

UP CLOSE AND CLASSICAL

Program of the September 14-15 concerts

João Guilherme Ripper
(born 1959)

Duo Sonatina for oboe and cello
Three movements: 1. Allegro 2. Calmo 3. Rondo-Tango

"Duo Sonatina" is a three-movement piece for oboe and cello centered in the music of Brazil and Argentina. The first movement (Allegro) is set in traditional sonata form with two contrasting themes. The second movement, "Calmo" (Calm), features a poignant melody in the fashion of a Brazilian popular tune called "cantiga" (little song). The last movement, "Rondo-Tango," is full of virtuoso passages in the style of the Argentinean bandoneon player and composer Astor Piazzolla (Jeanné music). Duration 12 minutes.

Robert Schumann (arr. for trio Theodor Kirchner) Studies in a canonic form opus 56
(1810 - 1853)

2- Mit innigem Ausdruck (A minor)
3- Andantino (E major)
5- Nicht zu schnell (B minor)

In the early months of 1845, Schumann became preoccupied with counterpoint. He installed a pedal board on his piano, and composed the Six Studies, Op. 56, Pedal pianos are very rare now. Theodor Kirchner, who arranged the music for piano trio, was a Leipzig Conservatory student during Schumann's tenure there. Each piece involves a short melody tossed between the voices in question-and-answer fashion. Far from academic exercises, they are short character pieces, like songs without words.
Duration: 8 minutes

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1896)

Three songs (cello and piano)
Wie Melodien zieht es mir Op. 105 pub.1888,
Mondenschein Op. 85 pub.1882
Lerchengesang Op. 70 pub. 1877

The "German Lied" can be identified as a fusion of text, melody and accompaniment. There are nearly 300 art songs and folk songs arrangements of Brahms published. Brahms also used many of these melodies in his instrumental music, for example opus 105 in his Violin Sonata #2. *Duration: 8 minutes.*

Alyssa Morris
(born 1985)

Four personalities (oboe and piano)
Four movements: Yellow, White, Blue and Red

Four Personalities (composed in 2007) is a four-movement work for oboe and piano based on the Hartman personality test. Yellow is fun-loving. White is kind, adaptable, and a good listener. Blue brings great gifts of service, loyalty, sincerity, and thoughtfulness. Motivated by power, Red is aggressive and assertive. *Duration: 12 minutes.*

Francis Poulenc
(1899-1963)

Trio for Oboe, Cello, and Piano FP 43
Three movements: Presto, Andante and Rondo.

This trio was written between 1924 and 1926. "Poulenc was consciously pursuing a neo-classical ideal, bearing in mind the examples of Stravinsky and Debussy. The work is in the traditional form of three movements, and in an attempt to show that he was interested in musical form, Poulenc explained that the trio's first movement follows the form of a Haydn Allegro and the final Rondo, the Scherzo of Saint-Saëns's Piano Concerto No. 2. Yet he retains a slightly ironic attitude to the Baroque tradition." (excerpt from Benjamin Ivrys' biography of Francis Poulenc". *Duration: 12 minutes,*

About the performers:

Rong-Huey Liu, Oboe

Dr. Rong-Huey Liu is a Marigaux Artist who performs frequently as a soloist, a Hollywood recording studio musician and holds the principal oboe positions in the Long Beach Symphony, Los Angeles Ballet, Fresno Philharmonic and Riverside County Philharmonic. Deeply committed to music education, Dr. Rong-Huey Liu is currently the oboe professor at California State University Fullerton, La Sierra University, and Riverside City College. She holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the Manhattan School of Music, and Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music.

Alicja Blanquart, Cello

Alicja graduated from Eastman School of Music and earned her Masters Degree in Cello Performance at the University of Southern California. She is an avid chamber musician, was a guest artist in a solo performances at the Chopin to Gorecki Festival in Warsaw Conservatory in Poland and is the co-founder of the UP CLOSE AND CLASSICAL series. She is member of the Fresno Philharmonic and regularly performs with the Santa Barbara, the Long Beach symphonies and other professional orchestras in California. She teaches cello privately in Long Beach. (<http://www.longbeachcello.com>)

Vivian Liu, Piano

Vivian Liu, based in Alhambra, CA, US, is currently a Piano Teacher at Dr Liu Piano Studio, bringing experience from previous roles at Azusa Pacific University, LA Opera Education Program, National Children's Chorus and Chapman University. Vivian Liu holds a Master of Music in Piano @ Manhattan School of Music. With a robust skill set that includes Pianist, Classical, Opera, Keyboardist, Music Education and more, Vivian Liu contributes valuable insights to the industry.

Full bios can be found at <https://upcloseandclassical.com/next/>

———— Next Concerts ————

Nov. 30-Dec. 1st 2024 (Thanksgiving), Mozart “dissonance”, Brahms #1 string quartets
January 2025 (TBD) - Clarinet trio, featuring Ingolf Dahl’s “Concerto a tre”

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