



Guest Artists Recital

Laurie Smukler, violin
Robert McDonald, piano

Friday, February 2, 2024 at 7:30 pm
László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building

Violin Sonata No. 27 in G major, K. 379/373a
Adagio - Allegro
Andantino cantabile

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-91)

Violin Sonata No. 5, Op. 53
Andante con moto
Allegro molto
Allegro moderato
Allegro - Andante - Allegretto

Mieczysław Weinberg
(1919-96)

-intermission-

Violin Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 18
Allegro, ma non troppo
Improvisation: Andante cantabile
Finale: Andante - Allegro

Richard Strauss
(1864-1949)

About the Artists

Laurie Smukler began her studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music and started playing as a soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra at the age of 14. She earned her BM from The Juilliard School, where she studied with Ivan Galamian; other Juilliard faculty who have had a powerful influence on her development are Donald Weilerstein and Robert Mann.

The founding first violinist of the Mendelssohn String Quartet, Smukler has been co-director of the Collection in Concert series at the Pierpont Morgan Library, and played on many chamber music series and been a guest artist at many festivals. She has been on the faculties of Purchase College Conservatory of Music, Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival and School, the Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College, and the Bard College Conservatory. She gives master classes and has played premieres of works by Shulamit Ran, Ned Rorem, Tobias Picker, Bruce Adolphe, John Harbison, and others. She has recorded for Music Masters.

Pianist **Robert McDonald** has toured extensively as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia, and South America. He has performed with major orchestras in the U.S. and was a recital partner with violinist Isaac Stern for many years. He has participated in the Marlboro, Casals, and Lucerne festivals, performed with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and for broadcasts over BBC Television. He has also appeared with the Takács, Vermeer, Juilliard, Brentano, Borromeo, American, Shanghai, and St. Lawrence string quartets as well as with Musicians from Marlboro. McDonald's prizes include the gold medal at the Busoni International Piano Competition, the top prize at the William Kapell International Competition, and the Deutsche Schallplatten Critics Award.

His teachers include Theodore Rehl, Seymour Lipkin, Rudolf Serkin, Mieczyslaw Horszowski, Beveridge Webster, and Gary Graffman. He holds degrees from Lawrence University, the Curtis Institute of Music, Juilliard, and the Manhattan School of Music. A member of the piano faculty at Juilliard since 1999, McDonald has taught at the Curtis Institute since 2007, where he holds the Penelope P. Watkins Chair in piano studies. During the summer, he is the artistic director of New Mexico's Taos School of Music and Chamber Music Festival.