

9-12-2003

Guest Artist Recital: Elmar Oliveira, violin

Elmar Oliveira

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The Louis K. Thaler Concert Violinist Series

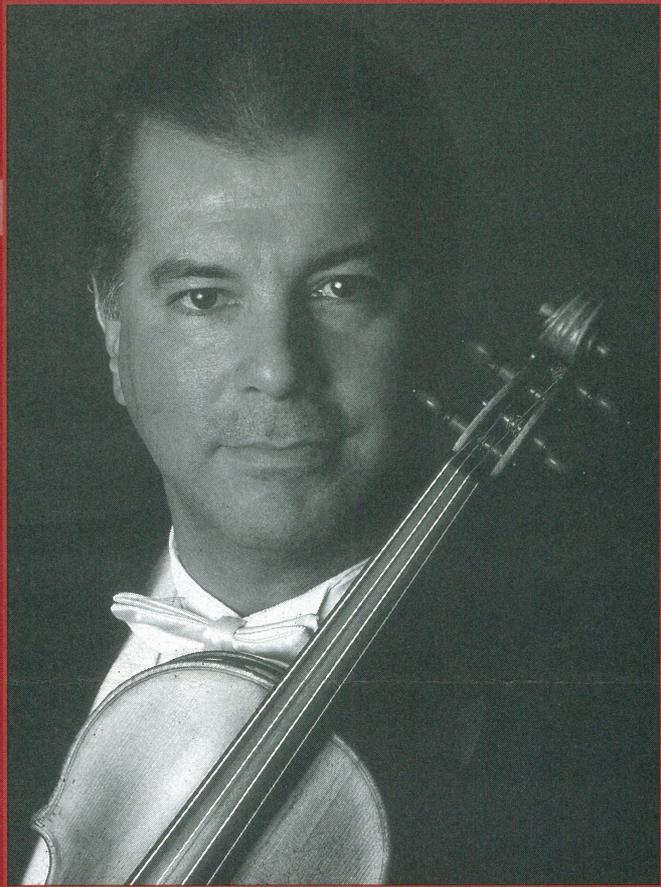


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Elmar Oliveira, violin
Robert Koenig, piano

Friday, September 12, 2003

8:15 p.m.

Ford Hall

James J. Whalen Center for Music

Ithaca College

Elmar Oliveira

In his unsurpassed combination of impeccable artistry and old-world elegance, Elmar Oliveira is one of the most commanding violinists of our time. He is also among the few major artists committed to expanding the boundaries of traditional violin repertoire—championing both contemporary music and rarely heard works of the past, devoting time to the development of the young artists of tomorrow, and enthusiastically promoting the art of modern violin and bow makers.

Oliveira is the only American violinist to win the gold medal at the International Tchaikovsky Competition. He is the first violinist to receive the coveted Avery Fisher Prize. He also captured first prizes at the Naumburg International Violin Competition and the G. B. Dealey Competition. He has since served on the juries of some of the most prestigious violin competitions, among them the Montreal, Indianapolis, Naumburg, and Vianna da Motta competitions.

Oliveira's rigorous international itinerary includes appearances in recital and with many of the world's great orchestras. He has thrilled audiences in the United States, Europe, the Far East, South America, Australia, and New Zealand. A prodigious recording artist, Oliveira received two Grammy Award nominations for his CD of Samuel Barber's violin concerto performed with Leonard Slatkin and the Saint Louis Symphony. His best-selling recording of Einojuhani Rautavaara's violin concerto with the Helsinki Philharmonic (Ondine) recently won a Cannes Classical Award. Oliveira's discography on the Artek, Angel/OMI, Sony Masterworks, Vox, Harmonia Mundi, IMP, Ondine, and Melodiya labels ranges widely from works by Bach and Vivaldi to those by present-day composers.

A son of Portuguese immigrants, Oliveira grew up in Binghamton, New York. He was nine when he began playing the violin with his brother John. He later continued his studies with Ariana Bronne and Raphael Zuckerman at the Hartt College of Music and the Manhattan School of Music. The prime minister of Portugal recently awarded him the country's highest civilian honor: the Order of Santiago. Oliveira performs exclusively on the "Stretton" violin, made about 1729–30 by Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù, as well as on an exact copy of the instrument made by Curtin and Alf in 1993.

Robert Koenig

Canadian pianist Robert Koenig has quickly become a much sought-after collaborative artist and chamber musician. He performs regularly in many of the major centers throughout the world, among them the Kennedy Center, Alice Tully Hall, Tokyo's Suntory Hall, the Seoul Arts Center, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, and the Louvre Museum.

Koenig has appeared at many music festivals and is frequently heard on radio and television. He was staff pianist at the Juilliard School and at the Curtis Institute of Music, and in 2000 he was appointed assistant professor of piano and piano chamber music at the University of Kansas. Koenig has recorded for Artek, Harmonia Mundi, Naxos, Biddulph, Cedille, CRI, Eroica, and Naxos.

In Saskatchewan, Koenig began his formal training at the Vancouver Academy of Music with Lee Kumsing and Gwen Thompson. He later studied at the Banff School of Fine Arts and the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy. Koenig earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at the Curtis Institute of Music.

Elmar Oliveira, violin

Robert Koenig, piano

Violata for Piano and Violin in D Major, op. 12, no. 1 (1797–98)

Allegro con brio

Tema con variazioni: Andante con moto

Rondo: Allegro

Ludwig van Beethoven

1770–1827

Violata for Violin and Piano in E Minor, op. 82 (1918)

Allegro

Romance: Andante

Allegro non troppo

Sir Edward Elgar

1857–1934

Intermission

Violata for Violin and Piano in B Minor (1917)

Moderato

Andante espressivo

Passacaglia: Allegro moderato ma energico

Ottorino Respighi

1879–1936

Violame for Violin and Piano, op. 25 (1896)

Ernest Chausson

1855–99

MASTER CLASS

Monday, September 13, 2003

10 a.m., Hockett Family Recital Hall

Elmar Oliveira appears by arrangement with Cramer/Marder Artists.
His recordings are available on the Artek, Ondine, Angel/EMI, Vox, and CBS Masterworks labels.

The Louis K. Thaler Concert Violinist Series

established at Ithaca College by the Thaler/Howell Foundation in memory of Louis Thaler and honor his lifelong love of the violin. The impetus for this gift was provided by Louis Thaler's son Manley and Manley's immediate family.

Louis Thaler (1903–79) practiced law in Ithaca for more than 50 years. He founded the law firm Thaler & Thaler and was its senior partner. He was the city of Ithaca attorney from 1940 to 1941, president of the Tompkins County Bar Association from 1944 to 1945. He also served as a judicial county judge and surrogate judge. Actively involved in civic affairs throughout his career, Louis Thaler was a member of the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors, the American Bar Association, the New York State Bar Association, the Ithaca Rotary Club, and the Elks Club. He was also an amateur violinist.

In 1927 Louis Thaler married Rachel Shulman, a native Ithacan who was awarded a scholarship to study piano at the Ithaca Conservatory of Music. Both were devoted supporters of the Friends of Ithaca College.

The legacy of the Thalers' love of music lives on today through the Rachel S. Thaler Concert Pianist Series, established in 1991, and the Louis K. Thaler Concert Violinist Series, created in 2002. The Thaler/Howell Foundation, through the efforts of Manley H. Thaler, endowed both series to recognize and honor Rachel and Louis Thaler, and to ensure that outstanding violinists and pianists would always perform for the Ithaca College community and the surrounding area.



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