Upcoming VCU Music Events

FACULTY RECITAL: Patrick Smith, horn, with Magdalena Adamek, piano
Tuesday, March 29, 2016, 8 p.m.
Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
Free admission

DORIC STRING QUARTET WITH JONATHAN BISS
Saturday, April 2, 2016, 8 p.m.
Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
Tickets: $34 general admission, $31 for seniors/VCU Alumni Association members

UNIVERSITY BAND
Wednesday, April 6, 2016, 7 p.m.
Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
Tickets: $7 in advance, or $10 at door. Free for VCU students with ID.

SAM DORSEY, CLASSICAL GUITAR
Sunday, April 10, 4 p.m.
Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
Tickets: $15 general admission, $10 VCU students

For tickets and information, visit
ARTS.VCU.EDU/MUSIC/EVENTS

DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC

SIMPLY BARTÓK

Yin Zheng
Laurens Patzlaff
Piano

Justin Alexander
Jim Jacobson
Percussion

Saturday, March 26, 2016 | 7 p.m
Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall
Virginia Commonwealth University
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
922 Park Avenue | Richmond, VA

arts.vcu.edu/music

Department of Music | School of the Arts | Virginia Commonwealth University
922 Park Avenue, Room 132 | P.O. Box 842004 | Richmond, VA 23284-2004
(804) 828-1166 | music@vcu.edu | arts.vcu.edu/music
Program

Improv on Béla Bartók

Laurens Patzlaff, Piano

Bartók Variations

Jamie Whitmarsh
(b. 1984)

Justin Alexander, Snare Drum

7 Pieces from Mikrokosmos for 2 Pianos, Sz.108, BB120

Béla Bartók
(1881 - 1945)

No.1. Bulgarian rhythm: Allegro molto (arr. of Vol. 4, No.113)
No.2. Chord and trill study: Moderato (arr. of Vol. 3, No.69)
No.3. Perpetuum mobile: Allegro molto (arr. of Vol. 5, No.135)
No.4. Short canon and its inversion: Allegro (arr. of Vol. 5, No.123)
No.5. New Hungarian folksong: Ben ritmato (arr. of Vol. 5, No.127)
No.6. Chromatic invention: Allegro (arr. of Vol. 6, No.145)
No.7. Ostinato: Vivacissimo (arr. of Vol. 6, No.146)

Yin Zheng, Piano I

Laurens Patzlaff, Piano II

Sonata for 2 Pianos and 2 Percussion, Sz. 110, BB115

Béla Bartók
(1881 – 1945)

1. Assai lento. Allegro molto
2. Lento ma non troppo
3. Allegro non troppo

Yin Zheng & Laurens Patzlaff, Piano I & II

Justin Alexander & Jim Jacobson, Percussion
Biographies

A native of Shanghai, China, pianist Yin Zheng enjoys a vibrant career of performing and teaching across Europe, US, and Asia. She has been featured on leading music stages such as Carnegie Hall and Steinway Hall in New York City and, in worldwide reputable music festivals in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Spain, Portugal, China and Canada. She earned the “Diplôme Supérieur” from the Brussels Royal Conservatory with a unanimous “Greatest Distinction” and her Doctorate of Musical Arts on a full scholarship under world-renowned pedagogue Nellita True from the Eastman School of Music.

Dr. Zheng has won first prizes in both the 28th Frinna Awerbuch International Piano Competition and the Empire State Piano Competition held in New York. Her chamber performance was recorded by La Radio Suisse Romande. In the summer of 2008, she was invited as the first pianist from the North America to perform at the Kirovohrad Spring Music Festival in Ukraine that carries a long history of featuring only Russian piano legends. She has given guest artist recitals and masterclasses at both U.S. and international universities such as the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, Michigan State University, SUNY Potsdam Crane School of Music, Louisiana State University, Shanghai Normal University, Kasetsart and Mahidol University College of Music in Bangkok, and the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Dr. Zheng is faculty-in-residence at the Lancaster International Piano Academy in Pennsylvania, the Vianden Music Festival in Luxembourg and the Schilern International Music Festival in the Italian Alps.

Dr. Zheng currently serves as assistant professor of piano and keyboard area coordinator at VCU. She is also the director of VCU Global Summer Institute of Music, a platform for cultural and artistic exchange she launched in 2013 with the support of the Department of Music.

Improvisation is the main focus of pianist Laurens Patzlaff’s artistic and academic career. Born in 1981, he started playing the piano at the age of eight. Even at an early stage he felt inspired and fascinated by the limitless stylistic possibilities which the piano offered and whilst building up his classical repertoire, dedicated himself to the art of improvisation. The influential musician and composer Robert Schumann and the jazz pianist Oscar Peterson count amongst his most important role models and represent a holistic musical philosophy for Laurens Patzlaff.

Laurens Patzlaff studied at the Stuttgart State Music University to become a school music teacher, specialising in jazz and pop music. At the same time he studied the piano as an artistic profession under Professor Friedemann Rieger in Stuttgart and Professor Uta Weyand in Madrid. In addition to his international solo engagements he plays in various jazz bands and is also active as a chamber musician. He has worked with various orchestras including the Stuttgart State Orchestra and the Südwestdeutsches Kammerorchester and many of his performances have been broadcast on the radio. In November 2012 he released his much acclaimed debut album “Reflections on Debussy” in which he combines works by Debussy with his own improvisations. Since 2007 he has taught improvisation at the Stuttgart State University for Music and Performing Arts. He has also taught at Freiburg and Trossingen universities.

In addition he regularly hosts masterclasses for piano and improvisation at the universities of Melbourne, Sydney, Hong Kong, Beijing and others plus Hunter College in New York City. A busy programme of concert appearances as a soloist, chamber musician and jazz pianist have taken this exceptionally talented and multi-award-winning pianist to many different European destinations as well as to Japan, Korea, Thailand and regularly to China, the USA and Australia.

In 2013, Laurens Patzlaff was appointed Germany’s first ever Professor for piano and improvisation (jazz and classical) at Lübeck University of Music.

Biographies

Justin Alexander is a dynamic and versatile percussionist and educator serving as Assistant Professor of Music at Virginia Commonwealth University. Justin’s recent highlights include collaborative performances in Sweden, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and throughout the United States. He has performed and presented at conferences held by The Percussive Arts Society, The College Music Society, The National Association of Wind and Percussion Instructors, numerous “Days of Percussion” festivals, as well as with The Richmond Symphony, The Florida Orchestra, The Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, The Eastern Music Festival Faculty Orchestra and the Tallahassee Symphony. Active in the creation and performance of contemporary music, Justin has commissioned, premiered, and recorded works by noted composers John Luther Adams, Christopher Adler, Blake Tyson, Halim El-Dabh, Ivan Treviño, Brian Nozny and Nathaniel Bartlett.

As a member of the Percussive Arts Society, Justin has published articles in Percussive Notes, the official research journal of the Percussive Arts Society, currently serves on the PAS Drum Set and University Pedagogy Committees and presided as chair of the PAS University Committee from 2009-2012.

Justin holds the Doctor of Music Degree in percussion performance from Florida State University. His primary teachers include Dr. John W. Parks IV, Dr. Blake Tyson and Prof. Leon Anderson.

Jim Jacobson is principal timpanist of the Richmond Symphony Orchestra, timpanist/percussion coordinator of the AIMS Summer Music Festival in Graz, Austria, and also served as acting principal timpanist of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra during the 2014-15 season. In addition, he has performed with the Czech Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, as well as the Columbus, Toledo, Virginia, Annapolis, Key West, and Stamford Symphony Orchestras, and the Joffrey and Bolshoi Ballet Orchestras. Previously, he held principal positions with the Delaware and Tallahassee Symphony Orchestras.

In addition to orchestral performance, Jim also teaches at Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Richmond, and gives master classes and concerts at the annual International Percussion Festival in Patagonia, Argentina. He has been a guest recitalist at the International Percussion Conference in Espinho, Portugal, and performed marimba duos together with his teacher, Keiko Abe, on tour in Japan and the US. As a soloist, Jim has appeared with the Richmond Symphony on two occasions, performing Druchetzky’s Partita in C Major for Six Timpani and David Schiff’s timpani concerto Speaking in Drums, and is scheduled to perform Johann Fischer’s Symphonic with 8 obbligato Timpani in 2017.

Jim enjoys a variety of music as well as traveling, languages, skiing, cycling and being in the company of cats. He produced pop music and played in the punk/rock band Big Fun in Los Angeles, spent several years living in Germany and Japan, rode motorcycles on three continents and ran with the bulls in Pamplona, Spain.

Jim holds degrees from the University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, and a doctorate from the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University.