



Faculty Recital

**Joanna Kurkowicz, violin**

*Bach and Beyond Part 2*

J. S. Bach  
(1685 – 1750)

Sei Sonatas e Partitas Senza Basso

Sonata No. 1 in G Minor BWV 1001

*Adagio*  
*Fuga*  
*Siciliana*  
*Presto*

Robert Groslot  
(b. 1951)

*Surrounded Melody* for solo violin (2017)  
world premiere

Zygmunt Krauze  
(b. 1938)

*Not Too Far, Not Too Deep* for solo violin (2023)  
world premiere

Shirish Korde  
(b. 1945)

*Evening Rāg and Nocturne* for solo violin (2023)  
world premiere

\*\*\**Intermission*\*\*\*

J. S. Bach

Partita No. 3 in E major BWV 1006

*Preludio*  
*Loure*  
*Gavotte en Rondeau*  
*Menuett I*  
*Menuett II*  
*Bourée*  
*Gigue*

**Sunday, April 16, 2023**

**3:00 p.m.**

*Chapin Hall*

*Williamstown, Massachusetts*

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

## Biography

Praised in Gramophone magazine for “disciplined virtuosity,” violinist **Joanna Kurkowicz** enjoys an active and versatile career as an award-winning soloist, recitalist, chamber musician and concertmistress. She has performed on many of the great concert stages of the world, including Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Jordan Hall, Boston and the Grosse Saal, Salzburg, and has appeared as a soloist with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Boston Philharmonic, Brussels Philharmonic, Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra, the Jefferson Symphony, the San Luis Obispo Symphony, the New England String Ensemble, the Berkshire Symphony, the Poznan Philharmonic, the Polish National Radio Orchestra in Katowice and Warsaw, and others. She has received awards from the Samuel Chester, Presser, Saint Botolph, Kosciuszko, and Olevsky Foundations, the Harvard Musical Association, the Irving McKlein International Competition, the Carmel and Coleman Chamber Music Competitions, and in Poland, the Henryk Wieniawski and Tadeusz Wronski International Competitions. She was a recipient of the New England Conservatory Outstanding Alumni Award in 2008.

Ms. Kurkowicz currently serves as concertmistress of the Boston Philharmonic and the Berkshire Symphony Orchestra, and previously held the same post for the Boston Modern Orchestra Project and the Vermont Symphony. She was a member of the acclaimed Metamorphosen and Orpheus Chamber Orchestras. Since the fall of 2002 she has been Artist in Residence at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, recently joined the faculty at Tufts University, she served on faculty of the New England Conservatory of Music. An avid and sought-after chamber musician, she has collaborated with such eminent artists as Jaime Laredo, Charles Treger, Masuko Ushioda and Laurence Lesser. She was a founding member and Artistic Advisor of the Chameleon Arts Ensemble of Boston and the Plymouth Chamber Music Festival. As a guest artist, she has participated in the Mozarteum Festival in Salzburg, the Ravinia Festival, Barge Concert Series (NY), the Asia Pacific Festival in Wellington, New Zealand, the Rockport Chamber Music Festival, the Orford Music Festival, the EuroSilesia International Music Festival, International Music Academy Orpheus in Vienna, the Warsaw Music Gardens Festival and the Martha’s Vineyard Chamber Music Society. Respected pedagogue, Joanna Kurkowicz held masterclasses both in Europe and the US.

Ms. Kurkowicz is a strong advocate of contemporary music; she has premiered works by Gunther Schuller, Ralph Shapey, Poul Ruders, Robert Grosz, John McDonald, David Kuchler, Grazyna Bacewicz and others. Her premiere recording of Robert Grosz Violin Concerto with the Brussels Philharmonic was released in August 2018. In November 2014 she premiered Ileana Perez Velazquez’s Violin Concerto with the Berkshire Symphony in Williamstown, MA. Her World premiere of Shirish Korde’s Violin Concerto with the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra met with enthusiastic response. Subsequent performances in Europe and New Zealand were equally well received, and the United States premiere with the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra was a highlight of the 2007-2008 concert season.

In August 2009 Joanna Kurkowicz released a recording of the Violin Concertos No. 1, 3 and 7 of Grazyna Bacewicz, with the Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra under conductor Lukasz Borowicz on the Chandos label. It was #6 on the Amazon.com 25 Best Classical Albums of 2009 and has received worldwide acclaim, including the prestigious Diapason d’Or Award (March 2010). The recording was nominated for the “Preis der Deutschen Schallplatten Kritik 2009” (the German Record Critics Award), as well as Poland’s most important music recording award “Fryderyk 2010.” Volume 2 of the Bacewicz Violin Concertos was released in July 2011. Her previous CD of Bacewicz’ music for violin and piano, also released on Chandos Records, was praised in Fanfare magazine as a “spectacular release” and in International Record Review for “passion, authority and sheer élan,” and received equally enthusiastic reviews in the Strad magazine, American Record Guide, and Muzyka21. Her Bridge Records release featuring music of Alfred Schnittke was noted in the Strad for “strong impact... her playing holds one enthralled, demonstrating strong personality and assured technique,” and was chosen by the Boston Herald as “Best of Year 2001.” Ms. Kurkowicz can also be heard on the Naxos, Centaur, CRI, Capstone, Albany, New World Records, Neuma and Archetype labels. Her Boston premiere of sonatas by Rebecca Clarke was listed in the Boston Globe “Best Concerts of 2000.”

A native of Lublin, Poland, Joanna Kurkowicz earned a Master of Music Degree with distinction from the Paderewski Conservatory of Music in Poznan, Poland, in the studio of Jadwiga Kaliszewska. She came to the United States in 1992 to complete a second Master of Music degree as a student and teaching assistant of Charles Treger at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Ms. Kurkowicz completed the prestigious Artist Diploma Program at the New England Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Masuko Ushioda. Joanna Kurkowicz plays on a Petrus Guarnerius violin dated from 1699.

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

#### **Chamber Music Recital**

Tue Apr 18 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 4:30 PM

#### **MIDWEEKMUSIC**

Wed Apr 19 | Chapin Hall | 12:15 PM

#### **Prof. Kathryn Alexander - Class of 1960 Music Lecture**

Thu Apr 20 | Bernhard Music Center, room 30 | 4:15 PM