

# ARIEL CHAMBER MUSIC SHOWCASE

SEPTEMBER 22

Washington University

560 Music Center | 7:30 PM

Address: 560 Trinity Ave, St Louis, MO 63130

Free Admission

**Program:**

Hugo Wolf: Italian Serenade

Mahler Piano Quartet in A minor

Williams Grant Still: Suite for Violin and Piano

The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires for Piano Trio



Erin Schreiber Violin



Beth Chu Viola



XiaoXiao Qiang Violin



Bjorn Ranheim Cello



Andrea Jarrett Violin



Nina Ferrigno Piano



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**Join us for a remarkable musical journey through the works of William Grant Still, Hugo Wolf, Gustav Mahler, and Astor Piazzolla.**

**Musicians from the SLSO are joined by Washington University faculty pianist, Nina Ferrigno.**

**Ariel Concert Series always looks forward to sharing the experience of live, classical music performances with you. We believe that high quality music should be available to everyone, so our concerts are free to the public!**

**Thank you to the 560 Music Center at Washington University for hosting our concert and to Tai Lin of Ariel Premium Supply for making these free performances possible.**

## **Program**

**Hugo Wolf: Italian Serenade for String Quartet**

**William Grant Still: Suite for Violin and Piano**

**I. African dancer**

**II. Mother and Child**

**III. Gamin**

**Mahler: Piano Quartet in A minor**

**I. Nicht zu schnell**

**II. Scherzo (fragment only)**

**Piazzolla: The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires for Piano Trio**

**I. Primavera Porteña**

**II. Verano Porteño**

### III. Otoño Porteño

### IV. Invierno Porteño

**Hugo Wolf** (1860-1887) was born in what is now Slovene Gradec, Slovenia. Wolf showed great musical aptitude from a young age. He took violin and piano lessons from his father and piano and composition lessons at his primary school. However, when his lessons were in subjects other than music Wolf would often act up and cause trouble in his classes! Because of his antics he was unable to finish his early schooling.

Wolf eventually moved to Vienna to attend the conservatory and to pursue his love of music, but his rebellious nature interrupted his studies once again. He was dismissed for bad behavior. Undeterred in his pursuit of a musical career, Wolf continued composing and began to teach music. He also tried conducting, but was not successful.

Wolf's vocal compositions were recognized as his best work. They were championed by composers such as Franz Liszt as well as famous opera singers of the time. Wolf's songs put his name on the map and made him famous during his lifetime.

Sadly, by 1891 Wolf was suffering from syphilis and depression. Although he continued composing and orchestrating until 1897 his mental health was failing, and in 1899 he admitted himself into an insane asylum. He died in 1903.

*Italian Serenade* was written in 1887. Wolf had just resumed composing after a brief stint as a music critic. The piece is thought to be one of Wolf's best instrumental works and a true example of his compositional style.

**William Grant Still** (1895-1978) was born in Woodville, Mississippi. Sadly, Still's father died when he was still an infant, and afterwards he moved to Little Rock Arkansas with his mother. His mother remarried in 1904, and it was Still's stepfather that began to nurture his love of music. By the age of 15, Still was taking violin lessons and teaching himself to play several other instruments! During his undergraduate years Still majored in science, all the while keeping up his musical studies. However, he didn't finish the science degree and transferred to Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

Still's early career was interrupted by World War One during which he served in the Navy. Afterwards, he moved to Harlem and played in W.C. Handy's band and became very involved with the Harlem Renaissance.

Throughout the 1930's Still arranged music for NBC radio broadcasts, had his first symphony performed by the Rochester Philharmonic, received his first Guggenheim Fellowship, started composing the first of nine operas, and

composed *Song of the City* for the World's Fair of 1939.

In 1949, his opera *Troubled Island* became the first opera composed by an American to be performed by the New York City Opera. Still was also the first African American to conduct a major orchestra in the south, New Orleans Philharmonic, and the first to conduct a major orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, in a performance of his own works.

The *Suite for Violin and Piano* was commissioned by Louis Kaufman and completed in 1943. Still composed the suite to musically represent the work of three different artists of the Harlem Renaissance. The first movement was inspired by Richmond Barthe's sculpture, *African Dancer*. The second movement was inspired by paintings and sculptures of Sargent Johnson, and the third was inspired by Augusta Savage's, *Gamin*, the bust of a young boy.

**Gustav Mahler** (1860-1911) was born to Jewish parents in what was then Bohemia of the Austrian Empire. He would later convert to Catholicism to secure a conducting job at the Vienna Court Opera.

From a young age Mahler showed immense musical talent and graduated from the Vienna Conservatory in 1878. He had success as a conductor soon after school, and his prestige continued to grow throughout his lifetime culminating in positions with the Metropolitan Opera and New York Philharmonic.

Although Mahler is known today to be a significant and important composer, he wasn't always recognized as such. During his lifetime he was a renowned conductor who composed in his spare time. The majority of Mahler's works are written for orchestra, symphonic chorus, and vocal soloists with orchestra.

The *Piano Quartet in A minor*, written in Mahler's last year at Vienna Conservatory, is Mahler's only surviving chamber music. His piano quintet and violin sonata are lost. Mahler played piano for the premiere of his quartet in 1876, but there is no record indicating whether the quartet was complete at the time. The surviving manuscript of the second movement contains only fragments.

The quartet can be heard as part of the soundtrack for Martin Scorsese's movie *Shutter Island*.

**Astor Piazzolla**, born in 1921, was an Argentinian composer, bandoneon player, and composer. In the 1950's he transformed the traditional tango and created a new style called nuevo tango. This new style of tango incorporated elements of jazz and classical music. His unconventional tangoes used instruments such as the saxophone and guitar which was quite revolutionary for the time!

In 1954, Piazzolla traveled to Paris to attend the conservatory and study classical composition with Nadia Boulanger. Piazzolla was hesitant to share his tangos with Boulanger, thinking that his future composition career would be based in traditional classical music. However, once Boulanger heard a tango of Piazzolla's, she knew that her pupil had great talent. It was Boulanger that motivated Piazzolla to pursue a career writing tangos and develop his style of nuevo tango.

*The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* is also known as *Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas*. The adjective "porteño" refers to those born in Buenos Aires. The seasons were not originally written as one work. *Verano Porteño* was composed in 1965, as incidental music for the play *Melenita de oro*. The other three seasons were written in 1969. Piazzolla composed the seasons for his seven piece band with the instrumentation of violin, viola, piano, electric guitar, double bass, and bandoneón, played by Piazzolla himself.

In the late 1990's the seasons were arranged for violin and string orchestra by Russian composer Leonid Desyatnikov. Since then, the work has been arranged for several instrumentations including the version for piano trio being performed on this program!



Nina Ferrigno, described by the St. Louis Post Dispatch as "a magnificent pianist," is a collaborative artist at home in a multitude of

diverse musical settings. Her playing is said to be, "...always precise with superb accentuation and warmth of feeling..." Nina is a founding member of the Boston-based Calyx Piano Trio and has appeared in major concert venues throughout North America. She has appeared as soloist with the St. Louis Symphony, Boston Modern Orchestra Project (BMOP), the Boston Pops, and the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra. Her collaborative large ensemble appearances include those as principal keyboardist with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Boston Symphony, Boston Pops, Chicago Symphony, and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project (BMOP). Her recent festival appearances include those at Tanglewood, where the Calyx Piano Trio performed *Tones of Clay*, a newly commissioned work written for them by James



Named a 2009 Presidential Scholar in the Arts by the U.S. Department of Education, violinist Andrea Jarrett received her Master of Music Degree from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in May 2015. While obtaining her degree, Jarrett was a student of Kathleen

Winkler and served as concertmaster of both the chamber and symphony orchestras. She received her Bachelor of Music Degree from the Juilliard School in 2013, where she studied with David Chan. Jarrett joined the second violin section of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in September 2015.

Prior to her appointment with the SLSO, Jarrett participated in the 2013 New York String Orchestra Seminar under the direction of Jaime Laredo. While attending Juilliard, Andrea gave the world premiere of composer Neil Rolnick's concerto for violin and electronics in November 2012, *Gardening at Gropius House*. In the same year, Jarrett served as concertmaster of the Juilliard Chamber Orchestra. Another highlight during her

Lee, III, and Summerfest (KC) performing music of Kenji Bunch. She has appeared at Banff, Norfolk, and the Skaneateles Festival and regularly appears at the Carolina Chamber Music Festival, and Missouri Chamber Music Festival – the St. Louis Festival she co-founded in 2010 for which she is the Director. Nina frequently collaborates with Chamber Project St. Louis. She appears frequently on the St. Louis Symphony's 'Live at the Pulitzer' series, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra's 'Prelude' and 'Community Chamber Concert' series.

Ms. Ferrigno is a graduate of New England Conservatory of Music, where she received degrees with distinction in performance. Nina is committed to bringing classical music to new audiences and expanding the repertoire through commissioning, and works with living composers to perform new works in a variety of settings. Recent commissions include those of James Lee, III, Christopher Stark, Derek Bermel, Amy Beth Kirsten and Peter Askim. The New Music Connoisseur has said of her, "pianist Nina Ferrigno [brings] out the inherent horizontal logic...all the while imparting sonic beauty from end to end." Her discography includes chamber music of Lansing McLoskey on Albany Records, Bernard Rands Canti Triology on Arsis Audio and a recent release on Bridge Records of This is Not a Story by Christopher Stark which garnered "...special mention to pianist Nina Ferrigno who can jazz it up or summon a pianissimo of the quietist order" [JWR]. Her 2010 recording of Elliott Schwartz's Chamber Concerto III: Another View for the BMOP Sound label was described as "wonderfully musical" by Fanfare magazine. Nina is on the teaching faculty of Washington University and Webster University and lives in St. Louis with her two children.



Beth Guterman Chu is one of the most sought-after young violinists of her generation. Before joining the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in 2013 as principal, she was a member of

the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and enjoyed a varied career as a chamber musician and recitalist. Chu is still an avid chamber musician, and collaborates with many

undergraduate years was her performance of the Mendelssohn Octet in the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Meet the Music! Concert Series. Jarrett was a member of the first YouTube Symphony Orchestra in 2009, with concerts in Carnegie Hall under the baton of Michael Tilson Thomas. A native midwesterner, Jarrett has performed as a soloist with the Dearborn, Birmingham-Bloomfield, Toledo, and Ann Arbor symphony orchestras.

During her high school years, Jarrett was a member of the Music Institute of Chicago's Academy program, where she studied with Almita and Roland Vamos. Jarrett received the Silver Award in Music/Violin from the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts in January of 2009. Also an active chamber musician, Jarrett was a member of Quartet Polaris, Gold Medal Winners of the 2008 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, Junior Division. She performed with Quartet Polaris on NPR's From the Top. The quartet also performed in The Kennedy Center and Carnegie Weill Hall as part of an East Coast tour through the Music Institute of Chicago. Jarrett's summer studies have brought her to many corners of the world. She attended the Taos School of Music in 2013, where she worked closely with the Borromeo and Brentano String Quartets to perform Beethoven's entire quartet cycle. In 2012, Jarrett traveled to Japan to attend the Pacific Music Festival, where she served as concertmaster under Fabio Luisi. Other festivals attended include Music Academy of the West, Spoleto Festival, Astona International Academy (Switzerland), Heifetz International Music Institute, and Interlochen Arts Camp.

Following in her mother's footsteps, Andrea Jarrett loves spending her spare time cooking and baking. Her newest hobby is knitting, and she can often be spotted at "Knitorious," St. Louis's specialty yarn shop.



Cellist Bjorn Ranheim was appointed to the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in 2005 and is a member of the Sun Valley Music Festival in Idaho. He served as principal cellist with the

artists including Gil Shaham, Itzhak Perlman, Joseph Kalichstein, Menahem Pressler, Jaime Laredo, James Ehnes, and members of the Guarneri, Emerson, and Orion quartets. As a recording artist, she has recorded for Deutsche Grammophon, Tzadik, Naxos, and the CMS Studio Recordings.

During the summer Chu performs and works with young musicians at the Aspen Music Festival and School, National Youth Orchestra-USA, and at the Marlboro Music Festival. In recent years, she has also performed at festivals in Seattle; Lake Champlain, Vermont; Portland, Maine; as well as Luzerne, Bridgehampton, and Skaneateles, New York. Chu has also performed as soloist with many distinguished conductors including Hannu Lintu, Bramwell Tovey, David Robertson, Leonard Slatkin, and James DePreist.

Chu received her Artist Diploma at the New England Conservatory studying with Kim Kashkashian, and her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from the Juilliard School studying with Masao Kawasaki and Misha Amory. She lives in St. Louis with her husband Jonathan, another violist, and their three children.



Erin Schreiber joined the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra as Assistant Concertmaster in September 2008, at the age of 20. She has appeared in recital throughout the

U.S., as well as in London, Sweden, Italy, and Germany, and has toured with jazz legend Chris Botti all over the U.S. as well as to Shanghai, Mexico City, Canada, and Eastern Europe. She has also performed for Colin Powell and former President Jimmy Carter.

Schreiber made her SLSO solo debut with a performance of Berio's Corale (on Sequenza VIII) in 2011, and played Vaughan Williams's The Lark Ascending for the Opening Weekend concerts of the 2014/2015 season, both programs conducted by former Music Director David Robertson.

Schreiber attended the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia from 2005 to 2008, studying with Joseph Silverstein, Pamela Frank, and

Colorado Music Festival from 2006–2015 and has performed and toured with the orchestras of Cleveland, Atlanta, Detroit, and Baltimore. Ranheim has been featured as soloist on multiple occasions with the SLSO, New World Symphony, and Colorado Music Festival, as well as with the Monteux Festival Orchestra, St. Louis Philharmonic, Metropolitan Orchestra of St. Louis, Columbia Civic Orchestra, National Repertory Orchestra, and the Washington University Symphony Orchestra. Actively performing in chamber music, Ranheim has toured extensively in the United States, Europe, and Central America, with performances at Carnegie Hall, Boston's Gardner Museum, Teatro Nacional de Costa Rica, and the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain. He has participated in the Isaac Stern Chamber Music Seminar, Costa Rica International Chamber Music Festival, Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival, Jackson Hole Chamber Music Festival, and Missouri Chamber Music Festival.

Ranheim is highly visible throughout the St. Louis region, presenting recitals, educational programs and chamber music performances. In January 2020, he was featured alongside St. Louis Symphony Orchestra Artist-in-Residence, pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, in Shostakovich's Piano Trio No. 2 as part of Washington University's Great Artist Series. He is a frequent recital partner of famed soprano, Christine Brewer, and is a core member of the Chamber Music Society of St. Louis. He was the cellist with Washington University's Eliot Piano Trio with St. Louis Symphony concertmaster, David Halen, and the late pianist, Seth Carlin. Ranheim's recording of J.S. Bach Suite No. 3 for Unaccompanied Cello was released on AAM Recordings in 2013. Seeking out new directions and partners in music making, Ranheim has collaborated with internationally known jazz musicians, sharing the stage and recording studio with Branford Marsalis, Christian McBride, Peter Martin, Jeremy Davenport, and Brian Owens. In spring 2011, Ranheim appeared on the nationally renowned radio program, A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor, performing alongside jazz vocalist, Erin Bode. He is a founding member of The 442s, an acoustic ensemble that pursues innovative, genre-defying music making and collaborations. A committed advocate of contemporary solo and chamber music, Ranheim has given world-premiere performances of works by the late Stephen Paulus, Paul Schoenfield, Steven

Jaime Laredo. Past teachers have included Roland Vamos and Almita Vamos, Elisa Barston, and Robert Lipsett.

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Xiaoxiao Qiang has been a top prizewinner in many national and international competitions, including Second Prize in the 2011 Schmidbauer International

Young Artist Competition, First Prize in the 2011 Ruth Burr String Competition, the Violin Performance Award in the 2009 Corpus Christi International String Competition, and the Third Prize of the Tuesday Musical Club String Competition in San Antonio. In 2008 she was the Grand Prize winner of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music Concerto Competition in Singapore, and in 2010 was one of only 40 violinists invited to compete in the Eighth Quadrennial International Violin Competition of Indianapolis.

Originally from China, Qiang began playing the violin at the age of four under her father's instruction. After attending the middle and high school attached to the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing from 1999 to 2005, she received a full scholarship with living stipend to study in the Bachelor of Music program at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in Singapore, where she studied with the head of the string faculty, Qian Zhou. Qiang then completed a Master of Music degree in violin performance under Cho-Liang Lin at Rice University, where she received the Dr. Joseph A. and Ida Kirkland Mullen Scholarships, the University's highest scholarship awarded to any student of the year.

Qiang has performed extensively as a chamber musician and soloist. She is the founding violinist of the Eon Trio, and with them toured throughout Asia. She represented the string quartet of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, which performed at the state banquet hosted in honor of H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn in April 2007 and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in March 2006. She has collaborated as a chamber musician with renowned artists such as the Tokyo String Quartet, Cho-Liang Lin, Kyoko Takezawa, Robert McDuffie, Augustin Hadelich, and Jian Wang. As a soloist, she recorded "La Rosée

Heitzig, Peter Martin, Stefan Freund, Christopher Stark, and William Beckstrand. From 2016–2021, Ranheim served as Music Director for the World Chess Hall of Fame, curating 24 concerts per season on two distinct series featuring performers from across the musical spectrum.

As a mentor and coach, Ranheim has been invited to work with the fellows of the New World Symphony, Indiana University Summer Music Festival, and the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra. He has been a featured contributor to MUSAIC—the online video lesson library curated by the New World Symphony as well as the Online Music Academy produced by the Sheldon Concert Hall in St. Louis.

Ranheim studied at The Cleveland Institute of Music under the tutelage of Stephen Geber, former principal cellist of the Cleveland Orchestra, and is an alumnus of the New World Symphony, America's Orchestral Academy, in Miami Beach, Florida.

He lives in the historic Shaw neighborhood of St. Louis with his wife, Dorie, their beautiful daughters, Inga and Freya and their Hungarian Vizsla, Ginger.

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Tai Lin  
Founder,  
Chairman, and  
Recording  
Engineer of  
Ariel Concert  
Series  
President, Chief  
Executive  
Officer, and  
Chairman of  
Ariel Premium  
Supply, Inc.



Fond” by Kawai Shui, which was released on Ablaze Records in 2008.

Qiang has also participated in many distinguished music festivals. She was invited to perform at La Jolla Summerfest , Tongyeong International Music (Korea) , and was the chamber music artist at the Texas Piano Festival, and received a fellowship to the Aspen Music Festival and School for 2009-10 and 2012. She has also performed in the Spoleto Festival. In December 2010, Qiang performed as part of the New York String Orchestra Seminar under renowned musician Jaime Laredo at Carnegie Hall.

Along with her successes as a soloist, Xiaoxiao Qiang is also an experienced and accomplished orchestral musician. She has performed with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and the Houston Symphony Orchestra, and was a member of Singapore Festival Orchestra during her studies in Singapore. In 2011, she joined the First Violin Section of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra after winning an international audition from a field of over 100 candidates

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## Ariel News and Upcoming Concerts

### Oboe and the String Quintet

Date: October 20, 2023.

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Grace United Methodist Church

Address: 6199 Waterman Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63112

Admission: Free

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