

VIRTUAL BACH FESTIVAL

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

PROGRAM

Tunes from Monticello

Traditional

Lochaber (arr. William McGibbon) Money Musk Lord MacDonald's Reel

David McCormick, baroque violin

Notes from the performer: It was a strange feeling indeed to record these pieces in an empty Lehman Auditorium at a time when preparations are usually in full swing to welcome musicians to Harrisonburg from across the country. I've been lucky to have access to the music collection at Monticello through a fellowship at the International Center for Jefferson Studies. It has been a special privilege to study the music of enslaved fiddlers at Monticello, in particular Eston Hemings, son of Sally Hemings and Thomas Jefferson. After leaving Monticello, Eston settled in Chillicothe, Ohio in 1838. There, he formed an infamous band that played for dances all over Ohio. Money Musk was among the tunes he played, a melody that Thomas Jefferson copied out by hand in his own music books. Eston was also famed for his rendition of the Virginia Reel, a dance that has a number of tunes associated with it. One iteration is Lord MacDonald's Reel, also found in the Monticello Music Collection. Though the arrangement of Lochaber I share with you today is not in Jefferson's collection, the song itself appears twice and was one of Jefferson's favorites.

Rant [2005] Jason Haney b. 1969

Jacob Roege, violin

James Madison University composition professor Jason Haney wrote Rant in 2005 for fellow JMU professor Wanchi Huang. Today, Bach Festival Principal Second Violinist Jacob Roege shares his performance of this work in Martin Chapel. Jacob serves on the faculty at Eastern Mennonite University and James Madison University and is a founding member of the Triforce Quartet.

Over the Rainbow [1939]

Harold Arlen 1905 – 1986 arr. Andrew Axelrad

Jennifer Rickard, violin Andrew Axelrad, flute

Over the Rainbow from *The Wizard of Oz* is perhaps one of the most iconic American songs of all time – its opening octave leap is instantly recognizable. Husband and wife team Jennifer Rickard and Andrew Axelrad perform Andrew's own arrangement of this piece from their living room. Jennifer is a member of the Bach Festival violin section and performs with both the National Philharmonic and the Post Classical Ensemble.

Duo for violin and cello Op 7 [1914]

Zoltán Kodály 1882 – 1967

John Fadial, violin Beth Vanderborgh, cello

Zoltán Kodály wrote his Duo for violin and cello just as World War I was looming, and the tension of that moment can be felt in the music. Kodály's gift for weaving together Hungarian folk elements and European art music is especially apparent in the final dance movement. This performance features another husband a wife musical duo, John Fadial and Bach Festival cellist Beth Vanderborgh. Both serve on the faculty of the University of Wyoming.

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