

Dean Stein and Chiharu Naruse

Sunday, February 28th, 2021 Olin Concert Hall 3:00pm

Program

Sonata for Violin and Piano (1917)

Claude Debussy (1862–1918)

Allegro vivo Intermède. Fantastique et léger Finale. Très animé

Suite for Violin and Piano (1943)

William Grant Still (1895–1978)

Suggested by Richmond Barthe's "African dancer" Suggested by Sargent Johnson's "Mother & Child" Suggested by Augusta Savage's "Gamin"

Sonata No. 2 in D Major, Op. 94a for Violin and Piano (1944) Sergei Prokofiev (1891 – 1953)

Moderato Presto Andante Allegro con brio

The music of three uniquely beautiful voices of the 20th century for violin and piano, as performed by Dean Stein and Chiharu Naruse. Claude Debussy wrote his last work, noted for its light and colorful harmonies at the end of the Belle Époque. The Suite is American composer William Grant Still's most beloved work, growing in popularity daily, and was inspired by the sculptures of African-American artists. Sergei Prokofiev, in Russia, found creative refuge during WW II writing music hearkening back to the classical era, yet filled with his inimitable wit and style.

Bios

Violinist Dean Stein has performed throughout the world in recital, with orchestras, chamber music ensembles, and as soloist. His performances frequently garner critical acclaim, as in a recording of which 'The Strad' magazine wrote, "Dean Arthur Stein excels in the first violin's improvisatory cadenza, his fierce yet luxuriant tone setting the mood..."

Mr. Stein performed the complete sonatas for violin and piano of Beethoven with Chiharu Naruse here at Bates and is happy to have this new opportunity to perform together again.

A passionate performer who expresses himself best through chamber music, Mr. Stein was honored to be chosen as first violinist of the Portland String Quartet in 2013, the first change of personnel in the distinguished PSQ's history since its formation in 1969. Since joining the PSQ, he has performed with them in Europe and at home in the U.S.

Mr. Stein, together with oboist Kathleen McNerney, created VentiCordi Chamber Music in 2009, focusing on combining wind and string instruments to create fascinating programs for their audiences. VentiCordi has twice been voted the top musical group in Maine by readers of DownEast magazine. Their performances each

summer in the Kennebunks, southern and mid-coast Maine have been enthusiastically received and critically acclaimed.

Chamber music audiences have heard Mr. Stein in performances throughout Maine from Ogunquit to Orono, at Music Mountain, Eastern Music Festival, Harvard's Paine Hall, Bowdoin and Bates Colleges and many more venues.

A highly sought-after teacher and clinician, Mr. Stein is on the faculty of Bowdoin and Bates Colleges. He also coaches string quartets with the PSQ in various adult and youth workshops, including at St. Joseph's College, Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village, and Sebasco Harbor Resort. Mr. Stein has taught at New England Conservatory's Preparatory Division, and University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

From 2003 - 08 Mr. Stein directed the Arcady Music Festival in Bar Harbor, Maine. At Arcady, he performed in chamber ensembles, brought internationally renowned artists to perform in Down East Maine, and gave high priority to educational programs, bringing musicians to perform directly for Maine schoolchildren.

Mr. Stein was a violinist in the DaPonte String Quartet from 1996 – 2002, with whom he recorded, performed in Maine, and was profiled, with the Quartet, in the NY Times and CBS Sunday Morning.

He studied first with Margaret Berend at the Henry Street Settlement, then at the Juilliard School with Lewis Kaplan and Ivan Galamian, and with Gerald Fischbach and members of the Guarneri String Quartet at University of Maryland, College Park.

CHIHARU NARUSE holds master's degrees in Music Performance and Music Instruction from the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler in Berlin. She has participated in several international piano competitions, and won the silver prize in the Hyogo Piano Competition in Japan.

In 2002, Chiharu moved to the United States to study under Frank Glazer. She has since performed frequently in Maine, including solo recitals, concertos, and chamber music performances with such groups as the Portland String Quartet, Da Ponte String Quartet, and Venti Cordi. She was a featured artist at the Ocean Park Music Festival and the Franco-American Heritage Center, and has also toured in France and Japan.

Chiharu is a well-respected music teacher, chamber music coach, music competition adjudicator, and accompanist, with many of her students receiving competition prizes.



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