



Axel Strauss, violin
Stéphane Lemelin, piano

Robert Schumann
(1810 – 1856)

Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 2 in
D Minor, op. 121 (1851)

Ziemlich langsam – lebhaft
Sehr lebhaft
Leise, einfach bewegt

Robert Schumann

Intermezzo, from F.A.E Sonata (1853)

Johannes Brahms
(1833 – 1897)

Scherzo, from F.A.E. Sonata (1853)

****Intermission****

César Franck
(1822 – 1890)

Andantino quietoso, op. 6 (1843)

Guillaume Lekeu
(1870 – 1894)

Sonata in G, for Violin and Piano (1892)

Très modéré – Vif et passionné
Très lent
Très animé

Tuesday, April 2, 2019
8:00 p.m.

Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
Williamstown, Massachusetts

See music.williams.edu for full details and additional happenings as well as to sign up for the weekly e-newsletters.

Upcoming Events

Momenta - Visiting Artist Series

Fri Apr 5 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 8:00 PM

Joanna Kurkiewicz, violin; Doris Stevenson, piano - Faculty Recital

Sun Apr 7 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 3:00 PM

Prof. Gavin Steingo - Class of 1960 Lecture

Mon Apr 8 | Bernhard Music Center, room 30 | 4:15 PM

Kurt Rosenwinkel Quintet - Visiting Artist Series

Mon Apr 8 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 8:00 PM

Please turn off cell phones.
No photography or recording is permitted.

Axel Strauss, violin

The first German artist to ever win the international Naumburg Violin Award in New York, Axel Strauss has been equally acclaimed for his virtuosity and his musical sensitivity. The *Salt Lake Tribune* praised his well-rounded artistry by saying, "Strauss quickly established that he is a virtuoso to be reckoned with. But amid his technical acumen, there was a genuine musician. His interpretive prowess was delightful."

Mr. Strauss made his American debut at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC and his New York debut at Alice Tully Hall in 1998. Since then he has given recitals in major North American cities, including Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles and San Francisco. In 2007 he was the violinist in the world premiere of "Two Awakenings and a Double Lullaby" – written for him by Pulitzer Prize winning composer Aaron Jay Kernis.

Mr. Strauss has performed as soloist with major orchestras in North America, Europe and Asia and has collaborated with conductors such as Maxim Shostakovitch, Rico Saccani, Joseph Silverstein, and Alasdair Neale. Mr. Strauss has also served as guest concertmaster of the Berlin Philharmonic as well as the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

His recordings include the Brahms violin concerto (BPOlive), the violin version of the Sonatas Opus 120 by Brahms (Organum) and the Duo for Violin and Cello by Kodaly (Oehms Classics). For the Naxos label he has recorded a selection from Mendelssohn's "Songs without Words", the 24 Caprices for solo violin by Pierre Rode, the last three violin concertos by Rodolphe Kreutzer and the complete works for violin and piano by George Enescu. Amadeus Press has issued a DVD featuring Axel Strauss in concert at Steinway Hall in New York City.

Mr. Strauss frequently performs at various music festivals in the US. Festival visits abroad have taken him to Germany, India, Korea and Japan. His chamber music partners have included Menahem Pressler, Kim Kashkashian, Joel Krosnick, Robert Mann and Bernhard Greenhouse.

Since his European debut in Hamburg in 1988, Axel Strauss has been heard on concert stages throughout Europe. He has given concerts in Moscow, Vilnius, Berlin, Bremen, Leipzig and Nuremberg. Concert tours have taken him to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Romania. He has also toured South America and performed in Japan with the Philharmonic Violins Berlin.

At the age of seventeen he won the silver medal at the Enescu Competition in Romania and has been recognized with many other awards, including top prizes in the Bach, Wieniawski and Kocian competitions. Mr. Strauss studied at the Music Academies of Lübeck and Rostock with Petru Munteanu. In 1996 he began working with the late Dorothy DeLay at The Juilliard School and became her teaching assistant in 1998. He has also worked with such artists as Itzhak Perlman, Felix Galimir, and Ruggiero Ricci, and at the Marlboro Music Festival with Richard Goode, Mitsuko Uchida and Andras Schiff. Mr. Strauss has been residing in the United States since 1996. He maintains a busy performance schedule and serves as Professor of Violin at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University in Montreal. Before moving to Canada he was Professor of Violin and Chamber Music at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Stéphane Lemelin, piano

Pianist Stéphane Lemelin is well-known to audiences throughout Canada and regularly tours in the United States, Europe and Asia as soloist and chamber musician.

His repertory is vast, with a predilection for the German Classical and Romantic literature and a particular affinity for French music, as evidenced by his more than twenty-five recordings, which include works by Fauré, Saint-Saëns, Debussy, Poulenc and Roussel. Stéphane Lemelin is director of the French music series "Découvertes 1890-1939" on the Atma Classique label, dedicated to the rediscovery of neglected early twentieth-century French repertoire and for which he has recorded works by Samazeuilh, Ropartz, Pierné, Migot, Dupont, Dubois, Rhené-Bâton, Rosenthal, Alder, Lekeu, and Vierne. His latest recording features the complete works for violin and piano by György Catoire, with violinist Laurence Kayaleh, and was released on the Naxos label in 2016.

Stéphane Lemelin studied with Yvonne Hubert in Montreal, Karl-Ulrich Schnabel in New York, and received both Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Peabody Conservatory as a student of Leon Fleisher. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Yale University, where his teachers were Boris Berman and Claude Frank. He was a professor at the University of Alberta and the University of Ottawa, where he also served as Director of the School of Music from 2007 to 2012. He is now Chair of the Department of Performance and Professor of Piano at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University. A dedicated pedagogue, he has been invited to give master classes around the world. Stéphane Lemelin was a member of Trio Hochelaga from 2003 to 2012 and the founder and artistic director of the Prince Edward County Music Festival from 2004 to 2017.