

THE BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
Dr. Stephen W. Sachs, Chair

presents

*Mrs. James R. Preston
Memorial Chamber Music Series:
An Evening of Diamonds II*

featuring

The Belhaven Piano Trio

Tuesday, October 30, 2012 • 7:30 p.m.
Belhaven University Center for the Arts • Concert Hall

*There will be a reception after the evening programs. Please come and greet the performers.
Please refrain from the use of all flash and still photography during the concert.
Please turn off all pagers and cell phones.*

PROGRAM

Piano Trio in B-Flat Major, K. 502

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart • 1756 - 1791

- I. Allegro
- II. Larghetto
- III. Allegretto

INTERMISSION

Piano Trio in A minor, Op. 50

Peter Ilitch Tschaikowsky • 1840 - 1893

- I. Pezzo elegiac. Moderato assai – Allegro giusto
- IIa. Tema con variazioni. Andante con moto
- IIb. Variazione Finale e coda. Allegro risoluto e con fuoco – Andante con moto

Mr. Song Xie, Violin; Mr. Bennett Randman, Cello; Dr. Stephen Sachs, Piano

PROGRAM NOTES

Mozart creates the first mature piano trios of the standard chamber music repertory with five written in two years, from 1786 to 1788. One of the finest is the **B-flat Major, K. 502** from the fall of 1786. The three movements show more similarity to the piano concertos than his string quartets or symphonies; the first a sonata form movement, the second in song form, and the third an extended rondo.

In the first movement, the piano plays the first theme, but at the point the second theme should occur, a variant of the first theme appears in the new key. The development begins with a new melody in the violin. The return surprises us with a statement in minor mode and with extension and elaboration of the opening material. Piano and violin take center stage, with the cello in a supporting role.

The Larghetto fills us with its calm beauty and grace, the theme growing more ornate with each appearance. The three parts weave together so intimately, that a change of any element results in loss of effect.

The cello has a significant role in the rondo. Playful imitation and cascading triplets afford a spirited conclusion. Mozart elegantly balances the instruments in such a way that we often hear four voices instead of three; the two hands of the piano each having an individual place in the texture. (ref. Kai Christainsen and Eric Bromberger)

The **A minor Piano Trio, Op. 50** was written as a memorial tribute to Nicholas Rubenstein, Director of the Moscow Conservatory, (brother of the pianist and composer Anton Rubenstein). Rubenstein had served as mentor, critic and

supporter to Tchaikovsky; he had seen to it that Tchaikovsky's works got many fine performances. The Piano trio is a monumental large-scale work (45 minutes long and counting!) in three sections. The first movement, in sonata form, is marked "Pezzo elegiaco" – elegaic piece: melancholy and sorrowful, yet warm, passionate, and filled with Tchaikovsky's broad and lovely melodies.

The second movement of the work consists of a set of variations. The simple folk-like theme is said to have been inspired by the memories of a happy day in the country, where Tchaikovsky and Rubenstein were entertained by peasants singing and playing for them. There are eleven variations of the theme, first introduced by the piano. "Landmarks" to let you know where you are: variation 1 - the violin presents the theme; variation 2 - the cello sings the theme as the violin provides a countermelody; variation 3 - a "scherzo" from the piano punctuated by pizzicato from the strings; variation 4 is in minor; variation 5 – the music box; variation 6 – an elegant waltz led by the cello; variation 7 – big chords from the piano with string punctuation; variation 8 – a fugue and more

from a composer who had no love for Bach and Handel; variation 10 – a lively Mazurka, almost Chopin!; variation 11 – a setting of the original melody that can pluck "heart" strings.

The last section, the finale, actually starts out with yet another variation of the theme; festive and jubilant and developed at length. This manic mood eventually but abruptly changes, as if the composer is suddenly brought back to his pain at the loss of his friend. The melancholy opening theme of the first movement returns, orchestral in its force. This gives way to a solemn funeral march, whose characteristic dum – dum – dee – dum rhythm is given to the piano, while the first movement theme given to the strings dies away. (ref. Joseph Way)

For cellist Bennett Randman, this performance of the Tchaikovsky is a dream realized, one that has been 50 years in the making since his teacher told Mr. Randman that he should wait before programming this work. Just a few days ago, Mr. Randman spoke to his former teacher, now well advanced in years, and told him that a performance was imminent. The reply? "Ah, the monster."

BELHAVEN PIANO TRIO BIOS

The Belhaven Trio was formed in 2005 by the artists presenting this concert. They will again take the stage next Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at Trustmark Hall in the Mississippi Museum of Art as part of the "Music in the City" series. The concert is free and open to the public with the Piano Trio in A Minor, Op. 50 by Tchaikowsky as the program.

Song Xie is Assistant Professor of Violin and Viola, Conductor of the Belhaven Chamber String Orchestra, Chamber Music Coach, and Violinist of the Belhaven Piano Trio at Belhaven University. As a concert soloist, Mr. Song has performed with many orchestras. He received the Excellent Performance Award at the Chinese National Violin Competition in 1984, won the LSU Symphony Concerto Competitions in both 1991 and 1994, and was one of the three finalists at Chautauqua Festival Concerto Competition in New York. Song Xie has an active performing schedule in solo recital, chamber music, and conducting. His latest performances include: a recital tour in Arkansas, violin soloist for the "Carman Fantasy" with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra (MSO), performances with the Masterworks Ensemble at the Beijing 2010 Modern Music Festival in May 2010, conductor for The Belhaven Chamber Orchestra performance of Tchaikovsky's "Souvenir De Florence" in Meridian, MS, annual performances with Belhaven Piano Trio and performances in Masterworks Festival Chamber series. Song Xie is currently the Principal Second Violinist of the MSO, a position he has held since 1998. Song has served as President of Mississippi Chapter of the American String Teacher Association. He frequently judges local and regional string competitions, and has actively taught and still teaches in many summer string/orchestra festivals including: Masterworks Festival, IN, MSO String Camp, Millsaps Chamber Music Camp, MS, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, MI, and CICA String Festival, AR. Mr. Song Xie is committed to excellence in string performance and education. His students have won numerous competitions including but not limited to the MSO Concerto Competition, MTNA

State and Regional Competitions, MMTA and ASTA Mississippi State competition, many other competitions in MS, AK, UT, AL, NY, SC, MFMC scholarship awards, and international competitions. Before his current positions at Belhaven University and with the MSO, he was on the faculty of Guangxi Institute of Arts (China), Mississippi College, Millsaps College, and Jackson State University. Song Xie received his BA from Guangxi Institute of Arts and Shanghai Conservatory of Music, His MM is from Louisiana State University. He has studied with such wonderful professors as ShiXiang Zheng, Sally O' Reilly, Camila Wicks.

Bennett Randman, Principal Cellist of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, is on the permanent faculty at the Maud Powell Summer Music Festival in Peru, IL. He began studies at age eight, and earned degrees at the University of Tennessee and Duquesne University. Mr. Randman has studied with noted cellists Nathaniel Rosen and Leslie Parnas. Prior to coming to Mississippi, he was Assistant Principal Cellist with the Charlotte Symphony, Principal Cellist with the Charlotte Chamber Orchestra, and cellist with the Seattle Symphony and the Northwest Chamber Orchestra. His solo performances include multiple appearances with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, the Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra of Jackson, MS and appearances with the Meridian Symphony Orchestra and the 1989 Mississippi Showcase Concert. He is listed in the eleventh and twelfth editions of International Who's Who in Music.

Dr. Stephen W. Sachs, Professor of Piano and Music Chair at Belhaven University since 2004, has been active as a piano soloist, duo-pianist, chamber musician and accompanist in the eastern United States, Costa Rica and France. At Belhaven, he teaches piano and collaborative piano and conducts the Belhaven University and Jackson Community Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Sachs is a founding member of the Belhaven Piano Trio with esteemed colleague Mr. Song Xie, Assistant Professor of Violin and String Ensembles at Belhaven College, and Mr. Bennett Randman, Mississippi Symphony Orchestra (MSO) Principal Cellist. Dr. Sachs has appeared with many orchestras, most recently with the MSO of Jackson, MS performing Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini" under the direction of Maestro Crafton Beck. Dr. Sachs will again be a featured soloist with the MSO in February, performing the Piano Concerto in C Minor, K. 491 by Mozart here in the Center for the Arts Concert Hall. He received the D.M.A. degree in piano performance from The Catholic University of America studying with Thomas Mastroianni, the M.M. degree in piano performance from Ohio University studying with Richard Syracuse, a B.A. degree in music and a B.S. degree in music education from Lebanon Valley College studying with William Fairlamb. Dr. Sachs serves as Director of Music Ministries at Covenant Presbyterian Church of Jackson and has served on the board of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. From 1978-2004, Dr. Sachs served on the faculty of Eastern Mennonite University teaching piano and music theory and directing instrumental ensembles.

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC MISSION STATEMENT

The Music Department seeks to produce transformational leaders in the musical arts who will have profound influence in homes, churches, private studios, educational institutions, and on the concert stage. While developing the God-bestowed musical talents of music majors, minors, and elective students, we seek to provide an integrative understanding of the musical arts from a Christian world and life view in order to equip students to influence the world of ideas. The music major degree program is designed to prepare students for graduate study while equipping them for vocational roles in performance, church music, and education. The Belhaven University Music Department exists to multiply Christian leaders who demonstrate unquestionable excellence in the musical arts and apply timeless truths in every aspect of their artistic discipline.

The Music Department would like to thank our many community partners for their support of Christian Arts Education at Belhaven University through their advertising in "Arts Ablaze 2012-2013." It is through these and other wonderful relationships in the greater Jackson community that makes many of our concerts possible at Belhaven. We praise God for our friends and are truly thankful for their generosity. Please mention The Arts at Belhaven University when you visit our community partners.

For a complete listing of Music Department scheduled spring semester programs, please visit our

website at <http://www.belhaven.edu/music/recitals.htm>. A complete listing of major Belhaven University arts events may be found at <http://www.belhaven.edu/arts/schedule.htm>.

Thank you to those working behind the scenes to make today's program a success: music faculty supervisor, Dr. Stephen Sachs; student workers –house manager, Tianna Rogers; ushers, Christy Mohrman & Rachael McCartney; stage manager, Rachel Gari; stagehands, Andrew Horton & Allie Sahli; recording/sound, Dorothy Glover; lighting, Joy Kenyon; page turner, Rebekah Saks; reception assistants, Lydia Jones & Christy Mohrman; box office, Amanda Hester & Grace Anna Randall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, November 1, 7:30pm, Concert Hall	Sarah Bravo Senior Musical Theatre Project
Friday, November 2, 7:30pm, Concert Hall	Richard Heard, Tenor with Dr. Theresa Sanchez
Tuesday, November 6, 7:30pm, Concert Hall	An Evening of Diamonds III: The Stardust Duo
Friday, November 9, 7:30pm, Concert Hall	Orchestras and Strings Concert
Saturday, November 10, 2:00pm, Concert Hall	Megan van der Bijl & Katie Rowan Junior Piano Recitals
Tuesday, November 13, 7:30pm, Recital Room	Student Composers Concert X
Thursday, November 15, 7:30pm, Concert Hall	Wind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz
	Guitar & Jazz Ensemble Concert
Saturday, November 17, 2:30pm, Concert Hall	Handel's Messiah Choral Concert
Monday, November 19, 7:30pm, Concert Hall	Best of Belhaven I
Tuesday, November 20, 7:30pm, Concert Hall	Eric Hartzog Senior Guitar Recital
Fri. & Sat., Nov. 31 & Dec. 1, 7:30pm, Soccer Bowl	80 th Singing Christmas Tree

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, FACULTY AND STAFF

Dr. Stephen Sachs, pianist, chair • Dr. Paxton Girtmon, director of bands, woodwind specialist • Sylvia Hong, pianist • Dr. Andrew Sauerwein, composer, theorist • Dr. Christopher Shelt, coordinator of vocal activities, director of choral ensembles, Singing Christmas Tree director • Song Xie, violinist, director of string ensembles • Nancy Bateman, cello adjunct • Dennis Bonds, jazz guitar adjunct • Richard Brown, string bass adjunct • Melvin Champ, assistant band director adjunct • Sybil Cheesman, flute adjunct • Lee Craig, drill team instructor • Dr. Dennis Cranford, music theory adjunct • Tyler Kemp, staff accompanist • Mark Davis, low brass adjunct • Kenneth Graves, clarinet adjunct • Carol Durham, organ adjunct • Gena Everitt, vocal adjunct • Dr. Rebecca Geihlsler, vocal adjunct • Christina Hrivnak, vocal adjunct • Kenneth Graves, clarinet adjunct • Amy Houghton, classical guitar adjunct, director of guitar ensembles • Owen Rockwell, percussion adjunct, director of percussion ensembles • Amanda Mangrum, harp adjunct • Randy Mapes, double reed adjunct • Carolyn Sachs, piano adjunct • Margaret Sprow, music ministries adjunct • Lloyd Turner, trumpet adjunct • Valerie Tate, administrative assistant

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, MUSIC MAJORS

Michael Adkins • Grace Andrews • Oswald Gray Barnes • Daniel Bravo • Sarah Marie Bravo • Skyler Bready • Jenae' Brown • Jimmy Brown • Alexis Butler • Thomas Kyle Carter • Jessica Charitos • Clay Coward • Andrew Craig • Stephen Craig • Brooke Edwards • John Farrar • Levi Scott Foreman • Rachel Gari • Dorothy Claire Glover • Shannon Gragg • Cory Gray • Curtis Harris • Eric Hartzog • Daniel Hause • Daniel Hicks • Andrew Horton • Emmerly Jefferson • James Johnson • Daniel Johnston • Lydia Jones • Temperance Jones • Joy Kenyon • Taylor Kniseley • Brooke Kressin • Cierra Lee • Robert Austin Marascalco • John Mathieu • Rachael McCartney • Joseph McCullough • Thorburn McGee • Maggie McLinden • Rodderick Merritt • Christina Mohrman • Lydia Moore • Joshua Nichols • Justin Nipper • William Anthony Peacock • Ruth Picha • Heather Plyler • Grace Anna Randall • Elisabeth Libby Roberts • Morgan Robertson • Tianna Rogers • Kaitlin Rowan • Alexandra Sahli • Rebekah Saks • Sadie Sasser • Amy Smith • Alexia Valente • Megan van der Bijl • Anne Wegener • Amanda Williams • Ellen Wise • Ellen Julie Wolfe • Jocelyn Zhu

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, May 2012 GRADUATES

Bethany Basham • Jacqueline Bateman • Shellie Brown • Christopher Carlson • Hannah Cross • Anna Cullnane • Sam Johnson • Abigail Crumley Johnston • Lauren Pratt • Michael Shofner • Abigail Wiggins