

Wednesday Noon Hours

Chan Centre for the Performing Arts
February 16, 2022 | 12:00pm

The Sacred and Profane: Music of the Soul

Eric Wilson *cello*, Corey Hamm *piano*

Programme

Abu Ghraib for Cello and Piano

John Harbison (b. 1938)

Sonata No. 1 for Cello and Piano

Alfred Schnittke (1934-1998)

- I. Largo*
- II. Presto*
- III. Largo*

We gratefully acknowledge that we are gathered together for this performance on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

Eric Wilson *cello*

Distinguished Canadian cellist Eric Wilson has performed extensively as soloist and chamber musician throughout North America, Europe and Asia. A student of Claude Kenneson, Leonard Rose and Harvey Shapiro, he received the Morris Loeb Fund Prize for Graduate Strings from the Juilliard School. He was solo cellist of the Ensemble of New York, group in residence at Lincoln Center, as well as a founding member of the Emerson String Quartet when it won the Walter W Naumburg Competition for Chamber Ensembles. He continues to give premiere performances of new works for cello solo and small ensembles a member of NU:BC, a cutting-edge contemporary ensemble. In the fall of 2012, he returned to Taiwan for his fourth tour, giving solo recitals and master classes. In the summer of 2011, he performed as cellist with the Fine Arts Quartet in Prades, France at the 2011 Casals Festival. From 1987, Eric Wilson was Chair of the String Division at the University of British Columbia, School of Music.



Eric began cello lessons in Winnipeg with Ken Murphy and fondly remembers playing as cellist in the Wilson family piano trio together with his sister, pianist, Kerrine and his violinist brother, Carlisle. In later years, he played with his mother, Thelma (Guttormson) Wilson performing in many music centers in the USA, Canada and Europe. Highlights of their performing careers as a duo have included radio broadcasts for the CBC in Winnipeg and Vancouver as well as the National Broadcasting Radio Network in Iceland. Their recital together at the Geneva International Competition in Geneva, Switzerland in 1971 resulted in Eric's having won the Bronze Medal.

As a conductor, Eric Wilson studied orchestra and opera conducting at the Juilliard School in New York with Vincent La Selva, Music Director and Conductor of the New York Grand Opera. He is the Director of the UBC Chamber Strings and has been a guest conductor of the UBC Symphony Orchestra and the Vancouver Chamber Players Orchestras and was Co-Director of the UBC Contemporary Ensemble. On disc, he led the UBC Orchestra on the Centrediscs label to critical acclaim in a recording of Stephen Chapman's, *Tara's Dream* with the UBC Symphony Orchestra recorded at the Chan Center for the performing Arts in Vancouver, Canada.

Corey Hamm *piano*

Pianist Corey Hamm is establishing a unique musical profile performing widely in North America and in Asia as both soloist and chamber musician. His CD of Frederic Rzewski's hour-long solo piano epic *The People United Will Never Be Defeated!* (Redshift Records) won Spotify's Best Classical Recording 2014, and Best Classical Recording at the 2014 Western Canadian Music Awards. He has performed the work over 80 times, most recently pre-COVID 19 in a tour of China (Shanghai, Beijing, Chengdu, Wuhan, Nanxing, Hong Kong, etc.) in Nov. 2018. Corey Hamm's extensive work in the 1990s with the great French composer Henri Dutilleux will come to fruition in his plan to record Dutilleux's complete solo piano and chamber works in the near future. Among his other recording plans is a soon-to-be-released CD of solo works written for him by Keith Hamel, Jocelyn Morlock, Jordan Nobles, Dorothy Chang, and Scott Godin. He performs on Jocelyn Morlock's CD *Halcyon* on Centrediscs.



Corey Hamm has commissioned, premiered and recorded over four hundred works by composers from all over the world. These commissions have been for solo piano, various chamber music formations as well as concerti by Dorothy Chang, Howard Bashaw, Aaron Gervais, and Jordan Nobles.

His most extensive collection of commissioned works includes over 80 pieces for PEP (Piano and Erhu Project), most recently from Michael Finnissy and GAO Ping, and ten composers through an exciting collaboration with CMC and the Eliot Weisgarber workshop. The result is a new and flourishing catalogue of works for piano and erhu composed in the musical languages of the 21st century. This combination of instruments bringing together two of the world's great musical traditions, now has a unique collection of works for Nicole Ge Li and Corey Hamm to draw from for audiences of the 21st century. They have released some of these works on their PEP CDs, Vols. 1, 2, and 3 (Redshift TK437, TK440, TK474). Volume 2 was nominated for Best Classical Recording at the 2015 Western Canadian Music Awards (WCMA), and Volume 3 was nominated for Best Classical Artist at WCMA 2021.

In recent years, Corey Hamm has studied, recorded and toured one of the great piano works of the last decades, Frederic Rzewski's monumental hour-long solo piano epic, *The People United Will Never Be Defeated!* (Redshift TK431). This work, made up of a theme and 36 variations, has been recorded by a small number of pianists including Marc-André Hamelin, Ursula Oppens, and Stephen Drury. Frederic Rzewski received Corey Hamm's interpretation as one of the finest to date. "Excellent! Bravo! This may be the best recording."

Recent and upcoming concerto performances include Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto 3*, Prokofiev *Piano Concerto 2*, Lutoslawski *Piano Concerto*, Rachmaninoff *Piano Concerto 3*, Bartok *Piano Concerto 2*, and

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the world premiere of Dorothy Chang's new PEP *Double Concerto for erhu and piano soloists*. Corey Hamm was soloist in the World Premiere of Jordan Nobles' *Piano Concerto* with Bramwell Tovey and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. He gave the World Premiere of Howard Bashaw's *Concerto for Two Pianos and Percussion* with conductor Grzegorz Nowak and the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, and has recently performed Ravel's *Piano Concerto for the Left Hand*, Faure's *Fantasia*, and Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

Dr. Hamm is Professor of Piano at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, where he was awarded the prestigious Killam Teaching Award, and the Dorothy Somerset Award for Artistic Excellence. He is on the Piano Faculty of the Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice (SICPP) at the New England Conservatory (NEC) in Boston, MusicFest Perugia in Italy, CASSA Musical Arts in Calgary, and the Great Lakes International School of Music (GLSM). His students have won top prizes at the Hilton Head International Piano Competition, Canadian National Music Competition, Eckhardt-Gramatté Contemporary Piano Competition, Stepping Stones Competition, Canadian Music Competition, and have been accepted to such prestigious music schools as Juilliard, Eastman, Boston University, Royal College of Music, Berklee, The Glenn Gould School, San Francisco Conservatory, among others. His beloved teachers include Lydia Artymiw, Marek Jablonski, Stéphane Lemelin, Ernesto Lejano, and Thelma Johannes O'Neill.

Thank you for coming!

*Join us in two weeks on Mar 2 to see pianist **Aljoša Jurinić** perform.
Music by Ludwig van Beethoven and Frédéric Chopin.*

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