerson, Juilliard, Cleveland, and Berg quartets. Smith has performed with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Marlboro Music Festival, the Aspen Music Festival, the New York Philharmonic Chamber Series, the Killington Music Festival, El Paso Pro Musica, the Mainly Mozart Festival, the Brevard Music Festival and the Texas Music Festival. As a student, 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 also 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 and on the 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 10 he was admitted to Arizona State University, where he took courses in mathematics and German and, by age 17, completed a B.A. 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 M.A. in mathematics at age 19. 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, 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, Mozarteum in Salzburg, the National Concert Hall in Taipei, the Cultural Center of Hong Kong, Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, 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 San Diego Symphony, the Philharmonia Orchestra (London), the New Zealand Symphony, the National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan, and the State Symphony Orchestra of Mexico, and has collaborated with renowned conductors including Riccardo Muti, Leonard Slatkin, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Zdeněk Macál, Joseph Silverstein, and JoAnn Falletta.

Ms. Chen's recent recordings have received international critical acclaim. Her recording of Rachmaninov's **Piano Concerto No. 2** and **Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini** with Leonard Slatkin and the Philharmonia Orchestra of London for Sony/BMG was among the top ten best-selling classical recordings in England. Ms. Chen's recording of the Miklós Rózsa's **Piano Concerto** with James Sedares and the New Zealand Symphony for Koch International Classics also received rave reviews.

Ms. Chen has been featured on the CBS Evening News, and her performances have been broadcast by the National Public Radio, WGBH (Boston), WQXR, WNYC, WNCN (New York), WFMT (Chicago), and WGTS (Washington DC), KUHF (Houston), as well as throughout Taiwan and Great Britain (Classic FM). She has collaborated in chamber music with violinists Cho-Liang Lin and Frank Huang, cellists Brinton Smith and Leslie Parnas, and pianist Charles Wadsworth, as well as members of the New York Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony, the Houston Symphony, and Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. 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 DC.

Ms. Chen received a Doctor of Musical Arts from the Juilliard School, a Master of Music from the New England Conservatory, and a Bachelor of Arts in composition, Magna Cum Laude with Highest Honors, from Harvard University. Her teachers include pianists Russell Sherman, Earle Voorhies, Constance Keene, and Jerome Lowenthal; and composers Leon Kirchner and David Lewin. She is currently Associate Professor of Piano at Teachers College, Columbia University, in New York City. She is also a co-founder of the Restoration Chamber Music in Galveston, Texas (www.RestorationChamberMusic.com). She and her husband, cellist Brinton Smith, have a 9-year-old daughter, Calista, who plays both the violin and the piano.



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