



VIRTUAL BACH FESTIVAL

Monday, June 15, 2020

PROGRAM

String Quartet No. 1 [2009]

Eric Guinivan

b. 1984

- I. Flowing
- II. Freely
- III. Fierce

Argus Quartet

Eric Guinivan is principal percussionist of the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival Orchestra and has been commissioned to compose and perform a percussion concerto with the orchestra next summer. His String Quartet No. 1 was commissioned by Chamber Music America for Argus Quartet, the ensemble you'll hear in today's virtual performance. Eric is Associate Professor of Composition at James Madison University.

Hommage à J. S. Bach [1994]

Béla Kovács

b. 1937

Lynda Dembowski, clarinet

Hungarian clarinetist Béla Kovács was principal clarinetist with the Hungarian State Opera Orchestra and the Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra from 1956 to 1981. He wrote a series of nine concert etudes for clarinet called "Hommages" written in the style of composers such as Paganini, Debussy, and Bach. Lynda Dembowski is Adjunct Professor of Clarinet at Towson University and Anne Arundel Community College.

My Spirit Be Joyful, from Cantata No. 146 [1992]

Johann Sebastian Bach
arr. S. Drummond Wolff
1916-2004

Susan Messersmith, trumpet
Robin Zemp, organ

This arrangement of Bach for trumpet and organ comes from a tenor and bass duet in Cantata No. 146, *Wir müssen durch viel Trübsal in das Reich Gottes eingehen*. This cantata was written for the third Sunday after Easter. Arranger S. Drummond Wolff was an English organist, choirmaster, and composer primarily active in North America. Susan Sievert Messersmith teaches at Charleston Southern University and is the composer of *Heavenly Descants for Trumpet on 118 Hymn Tunes*.

Le Secret and Ici-bas

Gabriel Fauré
1845 – 1924

Amy Glick, violin
Brent Schloneger, piano

*I want the sunset to forget
the secret I told to the day,
and to carry it away with my love
in the folds of its pale robe!*

So ends Armand Silvestre's text, set by Gabriel Fauré in 1880 as *Le Secret*. Fauré was one of the foremost French composers of his generation and a master of art song, which can easily be seen in this pair of songs. Sully Prudhomme is the author of the text for the second song in this set, *Ici-bas*, set by Fauré with a languid, listless melody. Violinist Amy Glick, member of the Akron Symphony and Akron Baroque orchestras, performs these two vocal works as violin solos, though the spirit of the text can still easily be heard.

Many thanks to our lead sponsors, **Eugene Stoltzfus & Janet Trettner** and **Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community!** Additional funding for the Virtual Festival week provided by **Eugene Stoltzfus Architects**. Today's virtual concert has been sponsored in part by **Michael & Violet Allain, Jim & Joyce Benedict, Friendly City Food Co-op, Gift & Thrift**, and **Park View Federal Credit Union**. The Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival is a program of **Eastern Mennonite University**.