

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 · 7:00 pm
Leith Symington Griswold Hall

Henri Sauguet (1901–1989)

Three Easy Pieces

Astor Piazzolla (1921–1992)

Adiós Nonino

Liz Sogge, violin

Mike Brave, guitar

Gabriel Fauré (1845–1924)

Sonata for Piano and Violoncello, Op. 117

Andante

Franca Barton, cello

Amy Sheridan, piano

Dmitry Shostakovich (1906–1975)

Five Pieces

Preludium

Elegy

Gavotte

Katie Shaffer, clarinet

John Warshawsky, viola

Jim Campbell, piano

Bohuslav Martinů (1890–1959)

Trio for Flute, Cello, and Piano

Poco allegretto

Adagio

Andante – Allegretto scherzando

André J. Washington, flute

Phil Wolf, cello

Janna Gray, piano

BIOGRAPHY

Lura Johnson, director

Pianist Lura Johnson is a Steinway Artist and the second prize-winner, as a member of Duo Baltinati with cellist Ilya Finkelshteyn, of the 2015 International Johannes Brahms Competition Chamber Music Division. Hailed as “brilliant” by *The Washington Post*, she is celebrated for her passionate and insightful interpretations of the standard repertoire and esteemed by colleagues for her uncommon sensitivity and skill as a collaborative partner. She is the principal pianist of the Delaware Symphony and has performed extensively as the pianist of choice for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra since 2007. Trained by luminaries Robert McDonald and Leon Fleisher, Johnson’s extensive orchestral collaborators include Pinchas Zukerman, Yo Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, and Midori. Johnson has also performed as soloist with the Baltimore and Delaware Symphonies, performing Rachmaninoff’s First Piano Concerto, Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue*, and the complete Bach Brandenburg Concerti.

Johnson’s discography includes *Turning* (2014), *The Jennings-Johns on Duo* (2001), and *Inner Voice* (2010), featuring sonatas by Rochberg and Shostakovich. This recording of Arvo Pärt’s *spiegel im spiegel* was featured in the official teaser trailer for the 2013 film *Gravity*. Johnson can also be heard on several recordings released by the BSO, including Naxos’ Grammy nominated release of the Bernstein *Mass*, as principal keyboard. Johnson’s. She has recorded for the Foxridge, Naxos, Innova, Centaur, Albany, and Azica labels.

Devoted to chamber music from an early age, her recital partners include Jonathan Carney, Anthony McGill, Ilya Finkelshteyn, Amit Peled, Kenneth Slowik, and Marina Piccinini. She is a founding member of three duos, the Jennings-Johnson Duo, Times Two, and Duo Lalu. She performs with VERGE Ensemble, 21st Century Consort, PostClassical Ensemble, and the Towson New Music Ensemble.

Johnson has taught piano at the Peabody Conservatory since 2002, and from 2013 to 2015 was director of chamber music at Georgetown University. She has taught on the faculty of the Sequoia Chamber Music Workshop and the Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music.

When not onstage, Johnson can be found on the dance floor. She is an avid social and competitive dancer with roots in gymnastics, ballet, and ballroom, specializing now in West Coast Swing.