

Blake McGee, clarinet
Sam Ou, cello
Chi-Chen Wu, piano

Thursday, October 14
7:30 pm
BCPA Concert Hall

Program

Trio in B-flat major, Op. 11 (1798) Ludwig van Beethoven
Allegro con brio (1770-1827)
Adagio
Tema con variazioni (Pria ch'io l'impegno)

Fantasy Trio (1969) Robert Muczynski
Allegro energico (1929-2010)
Andante con espressione
Allegro deciso
Introduction and Finale. Andante molto e sostenuto

Intermission

Trio in A minor, Op. 114 (1891) Johannes Brahms
Allegro (1833-1897)
Adagio
Andantino grazioso – Trio
Allegro

* *The Formosa Duo (Sam Ou and Chi-Chen Wu) is presenting a cello-piano recital at BCPA concert hall on Saturday, October 16 at 7:30 pm. The program features works by Jessie Montgomery, William Grant Still, Adolphus Hailstork, Tyzen Hsiao, and Ernst von Dohnányi.*

Blake McGee

Dr. Blake McGee is assistant professor of clarinet at the University of Wyoming. A native of the west coast, Dr. McGee performed as a member of the Portland Opera, Vancouver Symphony, and the Oregon Mozart Players chamber orchestra. He is currently principal clarinet of the Wyoming Symphony and second clarinet with the Cheyenne Symphony.

Dr. McGee maintains an active schedule of performance engagements, master classes, and clinics throughout world, including recent residencies in Thailand, China, and Montenegro. He regularly collaborates with active living composers on new solo works for the clarinet and performs several premiers each year. His interest in a multitude of styles ranging from traditional classical, to folk, to free improvisation and avant-garde has made McGee an extremely versatile performer.

Formosa Duo

Since earning their respective doctorate of musical arts degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music (NEC), pianist Chi-Chen Wu and cellist Sam Ou have been collaborating as the Formosa Duo for over a decade. While respectively maintaining music faculty positions at the University of Wyoming and NEC's Preparatory School & School of Continuing Education, Ms. Wu and Mr. Ou have individually appeared as recitalists, chamber musicians, and concerto soloists in the United States, Canada, France, Italy, Spain, Mexico, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Luxembourg, Poland, and

Bermuda. Music festivals in which they have collectively participated include Aspen, Tanglewood, Sarasota, Musicorda, Santa Fe, La Jolla, and Monadnock.

As a duo, Ms. Wu and Mr. Ou studied with Irma Vallecillo and Laurence Lesser at NEC. The diverse repertoire that they have performed encompasses a wide stylistic span, from the Classical and Romantic periods, through the 20th century and into the present. Particularly, contemporary music is a passion for both musicians. Ms. Wu has premiered the piano version of John Harbison's *The Great Gatsby*, *The Poet and The War* by Norber Palej (world premiere), and Ralf Gawlick's *Best Regards, Bruno* (world premiere). Recent notable contemporary music performances include *Concertino for Piano*, *Winds and Timpani* by George Perle and Malcolm Williamson's Piano Concerto No. 2. Mr. Ou has performed Yehudi Wyner's *Tanz and Maisele* with violinist Lucy Chapman and the Pulitzer prize-winning composer at the piano in New York City. He has also performed works by Ralph Shapey, Scott Wheeler, Lee Hyla, and Larry Bell in Boston's Jordan Hall. He soloed with the Boston Civic Symphony in the world premiere performance of Mr. Bell's *Cello Concerto*. As the Formosa Duo, Ms. Wu and Mr. Ou performed the world premiere of John Kramer's *Sonata for Piano and Cello*. During the pandemic, the Duo maintained fervent support of contemporary music and collaborated with student composers from the University of Florida, culminating in a final recording project of their compositions, all recorded and edited remotely.

Sam Ou

Praised for his "impassioned performance" (Boston Globe) and playing "with remarkable ease and clarity, while maintaining a graceful—if vociferous—line that fit well into the narrative" (The Boston Musical Intelligencer), cellist **Sam Ou** enjoys an active musical life in the Greater Boston area. A recipient of the best cello concerto performance prize at the Kingsville International Young Performers Competition, Mr. Ou has performed at Tanglewood, Sarasota, Musicorda, Santa Fe, and La Jolla music festivals. He gave the world premiere performance of Larry Bell's Cello Concerto with the Boston Civic Symphony at New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall (NEC).

An avid chamber musician, Mr. Ou has collaborated and performed with the Borromeo String Quartet, James Buswell, Hung-Kuan Chen, Pi-Hsien Chen, James Dunham, Thomas Hill, Patricia McCarty, Paul Neubauer, Heiichiro Ohyama, Lois Shapiro, and Marcus Thompson. He performed Yehudi Wyner's *Tanz and Maisele* with violinist Lucy Chapman and the Pulitzer prize-winning composer at the piano at The Center for Jewish History in New York. As one-half of the Formosa Duo, he performs regularly with pianist Chi-Chen Wu.

A faculty member and assistant string chairperson at NEC's Preparatory School and School of Continuing Education, Mr. Ou has also taught at the Vianden International Music Festival in Luxembourg, the Walnut Hill Music Festival in Natick, MA, and Point Counterpoint in Leicester, VT. Mr. Ou released a CD entitled *With String & Pipe* in collaboration with the late organist Harry Lyn Huff. He was also featured in Larry Bell's CDs entitled *In a Garden of Dreamers*. Please visit his website at samweiou.weebly.com.

Chi-Chen Wu

www.ccwpiano.com

Praised by Fanfare Magazine for her "astonishing" and "poetic piano playing" and "symphonic, expansive texture of breathless virtuosity" (Historical Keyboard Society), pianist Chi-Chen Wu has appeared as recitalist, chamber musician, and concerto soloist in the United States, Canada, France, Italy, Spain, Japan, Taiwan, China, Thailand, the Aspen Music Festival, Monadnock Music Festival, and the Boston Early Music Festival Fringe Concert Series, among others. Her concerts have been broadcast on NPR's Simply Grand Concert Series and NPR-From The Top in Boston. Musicians and conductors with whom she has concertized include Karl-Heinz Steffens, Jonathan McPhee, Zuill Bailey, members of the Juilliard String Quartet, Takács String Quartet, musicians from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra as well as New York Philharmonic. American Record Guide chooses her recording of Schumann duo sonatas as one of the top recordings, and

recommends its reader to “Stick with Kremer and Argerich (Nov/Dec 1987) or DiEugenio and Wu (Sept/Oct 2015) for more enthusiastic performances.”

Chi-Chen’s newest album of *Schumann Fantasie and Carnaval* has won a silver medal in the Global Music Awards. Her recording of the complete Schumann sonatas for piano and violin received two gold medals from the same competition. The highlights of recent professional activities include performances as soloist in Beethoven’s Triple Concerto and Wöfl’s Piano Concerto No. 1, a two-month artist-teacher residency at Boston College, concert tour in Spain, as well as master classes and lectures in Asia.