

PEACE CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES

LARA ST. JOHN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019 • 7 PM
GUNTER THEATRE

Lara St. John, violin
Matt Herskowitz, piano

Violin Sonata No. 8 in G major, Op. 30 No. 3

Ludwig Van Beethoven

Violin Sonata No. 2 in G major

Maurice Ravel

Intermission

Rhapsody No. 2, Sz. 89 and 90, BB 96

Béla Bartók

A free improvisation on a well-known American Theme

Lara St. John/
Matt Herskowitz

"But Not for Me"

George Gershwin
arr. Matt Herskowitz

"I Got Rhythm"

George Gershwin
arr. Matt Herskowitz

Song of the Moon

Martin Kennedy

Program subject to change

Program content provided by production company

Lara St. John

Canadian-born violinist Lara St. John has been described as “something of a phenomenon” by *The Strad* and a “high-powered soloist” by the *The New York Times*.

She has performed as soloist with the orchestras of Cleveland, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle, Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, and with the Boston Pops, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, NDR Symphony, Zurich Chamber Orchestra, Camerata Ireland, Amsterdam Symphony, Brazilian Symphony, Sao Paulo Symphony, China Philharmonic, the Hong Kong, Tokyo, and Kyoto Symphonies, and the orchestras of Brisbane, Adelaide, and Auckland, among many others.

The *Los Angeles Times* wrote “Lara St. John happens to be a volcanic violinist with a huge, fabulous tone that pours out of her like molten lava. She has technique to burn and plays at a constant high heat.”

St. John created her own label, Ancalagon, in 1999, and has recorded with the Royal Philharmonic, the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela, and The Knights, with which she won the Juno Award in 2011 for her Mozart album. Of her Bach Six Sonatas and Partitas for Violin Solo, *American Record Guide* wrote: “I simply don’t know where else you can go to hear Bach played at this level of artistry. Once again she eclipses her competition.”

St. John began playing the violin at two years old. She made her first appearance as soloist with an orchestra at age four, and her European debut with the Gulbenkian Orchestra in Lisbon when she was 10. She toured Spain, France, Portugal, and Hungary at ages 12 and 13, entered the Curtis Institute at 13, and spent her first summer at Marlboro three years later. Her teachers have included Felix Galimir and Joey Corpus.

She performs on the 1779 “Salabue” Guaragnini thanks to an anonymous donor.

Matt Herskowitz

Uniquely combining the superlative technique of a classical virtuoso with his prowess in jazz, world music, and free improvisation, pianist, composer, and arranger Matt Herskowitz has carved out a unique and personal voice in music. Over the course of the last decade, he has produced a series of critically-acclaimed recordings, premiered his compositions in settings from New York’s Central Park to Germany’s Köln Philharmonie, collaborated with top classical, jazz, and pop artists, and performed at major concert halls and music festivals across the globe.

Herskowitz’ extensive recording catalogue includes the critically-acclaimed, Juno-nominated world music fusion album *Jerusalem Trilogy*, which features the pianist’s original compositions and arrangements. Among the album’s fans was the late great Dave Brubeck, who commended Herskowitz on the recording, saying “Congratulations! You have transformed the concept of ‘World’ music as I conceived of it half a century ago. You have carried it further than I could imagine.” Herskowitz’ other releases include his 1998 recording of Glazunov’s Piano Concerto No. 2 in B major (Chandos), hailed by *The Strad* as “by far the best performance on disc,” and his 2007 release, *Matt Herskowitz Plays George Gershwin* (re-released on Justin Time Records in 2018), which features his solo piano arrangements of Gershwin’s Cuban Overture, Concerto in F, and Rhapsody in Blue.

A graduate of the Juilliard School and the Curtis Institute of Music, Herskowitz is originally from Rensselaerville, New York, and has made Montreal his adopted home since 1999.