

# Berkshire Symphony

Ronald Feldman, Director

## Student Soloist Gala



**Sebastian Black '19**, piano

*Totentanz*  
by Franz Liszt



**Angela Chan '19**, pipa

*Little Sisters of the Grassland*  
by Wu Zuqiang, Wang Yanqiao,  
and Liu Dehai



**Erin Kennedy '19**, soprano

*"Caro nome" from Rigoletto*  
by Giuseppe Verdi



**Jeff Pearson '20**, violin

*Poème, op. 25*  
by Ernest Chausson

**ALSO** *Symphonic Dances*  
by Sergei Rachmaninoff



**FRI., APRIL 26, 2019**  
**8 PM**  
**CHAPIN HALL**

# Berkshire Symphony

*Ronald Feldman, director*

## *Student Soloist Gala*

Franz Liszt  
(1811 – 1886)

*Totentanz*

Sebastian Black '19, piano

Giuseppe Verdi  
(1813 – 1901)

“Caro nome” from *Rigoletto*

Erin Kennedy '19, soprano

Ernest Chausson  
(1855 – 1899)

*Poème, op. 25*

Jeffrey Pearson '20, violin

吴祖强 (Wu Zuqiang) (b. 1927)  
王燕樵 (Wang Yanqiao) (b. 1937)  
刘德海 (Liu Dehai) (b. 1937)

草原小妹妹 (*Little Sisters  
of the Grassland*)

Grazing on the the grassland-  
Furiously struggling in the blizzard-  
Pressing forward in the freezing night-  
Remembering the parties concerned-  
Myriad red flowers blooming everywhere.

Angela Chan '19, pipa

\*\*\*intermission\*\*\*

Sergei Rachmaninoff  
(1895 – 1963)

*Symphonic Dances, op. 45*

- i. *Non allegro*
- ii. *Andante con moto*
- iii. *Lento assai - Allegro vivace -  
Lento assai*

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

## Bios



### **Ronald Feldman, director**

Twice winner of the American Symphony League's ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music, Ronald Feldman has achieved critical acclaim for his work as conductor and cellist. He has appeared as guest conductor with major orchestras such as the London Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Saint Louis Symphony, and the Quebec Symphony, as well as many regional orchestras including the Pro Arte Symphony, Springfield Symphony, Albany Symphony, and the Amarillo Symphony. In August of 2016 Mr. Feldman recorded three albums of music by Kevin Kaska with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

After successful appearances as guest conductor for three consecutive seasons at Symphony Hall and at Tanglewood, the Boston Symphony's summer home, composer and Conductor John Williams appointed Mr. Feldman Assistant Conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra. He served as assistant to John Williams from 1989-1993.

Maestro Seiji Ozawa, Conductor Laureate of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, called Maestro Feldman "an outstanding conductor...I find him to have a deep musical mind which is clearly conveyed through his performances...."

John Williams, composer & Conductor Laureate of the Boston Pops Orchestra called Maestro Feldman, "a brilliant conductor, who displays the best leadership qualities...an outstandingly high level of musicianship that imbues his conducting style with strength, taste, and imagination".

Mr. Feldman joined the Boston Symphony at the age of 19. He has appeared as cello soloist with many orchestras performing a wide range of concerto repertoire from Dvorak to Ligeti. His many chamber music affiliations have included performances with the Boston Symphony Chamber Players, Collage New Music Ensemble, the Boston Conservatory Chamber Players, and the Williams Chamber Players. His performances include collaborations with artists Emmanuel Ax, Garrick Ohlsson, Gil Shaham, and Yo Yo Ma.

Mr. Feldman currently directs the Berkshire Symphony a regional orchestra in residence at Williams College. He was formerly the conductor and Music Director of the New England Philharmonic and the Worcester Orchestra. He is on the faculties of Williams College, the New England Conservatory of Music, and The Boston Conservatory of Music. 2012 marked the beginning of his tenure as Music Director of the Longwood Symphony Orchestra, the orchestra of Boston's medical community.

Mr. Feldman appears on a compact disk recording of an all-Mozart program with the Bucharest "George Enescu" Philharmonic. This CD received excellent reviews in the March/April 1999 issues of the *American Record Guide* and *Fanfare Magazine*.

"Feldman secures a polished and alert account of the Mozart Symphony No. 29 K.201". Bernard Jacobson, *Fanfare Magazine*

"The Mozart symphony No. 29 is given a dazzling reading, effulgent and scintillating with articulation and note length all in sync". Steven Ritter, *American Record Guide*

He also conducts the London Symphony in a recording of music of John Williams and Kevin Kaska. This recording is with virtuoso trumpet player Arturo Sandoval.

In 2001 Mr. Feldman left the Boston Symphony Orchestra to pursue other musical interests. He joined the faculty of Williams College where he is Artist in Residence, Lecturer in Music, Chamber Music coordinator, and Conductor of the award-winning Berkshire Symphony.



**Sebastian Black '19** is a senior music and psychology double major from Birmingham, AL. He has been studying the piano since he was five years old, and has received regular piano lessons from Mrs. Mindy Black, Mrs. Tatiana Kasman, and Williams College Artist-in-Residence Doris Stevenson, with whom he is currently working on the capstone course of the music major. Sebastian's debut performance as an orchestral soloist came in 2011 with the National Academic Honored Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, but the Gala will be his orchestral debut in the United States.

In addition to his work as a soloist, Sebastian has served extensively as an accompanist and music director for both Williams College Department of Music and student theater group Cap and Bells. His past music directorial credits include *Into the Woods*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Die Fledermaus*, and *The Last Five Years*, and he is currently working hard on his final project, *Mr. Burns*, which will open on May 2nd. In his time at Williams, Sebastian has also branched out into songwriting; he recorded his first single, titled *Might As Well Be Me*, in 2017.



**Erin Kennedy '19** is a music major from St. Paul, MN. She currently studies voice with Erin Nafziger, and sings in the Williams Concert and Chamber Choirs under Lindsay Pope. Stage credits at Williams include *Die Fledermaus* (Adele), *La Clemenza di Tito* (Servilia), and *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel); she has also been featured as a soloist at the I/O New Music Festival, with the Williams Choirs, as well as in the community at First Congregational Church and Sweetwood Retirement Community. Erin also performs as an accompanist in the music department, works as

a student conductor in the Mt. Greylock Regional Middle and High School Choir, and teaches a small studio of private voice students from the Williamstown area. She is thrilled to be performing with the Berkshire Symphony and would like to extend her deepest gratitude to the many teachers, friends, and family members who have made this opportunity possible!



**Jeff Pearson '20** is a junior math and music double major and studies violin with Joanna Kurkowicz. An avid orchestral player and chamber musician, Jeff plays with Berkshire Symphony, Williams Chamber Orchestra and the Axxea String quartet, a group he co-founded with other Williams students, among several other groups. Jeff is also a very active jazz guitarist, playing with the Williams Jazz Ensemble as well as small combos. Jeff's love for performing has taken him to tours in Europe and Asia with local orchestras as well as to the Aspen Music Festival and

School, Meadowmount School of Music, and Bowdoin International Music Festival where he studied with David Halen, Ann Schein, Gerardo Ribeiro, Ann Setzer and Janet Sung. The Axxea string quartet has also been invited to perform at Lincoln center and Bargemusic and have received masterclasses and coaching from such quartets as Dover and Takacs. Jeff is very excited to be playing this beautiful piece by Chausson and hopes that everyone will have as much fun listening to it as he will have playing it.



**Angela Chan '19** was born in Beijing, China and grew up in Vancouver, Canada. She has been playing pipa since age seven, first under Jane Yang and later under Guilian Liu. Before coming to Williams, she participated in the B.C. Chinese Orchestra and taught private lessons as a pipa teacher. She has also been playing the piano since age six and holds a Licentiate Diploma in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music. At Williams, she studies under Guowei Wang and participates in the Williams Chinese Ensemble. She is a double major in environmental studies and political science. These days, Angela can be found avoiding her schoolwork, ringing the Thompson Chapel bells, and eating string beans. This is her first time performing as a soloist with an orchestra, and she would like to give her sincerest gratitude to her inspiring teachers, loving parents, and supportive friends, many of whom have heard the line "I need to practice" one too many times.

## Berkshire Symphony Personnel

### Violin I

Joanna Kurkowicz  
*concertmaster*  
Ben Mygatt '20  
*asst. concertmaster*  
Deanna Baasch  
Sarah Briggs  
Christopher Chung '22  
Joseph Jewett  
Louisa Nyhus '20  
Jeffrey Pearson '20  
Teresa Yu '20

### Violin II

Joana Genova, *principal*  
Aidan Dunkelberg '22  
Polly Ellman '22  
Ouisa Fohrhaltz  
Ana M. Strong Garcia '22  
Anna Kankkunen '22  
Fiona Keller '21  
Thomas McGee '22  
Christian Maloney '22  
Cindy Ogulnick  
Harriet Welther

### Viola

Ah ling Neu, *principal*  
James Bergin  
Rebecca Christainsen '21  
Leo Goldmakher  
Catherine Hall-Schor  
Bing Liu  
Ben Maron '21  
Chad Topaz

### Cello

Nathaniel Parke, *principal*  
Mea Cook  
Elisar El-Gaouny '21  
Sonya Lee '22  
Richard Mickey  
Eli Miller '21  
Caroline Tally '21  
Megalan Tso '22

### Double Bass

Robert Zimmerman, *principal*  
Isabel Lane '21  
Anna Leedy '22  
Steve Moran  
Patrick O'Connell  
Matthew Williamson '21

### Flute

Jacqueline DeVoe, *principal*  
Robin Eagleton '22  
Maddie Hurwitz '21  
Justin Connell '22

### Piccolo

Maddie Hurwitz '21

### Oboe

Carl Jenkins, *principal*  
Margaret Allen '20  
Abraham Steinberger '20  
Tamara Winston

### English Horn

Abraham Steinberger '20

### Clarinet

Paul Green, *principal*  
Minjun Kim '22  
Sam Meyerson '21

### Saxophone

Michael Kolodny

### Bass Clarinet

Elizabeth Orchulek

### Bassoon

Stephen Walt, *principal*  
Sofie Netteberg '20

### Contrabassoon

William Stoll

### Horn

Jessica Cunningham, *principal*  
Michael Lombardi  
Crystal Ma '21  
Ron Wold

### Trumpet

David Wharton, *principal*  
Leonard Bopp '19  
Eric Hirsch '19  
Alex Simons '21

### Trombone

Victoria Garcia-Daskalova, *principal*  
Gilberto Cruz

### Bass Trombone

Zachary Haas

### Tuba

John Bottomly, *principal*

### Timpani/Percussion

Matthew Gold, *principal*  
Alex Atchley  
Conor Meehan  
Jay Sager  
Nicholas Tariello  
Daniel Wolfe

### Harp

Elizabeth Morse, *principal*  
Olivia Tse '20

### Piano

Bob Logan

### Orchestra Manager

Jeff Miller

### Librarian

Rachel Cucinella '19

### Teaching Assistant

Leonard Bopp '19

### Stage Managers

Hannah Gruendemann '20  
Francesca Hellerman '22  
Anna Leedy '22  
Moiz Rehan '19  
Abel Romero '19  
Megalan Tso '22

### Special thanks to:

Thanks to the Department of Music and Custodial staff; Jonathan Myers, Concert and Event Coordinator; Harry Van Baaren, poster design; Angela Phienboupah, program layout; and Dan Czernecki, recording engineer for assisting with tonight's performance.

See [music.williams.edu](http://music.williams.edu) for full details and additional happenings as well as to sign up for the weekly e-newsletters.

### Upcoming Events

#### **Williams Jazz Ensemble**

Sat Apr 27 | Chapin Hall | 8:00 PM

#### **MIDWEEKMUSIC**

Wed May 1 | Chapin Hall | 12:15 PM

#### **Chinese Music Ensemble**

Wed May 1 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 7:00 PM

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## **Music program funding is provided by the**

Starr Danforth Fund  
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F. C. Cardillo Memorial Fund  
L. Antony Fisher 1956 Endowment for Music  
Lester Martin Fund for Music Instrument Maintenance  
Lyell B. Clay 1946 Artist-in-Residence in Piano, Voice & Violin  
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Lester Martin Fund for Music Lesson Scholarships  
R. Ramsey Music Fund  
Spring Street Stompers  
Alice Oakes Dunn Music Lessons  
Willem Willeke Music Collection  
Steven Bodner Memorial Fund  
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Kusika and the Zambezi Marimba Band are sponsored by the Department of Music  
the Department of Dance, and the Fund for Afro-American Studies

### **Music Ensembles Fund**

This fund has been established in support of the following ensembles at Williams:  
Berkshire Symphony, Concert & Chamber Choir, Jazz Ensemble, Symphonic Winds,  
and Kusika & the Zambezi Marimba Band.

We thank the following individuals for their annual support:

Mr. Andrew P. Masetti '79  
Richard A. & Karen G. Oberfield  
Ms. Judith Reichert

If you wish to become a donor, contributions may be mailed to Music Ensembles Fund, Attn. Michelle Picard, 54 Chapin Hall Drive, Williamstown, MA 01267. Please let us know how you would like your name listed in our program.
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