

WILLIAM PERRY
The Nightingale in the Park

American composer William Perry has written for stage, film and concert hall. He is perhaps best known for the more than one hundred scores he composed and recorded for great films of the silent era, but his symphonic and chamber works have also been widely performed. In this programmatic piece the violin describes a nightingale flying into a park at twilight and observing a variety of events including children at play, lovers walking hand in hand, a fountain and a carousel. At the end, he flies to the highest branch as night falls.

LEOŠ JANÁČEK
Sonata for Violin and Piano

Leoš Janáček provided a unique voice in 20th century music, and the originality of his speech-inflected opera writing is found in his instrumental works as well. In the Violin Sonata, which he worked on for nearly eight years, he responded to the events of World War I and said "I could just about hear the sounds of steel clashing in my troubled head." Much of this impassioned piece is terse and rugged, but the second movement has a calm lyricism, and the close of the final movement presents a chorale-like theme suggesting liberation from "the Russian armies entering Hungary."

MANUEL DE FALLA
Danse Espagnole from « La Vida Breve »

This dance, which takes place during wedding celebrations in de Falla's opera, *La Vida Breve*, composed in 1905, is one of the most popular pieces of Spanish classical music. It is also a favorite of concert violinists because of the showpiece arrangement by the legendary soloist, Fritz Kreisler, which will be played tonight.

BEDŘICH SMETANA
« From My Homeland » No. 2 in G Minor

Composer of the popular symphonic poem, *The Moldau (Vltava* in Czech), Bedřich Smetana is considered to be the father of Czech national music. Dating from 1880, his two movement suite, *From My Homeland*, exhibits a melodic gift that often reflects folk influences. The andantino G Minor movement invites the listener into a world of quiet lyricism that suddenly and surprisingly turns into vivacious dancing.

RICHARD RODNEY BENNETT
Waltz from « Murder on the Orient Express »

The British composer, Sir Richard Rodney Bennett, has written some of the best-loved film scores of our time, including *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Enchanted April*, *Far From the Madding Crowd* and *Nicholas and Alexandra*. His Waltz from *Murder on the Orient Express* describes a train slowly getting under way and then gradually reaching full speed. This arrangement for the Albek Duo includes a part for an Acme Thunderer, the whistle used to start trains throughout Europe.

BÉLA BARTÓK
Romanian Folk Dances

The *Romanian Folk Dances* are among Bartók's most popular works. The original version was written for piano, but numerous transcriptions have been made, including one for orchestra by the composer himself. A version by Zoltán Székely for violin and piano is frequently played, but tonight's arrangement for viola and piano by Alan Arnold, edited by the composer's son, Peter Bartók, is rarely heard.

ALESSANDRO LUCCHETTI
Fantasy on Themes from Giacomo Puccini's « Tosca »

The versatile Alessandro Lucchetti is a composer, arranger and pianist whose works have been performed throughout the world. A founder of the musical trend *Neoromantica*, he has extensively researched the fusion of musical genres and culture, including jazz, rock, oriental music and Afro-American themes. He has made numerous arrangements of both classical and popular music, and his *Fantasy on Themes from "Tosca"* is the first of several such opera-based fantasies he has composed for the Albek Duo.



ALBEK DUO

Ambra Albek, *violin and viola*
Fiona Albek, *piano*

Burchfield Penney Art Center

1300 Elmwood Avenue

Buffalo, New York

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

7:30 PM



