OPEN DOOR
CONCERT SERIES
2020 - 2021 SEASON

Williamsburg Presbyterian Church
Joseph Haydn  
(1732–1809)  
Allegro con spirito  
from String Quartet in G-major, Op 76, no. 1  
Adrian Pintea and Alana Carithers, violins  
Kimberly Sparr, viola  
Stephanie Barrett, cello

Charles Koechlin  
(1867–1950)  
Pastorale for flute, clarinet, and piano

Guillaume Connesson  
(b. 1970)  
Techno Parade  
Jennifer Lawson, flute  
David Lemelin, clarinet  
Daniel Stipe, piano

William Grant Still  
(1895–1978)  
Mother and Child  
from Suite for violin and piano  
Susanna Klein, violin  
Maria Yefimova, piano

Wendell Rosa  
Duo for Double Bass and Violin  
Susanna Klein, violin  
Ayca Kartari, double bass

Jessie Montgomery  
(b. 1981)  
Strum  
Adrian Pintea and Alana Carithers, violins  
Kimberly Sparr, viola  
Stephanie Barrett, cello

Francis Poulenc  
(1899–1963)  
Trio for oboe, bassoon, and piano  
I. Presto  
II. Andante  
III. Rondo  
Shawn Welk, oboe  
David Lemelin, clarinet  
Thomas Schneider, bassoon  
Daniel Stipe, piano

William Grant Still  
(1895–1978)  
Duo for Double Bass and Violin  
Susanna Klein, violin  
Ayca Kartari, double bass
Even the coldest, darkest days of winter hold the promise of the spring to come. For the past year, the world has wrestled in the grip of pandemic—a devastating plague which has robbed us all of so much. Yet even in dark times such as these, there lies the promise of change—of healing and restoration. In this concert, the Atlantic Chamber Ensemble explores the arc of emotion we’ve endured as a people this past year under the ever present shadow of disease and death.

The program begins with the playful naïveté of a Joseph Haydn String Quartet and the peaceful contentment of Charles Koechlin’s Pastorale, soon interrupted by the frightfully anxious machinations of Guillaume Connesson’s Techno Parade. Out of this alarming contrast flows the comforting richness of WIlliam Grant Still’s “Mother and Child” movement from his Suite for Violin. Through these opening selections, ACE traces the terrifying intrusion the Covid virus made into our lives last year.

Following the Still is Wendell Rosa’s Duo for Violin and Double Bass. A talented young black composer and double bassist, Rosa writes of his Duo: “What gave life to [this] music was a philosophical thought about the ascension of a forgotten battle, which happens inside of the character himself.” The hypnotic and unrelenting intensity of the music truly captures this epic battle we’ve all been waging with this virus, both as individuals grappling with loss, loneliness, and fear, and as a society fumbling for answers and control.

Next is Jessie Montgomery’s Strum for string quartet. An uplifting and hopeful work, the piece explores textural motives (plucking/strumming sounds) as it gradually unfurls into a joyous dance. Francis Poulenc’s Trio for Oboe, Bassoon, and Piano follows next. Poulenc’s music pits elements of melancholy and frivolity over the course of three short movements. It is three good friends who’ve found a way to have fun and laugh even while remembering pain and sadness.

To end the program, ACE has chosen Bohuslav Martinu’s Nonet No. 2 for winds and strings. Over the course of three movements, the Nonet aptly summarizes the journey and struggle of the past year. Martinu completed the piece just before his own death in 1959, and it offers a remarkable insight into his own battle with cancer. A bouncy first movement allegro gives way to an uncertain and deeply sad andante. The dance-like joy of the finale gives us a sense of the acceptance, contentment, and hope we can find even amid the trials and tribulations of life. Concluding the program with the Nonet seems particularly fitting given that ACE performed it on their very first concert. In this tenth anniversary of that first season, ACE President Shawn Welk writes: “Just as Martinu’s Nonet brought us together as a group then to share our love of music, it does so again. Though distanced and masked, we find this music reaches easily across the divide to renew our hope and nourish our souls. We hope it does the same for you!”
Atlantic Chamber Ensemble

Having launched our inaugural season in the fall of 2011, the Atlantic Chamber Ensemble is a dynamic group of young professional musicians based in Richmond, Virginia, and composed of members of the Richmond Symphony and faculty members at institutions such as Virginia Commonwealth University, the College of William & Mary, and the University of Richmond.

While showcasing the talent of the Richmond area on the national stage through recording and touring, our mission is to build new kinds of connections with the people of our community via innovative programming, formats, venues, and community interaction, as well as through partnerships with local organizations.

With our unique combination of strings, winds, and piano, we continue to program a great variety of musical styles for forces both large and small, with a firm commitment to programming works seldom heard due to their unusual instrumentations.

Atlantic Chamber Ensemble members are:

Stephanie Barrett, cello
Alana Carithers, violin
Ayca Kartari, double bass
Susanna Klein, violin
Erin Lano, horn
Jennifer Lawson, flute
David Lemelin, clarinet
Adrian Pintea, violin
Thomas Schneider, bassoon
Kimberly Sparr, viola
Daniel Stipe, piano
Shawn Welk, oboe;
Maria Yefimova, piano

2020–2021 Memorial and Honorary Remembrances

In memoriam

Gifts were given in memory of

Dave Stewart by Pat and Dick Hubbard
Gerald B. Stirling by Barbara Stirling
Hans Geyer by Lilian Geyer
Husband, Parents and Brother by Betsy Anderson
Lloyd Moore, Jr., by Marie Haynes
Marshall Atkins and Marilyn S. Taylor by Morris and Carolyn Morgan
Parents of Sam and Jackie Bowlin by Sam and Jackie Bowlin
Philip G. Padgett Jr. by Elizabeth Padgett
Rev. Edward O. Poole by Marion Poole
Robert H. Cropp by Gloria Cropp
Roger Allen and Elizabeth Allen by Kay Allen
Ross Payne by Sylvia Payne
Shirley Rumer by Virginia Dittman (D)

In honorem

Gifts were given in honor of

Ann Schulte by Lowery and Carole McNeel
John Kellam by Pat and Dick Hubbard
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