

MASTER CLASS

Ralph Kirshbaum

Cello

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

1:00 p.m.

Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

Celebrating 1975-2010
35 Years

THE SHEPHERD SCHOOL OF MUSIC RICE UNIVERSITY

PROGRAM

1:00 P.M.

Polonaise Brillant, Op. 3
(1826/31)

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

Hellen Weberpal, cello
Eliza Ching, piano

1:35 P.M.

Variations on a Rococo Theme,
Op. 33 (1877)

Pytor Ilyich Tchaikovsky
(1840-1893)

Rosanna Butterfield, cello
Charlie Tauber, piano

2:10 P.M.

Suite No. 4 in E-flat Major
for Unaccompanied Cello, BWV 1010 (1710)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Prélude
Bourrée I and II
Gigue

Clara Yang, cello

FIVE-MINUTE BREAK

2:50 P.M.

**Sonata in A Minor for Arpeggione
and Piano, D. 821 (1824)**

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Allegro moderato

Adagio

Allegretto

Emma Bobbs, cello
Katrina Bobbs, piano

3:25 P.M.

**Five Pieces in a Folkstyle
Op. 102 (1849)**

Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)

Mit Humor (Vanitas vanitatum)

Langsam

Nicht schnell, mit viel Ton zu spielen

Nicht zu rasch

Stark und markiert

Brian Yoon, cello
Eliza Ching, piano

BIOGRAPHY

The distinguished career of Texas-born cellist RALPH KIRSHBAUM which encompasses the worlds of solo performance, chamber music, recording and pedagogy—clearly places him in “...the highest echelon of today's cellists.” (Los Angeles Times). He enjoys the affection and respect not only of audiences worldwide but also of his many eminent colleagues and students.

Ralph Kirshbaum has appeared with many of the world's great orchestras, including the Boston and Chicago Symphony Orchestras, the San Francisco, Pittsburgh, BBC and London Symphonies, the Cleveland Orchestra, London Philharmonia, Zurich Tonhalle, Orchestre de Paris and Israel Philharmonic, along with major orchestras in Holland, Germany, Spain, Scandinavia and the Far East. His repertoire ranges from Haydn and Dvořák to Prokofiev and Lutoslawski, in which he has collaborated with such esteemed conductors as Herbert Blomstedt, Semyon Bychkov,

Christoph von Dohnányi, Andrew Davis, Sir Colin Davis, James Levine, Zubin Mehta, Kurt Masur, André Previn, Sir Simon Rattle and the late Sir Georg Solti. A regular visitor to Australia, his most recent tour included concerts with the Adelaide and Sydney Symphony Orchestras as well as recitals and master classes.

Mr. Kirshbaum founded the RNCM Manchester International Cello Festival in 1988, and was its Artistic Director through its grand finale in 2007. Through nine festivals, this unique event gathered together his many friends amongst the world's great cellists, along with thousands of students and enthusiasts from around the world, in a celebration of the cello, its music and musicians. The festival was the subject of a recent DVD documentary awaiting European release. In 2007, Mr. Kirshbaum was honoured with the Music Award for Concert Series and Festivals at the Gala of the Royal Philharmonic Society, England's most prestigious award for live classical music. He currently serves as honorary president of the London Cello Society.

In addition to his solo career, Ralph Kirshbaum is an esteemed pedagogue who has influenced generations of young cellists as a committed and impassioned mentor. He has been on the faculty of the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England for 35 years, and in 2008 accepted the Gregor Piatigorsky Endowed Chair in Violoncello at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music. While concluding his class in Manchester in 2010, Mr. Kirshbaum will retain his position as the RNCM's International Chair of Cello. He continues his annual association with the International Musician's Seminar in Prussia Cove and the London Master Classes, as well as an active schedule of master class commitments throughout the world.

*Kirshbaum's many recordings have included the 1983 Gramophone Magazine "Record of the Year" world premiere recording of Tippett's **Triple Concerto** for Philips, the Elgar and Walton Concertos for Chandos, the Ravel, Shostakovich and Brahms Trios for EMI and the Barber Concerto and Sonata for EMI/Virgin Classics. Also noteworthy is his recording of the Brahms Double and Beethoven Triple Concertos for BMG Classics with Pinchas Zukerman, John Browning and the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Christoph Eschenbach. Of his recording of William Walton's **Concerto**, the composer wrote: "It is most heartening to hear a performance in which everything is just right - it is excellent and moving." His most recent release is his November 2006 recording of the Shostakovich and Prokofiev Sonatas with pianist Peter Jablonski.*

Resident in London and Los Angeles, Ralph Kirshbaum remains a U.S. citizen with a great love of American football, tennis and Texan food. He served on the US President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities from 2003 through 2008. He has written about music and musicians for a number of journals and periodicals, most recently appreciations of Jacqueline du Pre for The Guardian in London, and of his beloved teacher Aldo Parisot for The New York Times. The rare Montagnana Cello that Ralph Kirshbaum plays once belonged to the 19th century virtuoso, Piatti.



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