TREESONG

in concert

A PEABODY INSTITUTE PROJECT
TreeSong

The Music of John Williams
Celebrating Dr. Shiu-Ying Hu

Friedberg Hall
7:30 PM | Sunday, May 12, 2024
Soliloquy for Dr. Shiu-Ying Hu
* A Truly Inspiring Lady
  Matthew Ober (MM ‘25, Flute)

* * *

Program Remarks
  Cynthia Hu, artistic director

* * *

Intermission

* * *

TreeSong
  Michael Djabarov (MM ‘24, Conducting)
  Holly Nelson (DMA, Violin)
Hello, I’m John Williams, writing to you from Los Angeles. I’m delighted that this performance of TreeSong is taking place at Peabody, and I’d like to extend my gratitude to Cynthia Hu and all of the musicians gathered for this special concert.

For many years, it was my habit to walk in the Boston Public Garden, and during these walks, I found myself stopping before a particular tree to admire it. It was a beautiful specimen of the Chinese dawn redwood, or metasequoia, and over time my fascination for it grew into a full-fledged infatuation. I later learned that the dawn redwood dates from the Mesozoic era and, until as recently as the 1940’s, it was thought to be extinct. Fossils of its presence in the deep past existed, but when live specimens were discovered in China, the tree was then referred to as the “living fossil”. Standing before this tree, one could sense its age and feel its wisdom.

I kept this affair of the heart very much to myself until one day, I was introduced to the esteemed Harvard botanist Dr. Shiu-Ying Hu. She explained to me that this tree was the oldest metasequoia in North America and that she had planted it in the late 1940’s using seeds that she had brought with her from China. Years later, when I was given the opportunity to write a piece for the great violinist Gil Shaham, I thought of Dr. Hu and her tree. The result was TreeSong for violin and orchestra.

I am particularly pleased that Peabody’s own Cynthia Hu saw fit to produce this special concert, as Dr. Hu was her great aunt.
# THE ORCHESTRA

**Conductor**

Michael Djabarov, *conductor*

Matthew Ober, *flute soloist*

Holly Nelson, *violin soloist*

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### Violin I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violin I</th>
<th>Flute</th>
<th>Trumpet</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heeyun Cho</td>
<td>Matthew Ober</td>
<td>Rob Greaney</td>
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<tr>
<td>CJ Li</td>
<td>Kristen Isaly</td>
<td>Samantha Obara</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noel Jones</td>
<td>Shawn Manley</td>
<td>Keller Remington</td>
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<td>Isabel Rushall</td>
<td>Frederick Branson</td>
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### Violin II

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<tr>
<th>Violin II</th>
<th>Oboe</th>
<th>Trombone</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hannah Reinschmidt</td>
<td>Elizabeth Perez-Hickman</td>
<td>Hayden Lovinfosse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katherine (Kai) Lin</td>
<td>Henry Armfield</td>
<td>William Qian</td>
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<td>Olivia Choi</td>
<td>Santo Villatoro</td>
<td>Dylan Heid</td>
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### Viola

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<tr>
<th>Viola</th>
<th>Clarinet</th>
<th>Tuba</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judy Yu-Ting Huang</td>
<td>Matthew Rygelski</td>
<td>Liam Staines</td>
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<td>Nathan Hillman</td>
<td>Kayla Stone</td>
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<td>Henry Hung</td>
<td>Dawson Williams</td>
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<td>Matheus Ramos</td>
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### Cello

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<tr>
<th>Cello</th>
<th>Bassoon</th>
<th>Timpani</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marcus Gee</td>
<td>Sean Webster</td>
<td>AJ Hudson</td>
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<td>Celina Chen</td>
<td>Edric Vivoni</td>
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<td>Ola Wozniak</td>
<td>Nikolas Fedorenko</td>
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<td>Faith Zook</td>
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### Bass

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<th>Bass</th>
<th>Horn</th>
<th>Percussion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Esteban Lindo</td>
<td>Simon Yang</td>
<td>Johnny Barker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alyssa Trebat</td>
<td>Andrew Egerstrom</td>
<td>Michael Liu</td>
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<td>Mark McNulty</td>
<td>Bryan Bennett</td>
<td>Karl Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Claire Russell</td>
<td>Suzanka Belik</td>
<td>Hyunwoo Kim</td>
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### Harp

Sachi Ikuma

### Piano

Taylor Wang

### Celeste

Min Joo Yi

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<th>Concertmaster</th>
<th>Principal</th>
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Cynthia Hu, *artistic director*

It is important to showcase this work because it highlights my grand-aunt's impact on her field and those around her. Though she passed in 2012, her work continues to live on and I want to honor her by performing this work for the public 24 years after its premiere. This project also promotes a rather unknown work within Mr. Williams’ compositional catalog, showcasing his versatility as one of history's most accomplished and versatile composers.

This project is not just for me and my family members. It is for everyone. Those who are fans of John Williams, colleagues at both Harvard and Johns Hopkins University, those who strive to promote underrepresented works, those who want to push the boundaries of interdisciplinary collaboration, or simply those who enjoy music and want to support a meaningful partnership.

**PROFILES**

**Matthew Ober** is a flutist, teacher, and leader located in the greater Baltimore-Washington area. He has performed with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra, York Symphony Orchestra, Annapolis Opera Company, the Georgetown Epiphany Festival Orchestra (DC), and at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. His recognition extends to being awarded prizes at the South Carolina Flute Society, the Flute Society of Washington, Flute Society of Greater Philadelphia, and the University of Virginia Flute Forum. He has performed in masterclasses for incredible names, including Marina Piccinini, Leone Buyse, Lorna McGhee, Seth Morris, and the Imani Winds. Matt taught flute lessons at Bishop McNamara High School and maintains a small private studio of students in Maryland and Washington, D.C., where his students have won scholarships and successfully auditioned for regional honor ensembles.

Currently pursuing his master's degree in flute performance at the Peabody Institute as a student of Marina Piccinini, Matt is a dual-degree graduate from the University of Maryland, College Park, earning a BS in information science and a BM in flute performance, studying with Sarah Frisof and Aaron Goldman. Interests in student advocacy and the cross-section of information and the arts has led him to serve on esteemed committees with the university Vice President and Provost, Vice President of Student Affairs, and Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities. Matt is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda, Mortar Board, and Omicron Delta Kappa, where he served as President. Receiving the university’s most prestigious award, the Model Citizenship Prize, Matt was recognized as the Omicron Delta Kappa National Leader of the Year in the Creative and Performing Arts.
Michael Djabarov is a Mexican-American conductor based in Baltimore, Maryland. He is currently studying at the Peabody Institute at the Johns Hopkins University where he is earning his master’s in music degree under the tutelage of Marin Alsop. Michael also attended Peabody for his bachelor’s in music as a double bass performance major under Ira Gold.

Michael, in his very young career, has been given great opportunities in different genres of music and has done so internationally. As an assistant conductor he has worked with notable conductors such as Marin Alsop, Joseph Young, and Amit Peled with pieces ranging from Missy Mazzoli’s opera Proving Up to Mozart’s Haffner Symphony. He has also had the opportunity to work with the Baltimore and National Symphonies in masterclass settings.

Currently, Michael is finishing his master’s degree at the Peabody Institute. He has worked as a freelance conductor where he has premiered commissioned mass’ with local churches and is the head conductor of ECCE Arts, a new music organization based in Northampton, Massachusetts.

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Violinist Holly Nelson received the Peabody Conservatory’s 2022 Presser Award, which “is designed to especially encourage and support the advanced education and careers of truly exceptional graduate music students who have the potential to make a notable contribution to the field of music.” In 2024, she was invited to become concertmaster of the Pan-American Symphony Orchestra, a DC-based ensemble dedicated to performing Latin American orchestral repertoire. She recently appeared with them as soloist at the Argentinian Embassy of the United States and made her Kennedy Center debut as concertmaster of the ensemble in April.

Nelson has appeared in concert as a recitalist, chamber and orchestral musician throughout the United States. Most recently, she performed Astor Piazzolla’s Las Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas as soloist with the Peabody Symphony Orchestra in Baltimore and Washington, DC and Florence Price’s Violin Concerto no. 2 as soloist with the Durham Symphony Orchestra in North Carolina as well as completing an artist residency at Duke University. She has held additional residencies at Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Jazz at Lincoln Center as a violin fellow with The Orchestra Now, and was formerly a member of the Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra (NY). She was a featured artist at the opening gala of the Whitney Museum of American Art’s Biennial in 2010 in New York City and has also appeared in recital at the Fox Performing Arts Theater in El Paso, TX, at National Sawdust in Brooklyn, NY and at the Atlantic Music Festival in Waterville, Maine, where she premiered 23 works for duo, trio and sextet as a contemporary ensemble fellow. Other festival appearances include Britten Pears in England, Banff and Domaine Forget in Canada and the Lucerne Festival in Switzerland. Additionally, she has had the opportunity to perform in France, Austria, Germany, China and Taiwan.

Holly Nelson received her Bachelor of Music degree from the Mannes College of Music in New York City and her Master of Music from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) in Ohio, where she was the teaching assistant to Giora Schmidt. Her other notable professors include Kurt Sassmannshaus, Ann Setzer, Daniel Phillips and Garrett Fischbach. She has taught at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, Fordham University in New York City, The National University of Rosario (Argentina) and the University of Texas - El Paso. She is currently completing her DMA at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University where she studies with violinist Vadim Gluzman as a Dean’s Doctoral Fellow.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Hu Family
Mr. John Williams
Mr. Jamie Richardson

Dean Fred Bronstein
Dean Andrew Kipe
Professor Khandeya Sheppard
Dean Kirsten Lavin
Ms. Georgette Patricio

FURTHER THANKS

Maestro Marin Alsop
Ms. Kathleen DeLaurenti
Dean Samuel Wilson III
Dean Paul Mathews
Ms. Lena Piazza-Leman
Mr. Bret McCabe
Ms. Natalie Colony

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