

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

*All-State Strings
Concert*

Saturday, March 25, 2017 • 3:00 p.m.
Belhaven University • Concert Hall

*There will be a reception after the program. 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

Concerto for Two Violins in D Minor

Johann Sebastian Bach • 1685-1750

I. Vivace

Jessica Schmidt & Daniel Jones, Violin

Holberg Suite, Op. 40

Edvard Grieg • 1843-1907

I. Praeludium

II. Sarabande

III. Gavotte

IV. Air

V. Rigaudon

Danzas de Panama

William Grant Still • 1895-1978

I. Tamborito

II. Mejorana y Socavon

III. Punto

IV. Cumbia y Congo

All-State Strings Orchestra

Jorge Gonzalez, Conductor

PROGRAM NOTES

The Concerto for Two Violins in D minor, BWV 1043, also known as the Double Violin Concerto, is perhaps one of the most famous works by J. S. Bach and is considered among the best examples of the work of the late Baroque period. Bach may have written it between 1717 and 1723 when he was the Kapellmeister at the court of Anhalt-Cöthen in Germany.

The Holberg Suite, Op. 40, more properly "From Holberg's Time" and subtitled "Suite in olden style", is a suite of five movements based on eighteenth century dance forms written by Edvard Grieg in 1884 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Ludvig Holberg, a Danish-Norwegian playwright born in 1684. The suite consists of an introduction and a set of dances. It is an early essay in neo-classicism, an attempt to echo as much as was known in Grieg's time of the music of Holberg's era. Historically, the musical structure of a suite stretches back to the 16th and 17th centuries and always consists of a prelude or overture followed by a sequence of music for a variety of dance forms. Grieg chose sarabande, gavotte, air, and a rigaudon, a slight departure from the more standard

selections of allemande, courante, sarabande, and gigue.

It has been noted that Holberg was born one year before Johann Sebastian Bach, George Frideric Handel, and Domenico Scarlatti (1685 was a very big year for music). Though it is not known for sure if this historical fact influenced Grieg to write a Baroque style suite, it certainly would make sense for Grieg to have made that compositional connection.

Danzas de Panama

Long known as the "Dean of African American Composers," as well as one of America's foremost composers, William Grant Still has had the distinction of becoming a legend in his own lifetime. On May 11, 1895, he was born in Woodville, Mississippi to parents who were teachers and musicians. They were of African, Native American, Spanish, Irish and Scotch descent.

William Grant Still's Danzas de Panama date from 1948 and are based on a collection of Panamanian folk tunes which were collected by Elizabeth Waldo in the 1920's. Although there are only four dances

presented, each movement has at least two and sometimes three separate dances within it.

Nothing like it was done before in the literature for strings. Mr. Still departed from traditional practices by making an attempt to approximate the sounds of native instruments, giving the music an unusually interesting quality. There is a distinct unity and a touch of Caribbean color in the four dances. The first and last are African in origin while the second and third are of Spanish-Indian derivation.

The opening movement Tamborito immediately captures the listener's attention with the instrumentalists percussively striking the sides of their instruments, creating the rhythm for this highly chromatic introduction which immediately leads to a sadder and slower dance that is also quite chromatic. For the rest of the movement, Still

ingeniously juxtaposes these two dances, one after the other seamlessly. When the faster dance returns, it is in two sections, the first fast and upbeat the second more melancholy and sounding like a close relative of the tango. The movement ends surprisingly on a soft glissando. Next comes Mejorana which sounds like a carefree Panamanian waltz. The forceful middle section is a somewhat ominous dance in two. The slowish third movement, Punto, has a gentle and very familiar Mexican sound to it. It is the kind of thing one hears in the movies when Mexican cowboys return to their hacienda at the end of a day's work. The middle section in 6/8 is in the minor and more robust. The last movement, Cumbia y Congo begins again with a percussive hand-pounding to a high-spirited and fast dance. At first it sounds purely African but very quickly a heavy dose of Latin melody is added to the mix.

BIOS

Jessica Schmidt of Hammonton New Jersey is a 22-year-old senior studying violin performance with Professor Song Xie at Belhaven University. Aside from playing full-time with the Mississippi symphony, Jessica is training to pursue her masters degree in the upcoming year. This summer, Jessica has been accepted to train intensively for 7 weeks at the prestigious Heifetz International Music Institute where she will continue preparing for Masters auditions.

Daniel Jones of Starkville, Mississippi is an 18-year-old freshman, and is also studying violin performance with Mr. Song Xie. As well as playing intermittently with the Mississippi Symphony, Daniel is currently working toward becoming a conductor. He plans to pursue graduate-level work in violin and conducting.

Violinist and conductor **Jorge Ivan Gonzalez** holds a master and bachelor degrees in music performance from The University of Southern Mississippi. Mr. Gonzalez was the recipient of the "George and Hilda McGee" award, finalist of the "Canadian Music Competition Incorporated"; winner of the 1999 Collegiate Artist Strings State Competition in Mississippi; winner of the 2001 "William T. Gower Concerto Competition" at USM; and awarded 2001 "New Young Artist" of the Victoria Bach Festival. With the Austin, TX based Conspirare Ensemble, Jorge Gonzalez has toured and recorded a CD, "Threshold of Night", nominated for two GRAMMY Awards. Mr. Gonzalez has given solo and chamber music performances in Mexico, Canada, Switzerland, Austria and in the U.S. and has had the opportunity to work with great artists such as Jean-Pierre Rampal, Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, Edgar Meyer, Alexandre Brucilovsky, Sir James Galway, Glenn Dicterow, Placido Domingo, Joshua Bell, Sarah Chang, Midori, Keith Lockhart and Leonard Slatkin. As a conductor, Jorge Ivan Gonzalez is the music director and conductor of the Southern Mississippi Youth Orchestra and of the FestivalSouth Academy Symphony Orchestra. He has guest conducted the Southern Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, the Mobile Symphony Orchestra, the Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra, the FestivalSouth Chamber Orchestra, the Philharmonic Orchestra at the Premier Orchestral Institute and was the conductor of the 2012 Mississippi All-State Orchestra. Mr. Gonzalez is currently serving as concertmaster of the GulfCoast Symphony Orchestra; assistant-concertmaster of the Mobile Symphony Orchestra; principal second violin of the

Meridian Symphony Orchestra where he also serves as personnel manager; teacher and conductor of the Hattiesburg Public Schools string orchestras; Director of Youth Orchestras at The University of Southern Mississippi (Adjunct Professor) as founder and conductor of the Southern Mississippi Youth Orchestra; and Artistic Director of the FestivalSouth Orchestral and Chamber Music Academy. He also serves on the violin faculty of the Harlem Quartet Workshop at Music Mountain (Connecticut) and at the Ibague Music Festival in Colombia (South America). Mr. Gonzalez has been invited back to conduct the Mississippi All-State orchestra in March of 2017 as well as to serve as concertmaster of the “Mississippi Bicentennial Symphony Orchestra” to celebrate Mississippi’s 200th anniversary.

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 2016-2017.” 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 fall 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, Mr. Song Xie; student workers –Lighting/Sound, Rachael Boxill; Videographer, Bailey Bradshaw; Photographer, Rebekah Miller; House manager, Zak Joyner; Stage manager, Tripp Stewart; Hannah van der Bijl & Mali Lin; Reception Hosts, Lauren Barger & Deon Crawford.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, March 28, 7:30pm, Concert Hall
Tuesday, April 11, 7:30pm, Concert Hall
Thursday, April 20, 7:30pm, Concert Hall
Monday, April 24, 7:30pm, Concert Hall
Monday, May 1, 7:30pm, Concert Hall
Tuesday, May 2, 7:30pm, Concert Hall

Evening of Diamonds II: Shellie Brown, Violin
Student Composers Concert
Instrumental Arts Concert
Choral Festival Concert
Best of Belhaven II
Choral Arts Concert: “Songs for Slaying Giants”