

Miracle Year: The 1919 Viola Sonatas Hsiaopei Lee, viola Michael Bunchman, piano

Guest Artist Series
Katzin Concert Hall | September 13, 2019 | 7:30 pm

Program

Suite for Viola and Piano Lento – Allegro – Moderato Allegro ironico Lento Molto vivo	Ernest Bloch (1880-1959)
Sonata for Viola and Piano Impetuoso Vivace Adagio – Allegro	Rebecca Clarke (1886-1979)
Sonata No. 4, Op. 11 Fantasie Thema mit Variationen Finale (mit Variationen)	Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)

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1919 is an important year for violists - we received three major works at the same year! Two of them (Rebecca Clarke and Ernest Bloch) entered the 1919 Berkshire Festival Competition and was a tie by the judges. Although the competition sponsor, Ms. Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge chose Bloch as the first prize for the competition, the arguments regarding who should be the winner have never stopped. Although Paul Hindemith, who wrote his unusual lyrical sonata at the same year, did not enter the competition, this Op. 11, No. 4 sonata is one of the timeless favorites. Come to this centennial celebration and be your own judge!

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Hsiaopei Lee, Taiwanese-American violist, is Professor of Viola at the University of Southern Mississippi. She has previously taught viola and chamber music at the Starling String Project, University of Cincinnati. Additionally she coached many talented violists as the long-time teaching assistant to the viola studio at the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati.

As a recitalist, Lee has performed throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Highlights of recent performances include concerto performance with orchestras both in USA and Taiwan, solo performances at the International Viola Congress and the American Viola Society Festivals, and a series of recitals featuring contemporary viola music both nationally and internationally. As an orchestral musician, Lee has performed under the batons of David Zinman, James Conlon, Robert Spano, Leonard Slatkin, James DePriest, David Robertson, and at such festivals as the Victoria Bach Festival, Texas Music Festival and the Aspen Music Festival, where she received Talented Students in the Arts Initiative (TSAI) Orchestral String Mentor-Fellowship. She is currently the principal violist of the Meridian Symphony Orchestra. A passionate chamber musician, Lee has been a chamber music collaborator in such cities as New York, Paris, and Taipei. She regularly performs with the Mississippi Chamber Circle and the Impromptu Piano Quartet. Hsiaopei is an advocate of new music, her first CD, *Viola Music Written by American Female Composers*, was released by Centaur Records in 2014.

A frequent guest artist on the university campuses both in the United States and Asia, Dr. Lee has given master classes and performances at universities including Florida State University, Vanderbilt University, and the University of Kentucky, to name a few. Dr. Lee's many students have placed in competitions, such as the Young Artists Concerto Competition (Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra), have earned distinction in research (Dalton Research Competition, American Viola Society), and have been appointed to orchestral and teaching positions both in the United States and in their home countries.

At Southern Miss, Dr. Lee is the recipient of several awards, including the Committee on Services and Resources for Women Competition, the Scholarly & Creative Research Awards from the College of Arts & Letters, and The Aubrey Keith Lucas and Ella Ginn Lucas Endowment for Faculty Excellence. Her research project has received support from the Kentucky Foundation for Women. In 2011 and 2017, the Mississippi Arts Commission selected Hsiaopei as one of the Artist Fellowship recipients, a highly competitive grant that is open to artists of many different artistic disciplines to support professional development or the creation of new work.

Dr. Lee holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Music from the National Taiwan Normal University, a Master of Arts degree in Music Education from Columbia University and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Viola Performance from the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music. Her principal teachers include Masao Kawasaki, Catharine Carroll Lees and Ting-Hui Chen.

Pianist **Michael Bunchman** maintains a fulfilling schedule as a collaborative pianist and chamber musician with both singers and instrumentalists throughout the United States. He is

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currently on faculty at the University of Southern Mississippi as the director of the Collaborative Piano Program. From 2015-2017 Dr. Bunchman served as coordinator of Collaborative Piano at Truman State University.

Dr. Bunchman has performed and collaborated with the Las Cruces Symphony, Opera Saratoga, Opera Santa Barbara, the Aspen Music Festival, and the Natchez Music Festival, where he spent three seasons as Assistant Musical Director. Michael has spent five seasons as a principal coach and pianist at the Utah Festival of Opera and Musical Theater. Also active as a concerto soloist, Dr. Bunchman has performed with the Ridgefield Symphony, the Breckenridge Music Festival, the Antara Ensemble in New York City, the Utah Festival Opera Orchestra and the National Repertory Orchestra. He and his wife, singer/actor Jessica Medoff, are co-creators of three original cabarets, and perform regularly as a duo in multiple venues across the country. He recently had the honor to be counted among the amazingly diverse and talented group of artists of A Prairie Home Companion, hosted by Garrison Keillor, on their multi-city European cruise.

Dr. Bunchman holds a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the University of Colorado at Boulder, a Master of Music in Piano Performance from the Peabody Conservatory, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Collaborative Piano from the University of Texas at Austin. He spent three summers at the Aspen Music Festival. His teachers have included Anne Epperson, Rick Rowley, Marian Hahn, Joseph Kalichstein, Antoinette Perry, Adrienne Sielaff and Doris Pridonoff-Lehnert.

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