

# Bard College Conservatory of Music

*presents*

## **Honoring Charles Wuorinen: Music's Master**

**Sunday, March 13, 2022 at 2:00 PM**

**László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building**

**Alan R. Kay, *clarinet***  
**Jennifer Frautschi, *violin***  
**Fred Sherry, *cello***  
**Tengku Irfan, *piano***

**Cello Variations II (1975)**

**Charles Wuorinen**  
(1938-2020)

**Duo Concertante (1932)**

**Igor Stravinsky**  
(1882-1971)

Cantilène  
Eglogue I  
Eglogue II  
Gigue  
Dithyrambe

**Scherzo (2007)**

**Wuorinen**

**Fortune (1979)**

**Wuorinen**

Before  
After

**Charles Wuorinen** (June 9, 1938 - March 11, 2020) was one of the world's leading composers. His many honors included a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship and the Pulitzer Prize. His compositions encompass every form and medium, including works for orchestra, chamber ensemble, soloists, ballet, and stage. Wuorinen composed more than 275 compositions. Among them are *Time Regained*, commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera for James Levine and Peter Serkin; *Time's Encomium*, an important early, solely electronic, composition realized at the Columbia-Princeton Electronic Music Center; *Five*, a concerto for amplified cello and orchestra, written for the New York City Ballet and Fred Sherry, choreographed by Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux; and his comic masterpiece *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* with a libretto by James Fenton.

His last works include *Second Percussion Symphony*, *Sudden Changes* for Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony, and *Exsultet (Praeconium Paschale)* for Francisco Núñez and the Young People's Chorus of New York. Wuorinen's opera on Annie Proulx's *Brokeback Mountain* premiered at the Teatro Real in Madrid in January 2014, a major cultural event worldwide. "Madrid has just seen the biggest audience in its history, local and global, for Charles Wuorinen's *Brokeback Mountain*." (*The Australian*.)

Wuorinen has been described as a "maximalist," writing music luxuriant with events, lyrical and expressive, strikingly dramatic. His works are characterized by powerful harmonies and elegant craftsmanship, offering at once a link to the music of the past and a vision of a rich musical future. Both as composer and performer (conductor and pianist) Wuorinen worked with some of the finest performers of the current time and his works reflect the great virtuosity of his collaborators. His works have been recorded on nearly a dozen labels. Wuorinen was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

## About the Artists

**Alan R. Kay** is Principal Clarinetist and a former Artistic Director of Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and serves as Principal Clarinet with New York's Riverside Symphony and Little Orchestra Society. Mr. Kay's honors include the Classical Recording Foundation Samuel Sanders Award, the C.D. Jackson Award at Tanglewood, a Presidential Scholars Teacher Award, and the 1989 Young Concert Artists Award with the sextet Hexagon featured in the prizewinning film, "Debut."

A founding member of the Windscape Quintet, he is a regular guest in chamber music venues throughout the world, including the Yellow Barn, Orlando (Holland), Bowdoin, Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society Festivals, and the Cape May Music Festival, where he curated a concert series for 25 years. Mr. Kay taught at the Summer Music Academy in Leipzig, Germany in 2004 and teaches at the Manhattan School of Music, The Juilliard School and Stony Brook University, where he also serves as Executive Director of the Stony Brook Symphony Orchestra.

A virtuoso of wind repertoire, Mr. Kay has recorded with Hexagon, Windscape and the Sylvan Winds. His transcriptions for wind quintet are available from Trevco Music Publishing and International Opus. Recent recording projects include the Brahms Clarinet Quintet with the Rusquartet for Etcetera Records, Michael Torke's "Psalms and Canticles," and a full-length CD of the works of Rudolf Escher. He has served on the juries of international chamber music competitions in Trapani, Italy and Rolduc, Holland, Young Concert Artists International Auditions, Concert Artist Guild Auditions, and the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition.

Avery Fisher career grant recipient violinist **Jennifer Frautschi** has appeared as soloist with orchestras including the Cincinnati Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Milwaukee Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, and St Paul Chamber Orchestra. As chamber musician she has performed with the Boston Chamber Music Society and Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and appeared at Chamber Music Northwest, La Jolla Summerfest, Music@Menlo, Tippet Rise Art Center, Toronto Summer Music, and the Bridgehampton, Charlottesville, Lake Champlain, Moab, Ojai, Santa Fe, Seattle, and Spoleto Music Festivals.

Her extensive discography includes several discs for Naxos: the Stravinsky Violin Concerto with the Philharmonia Orchestra of London, conducted by the legendary Robert Craft, and two GRAMMY-nominated recordings with the Fred Sherry Quartet, of Schoenberg's Concerto for String Quartet and Orchestra, and the Schoenberg Third String Quartet. Her most recent releases are with pianist John Blacklow on Albany Records: the first devoted to the three sonatas of Robert Schumann; the second, American Duos, an exploration of recent additions to the violin and piano repertoire by contemporary American composers Barbara White, Steven Mackey, Elena Ruehr, Dan Coleman, and Stephen Hartke.

She also recorded three widely praised CDs for Artek: an orchestral recording of the Prokofiev concerti with Gerard Schwarz and the Seattle Symphony; the violin music of Ravel and Stravinsky; and 20th-century works for solo violin. Other recordings include a disc of Romantic Horn Trios, with hornist Eric Ruske and pianist Stephen Prutsman, and the Stravinsky Duo Concertant with pianist Jeremy Denk.

Malaysian-born **Tengku Irfan** has appeared around the world as a pianist, composer, and conductor, and has been praised by *The New York Times* as "eminently cultured" and possessing "sheer incisiveness and power." Irfan has performed with orchestras worldwide with conductors Claus Peter Flor, Neeme Järvi, Kristjan Järvi, David Robertson, Robert Spano, Osmo Vänskä, George Stelluto, Jeffrey Milarsky, among others. His compositions have been premiered by highly acclaimed orchestras and ensembles, and have won international awards including three ASCAP Morton Gould Awards in 2012, 2014, and 2017.

Performance highlights include the Juilliard Orchestra, AXIOM, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Sao Paulo State Youth Orchestra, Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, Aspen Chamber Symphony, Peoria Symphony Orchestra, MDR Sinfonieorchester, Aspen Philharmonic Orchestra, Lexington Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra, and a solo recital at the la Virée classique Festival Montréal, on invitation from Kent Nagano. Irfan also won the Aspen Music Festival Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 2 Competition in 2013, and was resident pianist for the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble for four consecutive years since 2014.

Irfan is often chosen to premiere new compositions (performances, studio recordings) due to his speed and ease in learning new and demanding repertoire, and also for his interpretation of composers' works. His orchestral composition, *Keraian*, was premiered by the New York Philharmonic, Case Scaglione conducting. Irfan studied piano and composition under Yoheved Kaplinsky and Robert Beaser, and conducting with Jeffrey Milarsky and George Stelluto. Irfan is a proud recipient of the Kovner Fellowship at The Juilliard School.

**Fred Sherry** has introduced audiences on five continents and all fifty United States to the music of our time for over five decades. He was a founding member of TASHI and Speculum Musicae, Artistic Director of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and has been a member of the Group for Contemporary Music, Berio's Juilliard Ensemble and the Galimir String Quartet. He has also enjoyed a close collaboration with jazz pianist and composer Chick Corea.

Elliott Carter, Mario Davidovsky, Steve Mackey, David Rakowski, Somei Satoh, Charles Wuorinen and John Zorn have written concertos for Sherry, and he has premiered solo and chamber works dedicated to him by Milton Babbitt, Derek Bermel, Jason Eckardt, Lukas Foss, Oliver Knussen, Peter Lieberson, Donald Martino and Toru Takemitsu among others.

Fred Sherry's vast discography encompasses a wide range of classic and modern repertoire; he has been soloist and "sideman" on hundreds of commercial and esoteric recordings. Mr. Sherry was the organizer for Robert Craft's New York recording sessions from 1995-2012. Their longstanding collaboration produced celebrated performances of the Schoenberg Cello Concerto, all four String Quartets and the String Quartet Concerto as well as major works by Stravinsky and Webern.

Mr. Sherry's book *25 Bach Duets from the Cantatas* was published by Boosey & Hawkes in 2011, the revised edition was released in 2019. C.F. Peters unveiled his treatise on contemporary string playing, *A Grand Tour of Cello Technique* in 2018. He is a member of the cello faculty of The Juilliard School, The Mannes School of Music and The Manhattan School of Music.

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