



JORDAN BAK, VIOLA  
JI YUNG LEE, PIANO

*Special thanks is extended to the staff, students, and parents of  
Harmony Project KC for this collaborative project.*

**The Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation  
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7:00 P.M., SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023  
FOLLY THEATER  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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## JORDAN BAK, VIOLA JI YUNG LEE, PIANO

### *Siete canciones populares Españolas*

- I. El paño moruno (The moorish cloth)
- II. Seguidilla murciana (Spanish dance in triple time)
- III. Asturiana (Lament from the Asturias)
- IV. Jota (Popular dance often with castanets)
- V. Nana (Andalusian lullaby)
- VI. Canción (Song)
- VII. Polo (Pole)

MANUEL DE FALLA (1876–1946)

arr. EMILIO MATEU/  
MIGUEL ZANETTI

This set was written in 1914 for voice (soprano) and piano and arranged for viola and piano by Emilio Mateu and Miguel Zanetti in 1993. The melodies are based on traditional Spanish folk songs and are meant to express the many emotions associated with love. Manuel de Falla was one of the most prominent and influential Spanish composers of the early 20th Century. *Running time: 12 minutes*

### *Tableau XII* for solo viola

TYSON GHOLSTON DAVIS (b. 2000)

"My piece, *Tableau XII* for solo viola, is a part of a series of solo pieces that I've been writing since the fall of 2019. Each work is for a different solo instrument and explores the expressive possibilities of each. Some composers of the latter half of the 20th century have explored this idea, notably Luciano Berio (14 Sequenzas), Vincent Persichetti (25 Parables), and Elliott Carter (6 Figments and 5 Retracing). Coincidentally, these are some of my favorite composers. This *Tableau* was commissioned by New York Public Radio for violist Jordan Bak." – Quote from Tyson Gholston Davis [www.tysongholsdaviscomposer.com](http://www.tysongholsdaviscomposer.com) *Running time: 3 minutes*

### *ko'u inoa*

ANNE LEILEHUA LANZILOTTI (b. 1983)

Written in 2017, *ko'u inoa* translates from 'ōlelo Hawai'i to "my name is". Composer Anne Leilehua Lanzilotti is a Kanaka Manoli (Native Hawaiian) composer and sound artist and was a finalist for the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for Music. Lanzilotti calls the piece "a homesick bariolage based on the anthem *Hawai'i Aloha*." [www.leilehualanzilotti.com](http://www.leilehualanzilotti.com) *Running time: 5 minutes*

### *Fantasiestücke, Op. 73*

ROBERT SCHUMANN (1810–1856)

- I. Zart und mit Ausdruck (Tenderly and with expression)
- II. Lebhaft, leicht (Lively, light)
- III. Rasch und mit Feuer (Quick and fiery)

These short "Fantasy Pieces" were originally written in 1849 (in just 2 days!) for clarinet. Though each movement depicts a different emotional state, Schumann indicates that they should be played *attacca* or without pause, creating the illusion of one piece that quickly and suddenly changes moods. Romantic-era composer Robert Schumann is especially known for his piano music, lieder (German art song), and orchestral music. *Running time: 12 minutes*

***L'extase d'amour (The Ecstasy of Love)*****H. LESLIE ADAMS (b. 1932)**

This one-movement piece was composed in 2009. The composer instructs that it be played *Larghetto dolce* or rather slowly and sweetly. Cleveland-based composer H. Leslie Adams is best known for his vocal music, but has written symphonies, ballets, choral works, and an opera (*Blake*), and often incorporates elements found in African American traditions. Jordan Bak and pianist Lara Downes released a recording of this piece in 2021.

[www.hleslieadams.com](http://www.hleslieadams.com) *Running time: 9 minutes*

**Viola Sonata****ARNOLD BAX (1883–1953)**

- I. Molto moderato – Allegro (Very moderately – Quickly)
- II. Allegro energico, ma non troppo presto  
(Energetically quick, but not too fast)
- III. Molto lento (Very slow)

English composer Arnold Bax wrote orchestral and other instrumental music, but the Viola Sonata is considered to be his greatest work. Written in 1921-22, the three-movement sonata was likely a tribute to the composer's youthful time living in Ireland before losing many loved ones in the First World War. *Running time: 28 minutes*

***Oblivion***

With students from Harmony Project KC

**ASTOR PIAZZOLLA**

arr. LEE HARTMAN

Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla wrote this piece in 1982. It was featured in the Italian film *Enrico IV (Henry IV)* and has been described as "haunting" and "atmospheric." Piazzolla revolutionized tango, writing more than 1,000 works, and created nuevo tango (new tango), a blend of tango, classical, and jazz. Cellist Yo-Yo Ma stated that "tango has become the soul of Argentina" and that Piazzolla's music is "endlessly passionate—full of yearning—and at the same time tremendously contemporary." *Running time: 4 minutes*

Join us after tonight's concert for a Q&A with Jordan Bak and Ji Yung Lee from the stage. You are invited to move to any open seat at that time. After the Q&A, the artists will sign autographs in the lobby.

# Making Concerts Fun

Thank you for joining us. As the audience, you are an important part of tonight's concert. Practicing the guidelines below will help create an enjoyable and memorable experience for everyone. Our friendly ushers and staff are nearby to answer any of your questions.

## We are glad you are here!

When should I...



### USE THE RESTROOM AND GET A DRINK

Before the concert starts or during intermission. You may bring your drinks to your seats. Restrooms are located in the lobbies.



### APPLAUD

Show your appreciation to the artists but only after a song is finished. Mr. Bak will indicate with his body language when a piece is over.



### TALK OR TEXT

Talking and texting during the performance is distracting to the artist and those around you; save these for the 20-minute intermission or after the concert.



### USE MY PHONE

Please turn off all phones and devices that can make noise and give your full attention to the artists on stage.



### TAKE PHOTOS

Take photos before and after the concert, during intermission, and during the Q&A. Photos and videos are not allowed during the concert.



### LEAVE MY SEAT

Leave only during intermission and after the concert, if possible.

## JORDAN BAK, VIOLA



Photo by Rubina Lee

■ Award-winning Jamaican-American violist Jordan Bak has achieved international acclaim as a trailblazing artist, praised for his radiant stage presence, dynamic interpretations, and fearless power. Critics have described him as “an exciting new voice in Classical performance” (*I Care If You Listen*), “a powerhouse musician, with a strong voice and compelling sound” (*The Whole Note*) and lauded his “haunting lyrical grace” (*Gramophone*). The 2021 YCAT Robey Artist and a top laureate of the 2020 Sphinx Competition, Bak is also a Grand Prize winner and Audience Prize recipient of the 2019 Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition, the recipient of the 2019 Samuel Sanders Tel Aviv Museum Prize, and the 2019 John White Special Prize from the Tertis International Viola Competition. Other recent accolades include being named one of *ClassicFM*’s “30 Under 30” Rising Stars, *Musical America*’s New Artist of the Month, and being a featured artist for WQXR’s inaugural Artist Propulsion Lab.

Bak’s enthusiastically received debut album *IMPULSE (Bright Shiny Things)* was released in May 2022, garnering over one million streams on major digital media platforms and featuring new compositions by Tyson Gholston Davis, Toshio Hosokawa, Anne Leilehua Lanzilotti, Quinn Mason, Jeffrey Mumford, and Joan Tower. A proud new music advocate, Bak gave the world premieres of Kaija Saariaho’s *Du gick, flög* for viola and mezzo-soprano, Jessica Meyer’s *Excessive Use of Force* for solo viola and *On fire...no, after you* for viola, mezzo-soprano, and piano, and Augusta Read Thomas’ *Upon Wings of Words* for string quartet and soprano. He has additionally championed works by H. Leslie Adams, Esteban Zapata Blanco, Carlos Carillo, Caroline Shaw, and Alvin Singleton.

Bak has appeared as soloist with such orchestras as Sarasota Orchestra, London Mozart Players, New York Classical Players, Juilliard Orchestra, and Brandon Hill

Chamber Orchestra among others, and has performed under such esteemed conductors as Howard Griffiths, Stephen Mulligan, Keith Lockhart, Gerard Schwarz, and Ewa Strusińska. As a recitalist and chamber musician, he has been heard at some of the world’s greatest performance venues including Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Wigmore Hall, Jordan Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, Princeton University Concerts, Perelman Theater at The Kimmel Center, Elgar Concert Hall, and Helsinki Musiikkitalo. Bak’s recent performances include recitals at Kravis Center, Wiltshire Music Centre, and Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and is looking forward to upcoming concerts at the Concertgebouw and at the Schleswig-Holstein and Lichfield music festivals.

Bak has been a presence at numerous chamber music festivals such as Marlboro Music Festival, Tippet Rise, Chamber Music Northwest, Roman River Festival, and Newport Classical, and has appeared during the year at Chamber Music Detroit, Chamber Music Society of Central Virginia, and Chamber Music Society of Little Rock. Recent and upcoming highlights include NEXUS Chamber Music, Brooklyn Chamber Music Society, and Emory University, as well as an upcoming tour with Musicians from Marlboro. Bak has performed as a guest with the Verona Quartet and Merz Trio and has collaborated with such artists as Jonathan Biss, Lara Downes, Jennifer Frautschi, Ani Kavafian, Soovin Kim, Charles Neidich, Marina Piccinini, and Gilles Vonsattel.

Passionate about education, Bak currently serves as Assistant Professor of Viola at Bowling Green State University. He is a former faculty member of Opportunity Music Project in New York and serves as a visiting artist and Ambassador for Music Masters in London. Additionally, he has given masterclasses at Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (UK), Conservatorio del Tolima (Colombia), and the Brevard Music Center.

Only the third violist to earn the Artist Diploma from The Juilliard School, Jordan Bak holds a Bachelor of Music degree from New England Conservatory and a Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School where he was awarded the prestigious Kovner Fellowship. His principal teachers were Dimitri Murrath, Hsin-Yun Huang, and Samuel Rhodes.

Jordan Bak plays a 2016 viola made by Jon van Kouwenhoven. He is married to violist Rubina Bak and shares two cats, Bartok and Walton. An avid car buff, he drives a very loud Dodge Dakota 5.9 R/T.

## JI YUNG LEE, PIANO



Photo by Jiyang Chen

■ Hailed by *Gramophone* for her “beautiful playing” and “intimate internal dialogues,” pianist Ji Yung Lee is an active performer and has made appearances with various instrumentalists and singers at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She has also captivated audiences via numerous radio broadcasts including WQXR (New York), MPR (Minnesota), and WFMT (Chicago).

Lee's passion for vocal music has been a significant part

of her musical journey. She has worked with Boston Lyric Opera (BLO), Victory Hall Opera, Boston Arts Song Society, Korea Chamber Opera Festival, Juilliard's Drama division, and Amelia Island Opera. She was selected as the Coach of the Month for BLO's Emerging Artist program in November 2022. She has participated as a vocal piano fellow in festivals including Music Academy of the West, Aspen Music Festival and School, SongFest, and Hawaii Performing Arts Festival.

In addition to her extensive vocal repertoire, Lee is enthusiastic about instrumental chamber music. She actively performs with internationally-acclaimed instrumentalists throughout the United States, as well as mentoring and playing for young musicians at music festivals. She played with violist Jordan Bak in his debut album *Impulse* in 2022. She has served as a staff pianist both at The Juilliard School and New England Conservatory.

Believing in music as a powerful tool of communication, Ji Yung Lee is the director of Mtree's Carnegie's Weill Hall program for children and teenagers in Kilifi, Kenya supporting them through their journey of self-discovery and emotional growth. ([www.Mtree.org](http://www.Mtree.org))

B.M., Yonsei University (South Korea). M.M., G.D., New England Conservatory. G.D., The Juilliard School. Prize Winner of 2017 Salieri-Zinetti International Chamber Music Competition. Current faculty, New England Conservatory.

## About the Harriman-Jewell Series

**QUALITY:** The world's finest artists

**VARIETY:** Widely varied artistic programming

**DIVERSITY:** Artists and ensembles of all backgrounds and genres

**DISCOVERY:** Rising-star performers

- The Harriman-Jewell Series started in 1965 and this year we celebrated our 1,000th concert!
- We have presented a total of 24 American recital debuts, including the career recital debut of superstar tenor Luciano Pavarotti in 1973. And we will have 2 American recital debuts next season!
- Our artists are not typically based in Kansas City and travel here from out of town (and sometimes, from out of the country) to perform for you. Most of our events are one-night only!

## About Discovery Concerts

Tonight is our 61st Free Discovery Concert since starting them in 2004 and our **first ever viola solo recital on the Series!** Next season, we offer you more exciting Free Discovery Concerts, each at the Folly Theater. [www.hjseries.org/discovery](http://www.hjseries.org/discovery)



Mahani Teave, piano  
Sat, Sep 9, 2023  
Music from her album  
*Rapa Nui Odyssey*



Kelly Hall-Tompkins, violin  
Fri, Nov 10, 2023  
Music from *Fiddler on the Roof*



Santiago Cañon-Valencia, cello  
Sun, May 5, 2024  
With Harmony Project KC