



Sergei Rachmaninoff 150th Anniversary Concert

12 Apr 2023 (Wed) 7:30pm
Main Hall, Shaw Auditorium
Free Admission



Program

<i>Trio élégiaque</i> No. 1 in G minor	15'
Romances Op. 14 no. 1, 9 and Op. 26 no. 6, 13	12'
Variations on a Theme of Chopin Op. 22	26'
INTERMISSION	10'
Sonata in G minor for Cello and Piano, Op. 19	35'

Performers

Richard Bamping, cello

Richard Bamping has been Principal Cellist of the HK Phil since 1993. He has performed with many of the finest musicians of recent history — Lord Yehudi Menuhin, Leonidas Kavakos, Mstislav Rostropovich, Carlo Maria Guilini, Valery Gergiev, Leonard Bernstein, Lorin Maazel, Sir Colin Davis and Claudio Abbado, to name but a few.

Bamping has performed many of the staples of the solo cello repertoire with orchestras from Europe to the Far East. He has a great passion for playing chamber music with friends and colleagues whenever he gets the chance.

Bamping's cello, dated 1674 was made in Cremona by Andrea Guarneri and is one of only nine surviving examples of his work.

Anders Hui, violin

Hong Kong Canadian violinist Anders Hui is a passionate concert violinist, chamber musician, orchestra executive and music educator. Currently the Second Associate Concertmaster of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Anders Hui first joined the orchestra in 2010. Anders was invited by Christoph Eschenbach to be the Assistant Concertmaster for the Schleswig Holstein Music Festival Orchestra, performing with soloist Lang Lang in a month-long 23-concert tour across North America. He was first chosen by Eschenbach as Assistant Concertmaster in 2007 and became Concertmaster the following year. In this position he did tours around Hungary, Denmark, Brazil, and extensively in Germany. With this orchestra he also had the opportunity to work with other world-renowned conductors including

Herbert Blomstedt, Mikhail Pletnev, Christopher Hogwood, and Ivan Fischer.

An active chamber musician, Anders has worked with many world-renowned musicians such as Cho-Liang Lin, Janos Starker, Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, Alex Kerr, Yuval Gotlibovich, James Campbell, and Andre Watts. In 2018, he toured with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Quartet to Shanghai and Beijing, and the highlight of the tour was a highly acclaimed performance in the Beijing Music Festival in collaboration with Andreas Ottensamer and the Shanghai Quartet., During that tour, he also gave masterclasses in the Shanghai Orchestra Academy.

In 2020, Anders was invited to be the Orchestra Executive of Opera Hong Kong, where he coordinated and founded the Opera Hong Kong Orchestra, and performed as Guest Concertmaster in productions such as Carmen, The Marriage of Figaro, Don Pasquale, I Capuleti e I Montecchi, and L'Eslixir D'Amore. All of them received critical acclaims.

Anders is also a dedicated educator. He was first appointed as one of a few Violin Associate Instructors at Indiana University, and he is currently an adjunct faculty member at the Music Department of Hong Kong Baptist University. Along with teaching orchestral repertoire classes and chamber music, he has been invited to hold multiple month-long intense summer orchestral repertoire workshops. He also holds a position in Hong Kong University of Science and Technology teaching chamber music. and he was recently been invited to hold masterclasses and workshops for the orchestra at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. He has been invited to many competitions in Hong Kong as a member of the violin jury throughout the years. He has also been invited to the 2022 Singapore Raffles International Music Festival as a Violin Jury member, and there he will conduct open masterclasses for the winning participants of that year.

Anders won his first major competition in Canada - Canadian Music Competition - when he was 17, and then went to the US where he received his Master's and Bachelor degrees in Indiana University Jacob school of Music under the supervision of Mauricio Fuks and Nelli Shkolnikova. Whilst at Indiana University, he won the Brahms Violin Concerto Competition and performed with the IU Philharmonic Orchestra. In America, he was the Assistant Concertmaster and Interim Concertmaster for Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra, as well as Guest Concertmaster in Carmel (IN) Symphony Orchestra. He was also Tutti Violin of the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic. Before returning to Hong Kong and joining the HK Phil, he undertook further studies in Germany with Michael Vogler and Kolja Blacher, professors at the Hanns Eisler School of Music in Berlin.

Anders performs on a Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume violin made in 1855.

Amy Sze, piano

Dr. Amy Sze graduated from the Eastman School of Music in the United States with a professional performance diploma, a master's degree in piano performance and a master's degree in music arts and literature, and studied under Trudeau and Guo Jiate. Sze has received professional music training at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts since she was ten years old. She has received a number of scholarships, including the Avis IV Vaughn Scholarship, the Sir Edward Youde Memorial Scholarship, and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Trust Overseas Scholarship.

Sze has won several piano competitions and has collaborated as a soloist with the Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra of Texas, the Eastman Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Hong Kong Sinfonietta. She has also participated in many famous music

festivals, including the Aspen Music Festival in the United States, Cliburn College, Harbin Summer Concert, Mozarteum Conservatory Salzburg. She also often performs solo recordings and interviews on Radio 4 of Radio Television Hong Kong. She has participated in the Hong Kong Sinfonietta's "Beethoven's Complete Piano Concerto" series, and recorded for the orchestra's 2014 new release "Is Classical Music 3". She also traveled to Vienna, the capital of music, to perform a 12-hour marathon concert of Beethoven's piano sonatas with a group of outstanding pianists from all over the world, celebrating the first Victoria Harbor Music Festival - a cultural event for Hong Kong in Vienna.

In addition to solo performances, Sze is also active in chamber music performance and promoting modern music creation. She used to be a member of the Eastman Chamber Music Association, promoting music to schools and the community through outreach programs and concerts. She has been invited to perform at the Intimacy Between Creativity-Contemporary Music Festival, the "New Generation Music" project organized by RTHK Radio 4, the Hong Kong International Contemporary Music Festival, and Le French May. Sze often cooperates with visiting international musicians, including Derek Beamer, David Childs, Peter Cooper, Gu Pinde, Ishikawa and Yoshiyuki, Raphael Cipher, John Williams, etc.

Amy Sze served as a teaching assistant in the piano department, chamber music and accompaniment department at the Eastman School of Music. Currently teaching at several universities, including Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Baptist University. Apart from giving lectures and master classes, she has also served as a judge for various public examinations, scholarships and music competitions. She also serves as music consultant for her alma mater, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and St. Paul's Co-educational College.

Natalia Tokar, piano

Native of Russia, Natalia Tokar completed her Master's and Doctoral studies (Aspirantura) at the prestigious Saint-Petersburg State Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in Russia with special emphasis in solo and collaborative piano, pedagogy, and harpsichord. In 2014 she was awarded a Doctorate of Musical Arts from Michigan State University, USA. She studied primarily with Prof. Nadezhda Eismont and Prof. Deborah Moriarty.

Natalia Tokar made a solo debut at the age of 17 with Kaliningrad Philharmonic. Since that time, she has been actively performing as soloist and collaborator in Russia, The United States and Hong Kong including performances in St. Petersburg Glazunov and Philharmonic Halls, Carnegie Hall (Weil Recital Hall), and Hong Kong City Hall. She has received awards and honors from several competitions and conferences. As an active collaborative pianist and coach, she has worked for numerous festivals and competitions: The International Week of Conservatories, International Competition of Opera singers "Saint-Petersburg" (Russia), NATS, Opera North, W. Byrd competition (USA), to name a few. She has also worked for several universities as a collaborative pianist and instructor including, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, The University of Northern Iowa and Michigan State University, as well as the Mariinsky Theater of Opera and Ballet and St. Petersburg State Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory.

Since moving to Hong Kong in 2014, Natalia has regularly appeared in concert programs organized by Hong Kong Musica Viva, HKUST Music Alive, Musica del Coure, written articles and given public speeches on the matter of music pedagogy, taught master-classes and served as a judge for local piano competitions.

Natalia is a founder of the Russian Sound Music Academy in Hong Kong – music education center which offers an intensive training based on fundamentals of Russian pedagogical method. At the moment, she also serves as a senior instructor at the Parsons Music Academy and a consultant at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Isaac Droscha, voice

Isaac Droscha, operatic baritone, holds a Doctorate in Vocal Performance from the University of Michigan and is currently a faculty in the Division of Humanities at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). Isaac is also the Artistic Director and vocal coach of the “HKUST Musical!”, which he also helps coordinate. He is also the Co-Artistic Director of the HKUST Cosmopolis Festival and the Artistic Director of Shaw Auditorium at HKUST.

He has performed roles with various companies in the United States, including the Des Moines Metro Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Opera New Jersey and Arbor Opera Theater. His performances have received numerous positive reviews, including: “Isaac Droscha is ingenious in his portraying of Falstaff;” and “Isaac Droscha, in the same role, was blessed with an extremely robust and agile voice, and behaved onstage like a true commedia dell’arte clown” and “Droscha really hit his stride when revealing his character's true identity near the end of the opera in a riveting performance.”

Some of his notable roles performed include roles in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *The Rake’s Progress*, *Madama Butterfly*, *L’Elisir d’Amore*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Falstaff* and *Airadne auf Naxos*. He was also recently featured in two films produced by RTHK based on the operas *La Serva Padrona* and *Rita*. He is frequently performer with Hong Kong MusicaViva.

He is a prolific concert performer of oratorio and art song and frequently lends his voiceover talents to radio and television at RTHK.

Romances Op. 14 no. 1, 9 and Op. 26 no. 6, 13

[Romances Op. 14 no. 1]

I wait for you

I wait for you!
The sun has set
And night's dark covers
Prepare to touch the earth
and hide us.

I wait for you!
A fragrant haze,
Night waters the sleeping world
And the past day has parted
Forever from the earth.

I wait for you!
Struggling and in love,
I count each moment.
Full of longing and impatience,
I wait for you!

[Romances Op. 14 no. 9]

She is as beautiful as the noon

She is as beautiful as the noon,
She is more mysterious than midnight.
Her eyes have never cried,
Her soul is innocent.

But I, whose life is struggle and grief,
Am destined to long for her – Oh!
Just as the eternally weeping sea
Is in love with the silent shore.

[Romances Op. 26 no. 6]

Christ is risen

"Christ is risen"
they sing in the temple.
But I am sad...
my soul silent.
The world is full of blood and tears,
and this hymn before the altars
sounds as an insult.

If He were among us
and saw what our glorious age has achieved --
how brother hates brother,
how shameful is mankind --
and if here,
within the shining temple,
"Christ is risen"
He were to hear,
what bitter tears
before the crowd
He would weep!

[Romances Op. 26 no. 13]

Yesterday we met

Yesterday we met: she stopped –
So did I – We looked into each other's eyes...
O, God! How she had changed with all that time
The fire in her eyes had gone out, her cheeks turned pale...
And for a long time I stared at her, silently, sternly...
My hand stretched out, the poor thing smiled;
I wanted to speak – but she, for God's sake,
Told me to remain silent, and immediately turned away,
and furrowed her brow, and pulled away her hand,
and said: farewell, goodbye!
While I wanted to say: in eternal separation
farewell, lost, but sweet creature!