Pyxis Piano Quartet

ENSEMBLE IN RESIDENCE

Continental Bridges

August 20, 2020 at 8 pm via Livestream

DEL ART delaware art museum

2019 – 2020 SEASON

2301 Kentmere Parkway
Wilmington, DE 19806
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Luigi Mazzocchi, violin
Amy Leonard, viola
Jennifer Jie Jin, cello
Hiroko Yamazaki, piano

Piano Trio No. 2 in B minor, Op. 76 (1933)
Joaquín Turina (1882–1949)
I. Lento
II. Molto vivace
III. Lento – Andante mosso - Allegretto

Intermezzo for String Trio **(1905)**
Zoltán Kodály (1882–1967)

INTERMISSION

Piano Quartet No. 2 in E-flat Major, Op. 87 (1889)
Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904)
I. Allegro con fuoco
II. Lento
III. Allegro moderato grazioso
IV. Finale: Allegro ma non troppo

Support provided by Art Bridges. Funded in part by The Amphion Foundation, Inc. Additional support is provided by Capital and Worth in association with H&R Block. This program is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on www.DelawareScene.com.

About this evening's program...

This evening, under the beautiful Chihuly Bridge – which is one of the iconic images of the Museum and a major artwork connecting ancient techniques with modern artistry – Pyxis explores three compositions that celebrate the links that the composers have had with their homelands.

The Museum gratefully acknowledges Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Fleming for their special support of this concert.

About this evening's composers...

JOAQUÍN TURINA

Joaquín Turina (1882–1949) was a noted Spanish composer (born in Seville) who worked for much of his life in Madrid. His wide-ranging career encompassed works for orchestra, the stage, piano, guitar, voice, and chamber ensembles. His often-rapturous music is infused with the grace of the Spanish rhythms of his homeland, but tonight's Piano Trio also shows the influence of his youthful studies in Paris, where Turina met the leading French composers of the time, including Debussy.

ZOLTÁN KODÁLY

Zoltán Kodály (1882–1967) is noted for melodic, inventive work often based on the Hungarian folk songs he collected on phonograph cylinders in remote villages for his doctoral dissertation. As a noted music educator, he developed the widely used Kodály Method. The composer wrote, toured, and conducted for over 70 years, effectively bridging the 19th and 20th centuries. This early string Intermezzo illustrates the love of his native folk songs that infused much of Kodály's music.

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK

Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904) played the violin from age six and was a well-respected orchestra musician in the Bohemian Provisional Theater Orchestra and other ensembles. Orchestral playing exposed him to a wide variety of symphonic and operatic works. Dvořák often weaves folk melodies into his sophisticated classical compositions, and the composer's output (189 works) included ten operas, nine symphonies and much chamber music, including the beautiful Piano Quartet heard in tonight's program.

Pyxis Piano Quartet – The second decade!

Founded in 2009 as the Delaware Art Museum's resident classical artists, Pyxis Piano Quartet – a vibrant musical presence in the mid-Atlantic region – has been heard to acclaim along the East Coast from Virginia to Pennsylvania. Their compelling, engaging and informative concerts feature chamber music works from the sonata, duo, and trio repertoire as well as traditional and contemporary masterpieces for piano quartet. This season opens their second decade in residence as they join the Museum's wide-ranging Performance Series.

Recent highlights include return engagements at the German Society (Philadelphia); Newark (DE) Free Library; "Celebrate the Arts" series at Doylestown Presbyterian Church (PA); Kent Chamber Music Series (MD); Saint Monica's Church (Berwyn, PA); and Smyrna Opera House (DE). Recent debut appearances include the Cultural Center at Havre de Grace Opera House (MD) and the Annie M. Gaul Concert Series at St. John's (Hain's) Church (Wernersville, PA). Other notable performances include Delaware Symphony's Chamber Series at the Hotel duPont; Concerts on the Square at Holy Trinity Rittenhouse (Philadelphia); Harmony for Peace Foundation benefit; and recitals at Delaware Chamber Music Festival and Villanova University.

Pyxis believes in the importance of the music of our time and has collaborated with regional composers including Ingrid Arauco, Chuck Holdeman, and David Schelat, who wrote a new work for their 10th anniversary season. The ensemble's violinist Luigi Mazzocchi has arranged works for the group, which also delights in working with esteemed musical guest artists and ensembles. The musicians of Pyxis are also committed educators. As private instructors they have a significant impact on their community, reaching over 80 students on a weekly basis. The ensemble has performed and coached sectionals and chamber music in a variety of settings.

The group takes its name from the Pyxis constellation, also known as the Mariners' Compass, whose symbol is the compass rose. The points of the compass rose represent the new artistic directions that the group explores together while recognizing the differing backgrounds and experiences of its four musicians.

For more information, visit **pyxispianoquartet.com**.

LUIGI MAZZOCCHI, VIOLIN

Luigi Mazzocchi studied in the renowned Venezuelan musical training program “El Sistema” and at the Latin American Violin Academy. He was first violinist of the Simón Bolívar Symphony, touring Europe and Latin America and recording on the Dorian label. He was also a member of the Lara Symphony and the Chamber Orchestra of Venezuela and soloist with all the main Venezuelan orchestras and international music festivals in the Americas, Europe and Australia and at Carnegie Hall. Currently Mr. Mazzocchi is Concertmaster of the Pennsylvania Ballet, Black Pearl and Ocean City Pops Orchestras, and Associate Concertmaster of the Delaware Symphony. He is a member of Opera Philadelphia, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Philly Pops, West Jersey Chamber Orchestra, and the Pyxis Piano Quartet, as well as the Gaudeamus and Cachasa ensembles. He also performs with Camerata Philadelphia, the Pagode Project and Alô Brasil. Mr. Mazzocchi has won the Venezuelan Del Castillo Latin American Competition and performed in the Casals Festival. He lives in Philadelphia with his wife and two children and plays on a violin made in 1887 by Riccardo Antoniazzi and a Pajeot School bow.

AMY LEONARD, VIOLA

Amy Leonard is a Philadelphia native who has held positions with the Louisiana Philharmonic, New World Symphony (Miami) and the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, performing with “Nua Nos (New Noise).” She had a long-standing relationship with the Pierre Monteux School (Maine) and has participated in music festivals including Aspen, Banff, Spoleto USA and Mostra Mozart (Venice, Italy). As a freelance musician Ms. Leonard performs with Delaware Symphony, Relâche, Tempesta di Mare, Brandywine Baroque, and Night Music, as well as Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra, Philly Pops, and Princeton Festival. She was guest artist with the Copeland String Quartet, La Bernardinia, Melomanie, and Elysian Camerata. A devoted teacher, Ms. Leonard was a faculty member at Southeastern Louisiana University (Hammond) for four years and Music School of Delaware (Wilmington) for seven. Currently, she maintains a large and lively violin and viola studio at Shipley School (Bryn Mawr) and at her home. Ms. Leonard received viola performance degrees from Oberlin Conservatory and Manhattan School of Music and studied baroque viola at Oberlin’s Baroque Performance Institute. She can be heard on the Chandos, Plectra, NMC, Naxos, Meyer Media and BMG Classics labels, as well as in films for PBS, Irish Film Orchestras, and NFL Films.

JENNIFER JIE JIN, CELLO

Jennifer Jie Jin has performed in Europe, Asia and the United States. Ms. Jin is a member of the Delaware Symphony and Copeland String Quartet and has been soloist with the Shanghai Symphony, Bay Atlantic Symphony and National Repertoire Orchestra. She was principal cello of the Bay Atlantic and Mansfield Symphonies and a member of Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, Colorado Music Festival Orchestras, and Harrisburg Symphony. Ms. Jin has performed with the Cleveland Orchestra and the Boston, Houston and New World Symphonies and participated in many national and international festivals. Awards in her native China include First Prize in the National Cello Duo Competition, Bao-gang Elegance Art Award and Excellent Performance Prize in the National Competition. She founded the Tang-gu-la String Quartet, which toured worldwide, performed for President Clinton and appeared in the Oscar-winning documentary "From Mao to Mozart." A committed teacher, Ms. Jin co-directs Pennsylvania Youth Orchestra and Chamber Strings Music Camp and received Philadelphia Youth Orchestra's Ovation Award (2016) for music education inspiration and leadership. She began cello studies at age five and received her bachelor's degree from Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Master of Music from the Shepherd School of Music (Rice University), and the Artist Diploma from the Cleveland Institute of Music.

HIROKO YAMAZAKI, PIANO

Hiroko Yamazaki has performed in America and in Rome (Italy), Helsinki and Imatra (Finland) and Lausanne (Switzerland). Collaborations with instrumentalists and vocalists include members of Tonhalle and Philadelphia Orchestras and Delaware Symphony at venues such as the Smithsonian, Kennedy Center, Swarthmore College, Aspen Music Festival and Marcella Sembrich Opera Museum and in New York City and Puerto Rico. Festival appearances include Luzerne, Aspen, Rome (Italy) and International Festival Institute at Round Top (Texas), where her performance was recorded for NPR. In 2019, Ms. Yamazaki was featured soloist with the Wilmington Community Orchestra. As an orchestral pianist, she appears often with Delaware Symphony and Northeast Pennsylvania Philharmonic. Ms. Yamazaki has taught extensively (private lessons, class piano and chamber music coaching) and at Darlington Fine Arts Center, Luzerne Music Center and as adjunct faculty at the University of Delaware. Currently, she is Associate Head of the Piano Department and Master Piano Faculty with Distinction at The Music School of Delaware, where she chaired the piano department (1996-2000). Ms. Yamazaki won the Austrian-American Society Competition, which sponsored her studies at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. She holds a Bachelor of Music in piano performance and Master of Music in Collaborative Piano from the University of Maryland, where she received the Presser Foundation Award and was initiated into Pi Kappa Lambda.

GAIL OBENREDER O'DONNELL, PRODUCER

Gail Obenreder O'Donnell has worked with Pyxis since its founding in 2009 as ensemble-in-residence at the Delaware Art Museum. In a wide-ranging career, she has been an arts administrator in multiple disciplines and has produced events, concerts, programs, television and theatre independently and for organizations in Washington DC, New York City, Atlanta, Seattle, southeastern Pennsylvania and Wilmington. In Delaware, Ms. O'Donnell worked for several prominent arts institutions and was a founding member of both Market Street Music and Delaware Arts Alliance. An arts consultant and choral musician, she also writes about theatre, music and visual art for the Philadelphia online journal Broad Street Review and was a 2016 Fellow of The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Critics Institute.

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(As of 3/5/2020)

The Second Decade! Pyxis Piano Quartet's 11th Season at the Museum

PRESENT FROM THE PAST

Thursday, October 10, 2019

Reflecting on the work of Mitch Lyons, who expanded traditional clay techniques into a new form, Pyxis opens with Boccherini's String Trio and pairs Brahms' Piano Quartet No. 3 with Pulitzer-winner Caroline Shaw's *Thousandth Orange:* "The thousandth orange you eat is just as extraordinary as the first," exploring how what seems new can draw boldly on what went before.

CONTINENTAL BRIDGES

Rescheduled: August 20, 2020
(Streamed live from the Museum)

With the Museum's beautiful Chihuly Bridge overhead, Pyxis explores works that span time and geography, linking composers to their homelands: Joaquín Turina's Piano Trio, filled with Spanish fire; Zoltán Kodály's Intermezzo that draws on beloved Hungarian folk tunes; and Dvořák's masterful Piano Quartet in E-flat Major.

EPIC DIVAS

Rescheduled: November 5, 2020

Inspired by the careers of painter Margo Allman and sculptor Helen Mason on view in the Museum, Pyxis presents a trove of works by women – Judith Weir and Sophia Serghi, along with Lili and Nadia Boulanger – that range from the romantic period through the 21st century. And the evening includes one gentleman – Australian composer Matthew Hindson's 2012 piano quartet *Epic Diva!*

Each evening begins with a Curator talk at 7:30 p.m., followed by a Pyxis Concert at 8 pm. The Museum's Thronson Café features drinks and light fare for purchase beforehand. Complimentary desserts and coffee will be served during intermission.

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