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Guest Artist Recital: Jennifer Koh, violin and Shai Wosner, piano

Jennifer Koh

Shai Wosner

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The Louis K. Thaler Concert Violinist Series



Jennifer Backman

Jennifer Koh
VIOLIN



Marco Borggreve

Shai Wosner
PIANO

Frid

April 9, 2010

8:15 p.m.

Ford Hall
James J. Whalen
Center for Music
Ithaca College

ITHACA

Jennifer Koh, violin

As a virtuoso whose natural flair is matched with a probing intellect, Jennifer Koh is committed to exploring connections between the pieces she plays, searching for similarities of voice between and among composers, as well as within the works of a single composer. She has most recently been recognized by a Grammy nomination for her recording *String Poetic*, on the Cedille label, which includes world premieres by Jennifer Higdon and Lou Harrison as well as music by John Carl Ruggles.

Koh's engagements in the 2009–10 season include return guest appearances with the New Jersey Symphony, National Symphony of Washington, D.C., and the New World Symphony, among other ensembles. Abroad she makes her Proms debut with the BBC Symphony directed by Jiří Bělohlávek in a world premiere performance of Augusta Read Thomas's violin concerto *Juggler in Paradise* and is also heard with the BBC Scottish Symphony. A new concerto written and commissioned for Koh by Klas Torstensson will be premiered in Amsterdam with the Nieuw Ensemble in May 2010. In recital Koh also plays the violin sonatas and partitas of J. S. Bach at New York's Miller Theatre in commemoration of the 325th anniversary of Bach's birth. She will also perform in the Bach and Beyond project at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco and at Oberlin College in Ohio. Her other recital engagements include all-Mozart and Schubert programs with pianist Shai Vosner and a duo program with cellist Anssi Karttunen in Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. (Kennedy Center), New York (Baryshnikov Arts Center), Houston (Da Camera Society), and Minneapolis (Schubert Club). In the fall of 2010, she will tour as soloist with the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra under Pavel Kogan throughout the United States.

Since the 1994–95 season, when she won the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, the Concert Artists Guild Competition, and the Avery Fisher Career Grant, Koh has been heard with leading orchestras and conductors around the world, including the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, National Symphony Orchestra, New Jersey Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Houston Symphony, New World Symphony, and Montreal Symphony. Abroad she has appeared with the Czech Philharmonic, BBC London Symphony, BBC Scottish Symphony, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Iceland Symphony, Helsinki Philharmonic, Lahti Symphony, Moscow Radio Symphony, Brandenburg Ensemble, and Singapore Symphony. In November of 2008, she made her debut with the Kirov Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre, performing the Russian premiere of Ligeti's Violin Concerto under Maestro Valery Gergiev in St. Petersburg. To date she has released five recordings on the Cedille label.

A prolific recitalist, Koh appears frequently at major music centers and festivals including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, Marlboro, Wolf Trap, Spoleto, and the Festival International de Lanaudière in Canada.

Koh has also won high praise for her performances in classrooms throughout the United States under her innovative Music Messenger outreach program. Now in its sixth year, the program continues to form an important part of her musical activities.

Born in Chicago of Korean parents, Koh currently resides in New York City. She is a graduate of Oberlin College and an alumna of the Curtis Institute, where she worked extensively with Jaime Laredo and Felix Galimir. She is grateful to her private sponsor for the generous loan of the 1727 Ex Grumiaux Ex General DuPont Stradivari she uses in performance.

Shai Vosner, piano

Shai Vosner continues to attract international recognition for his exceptional artistry, musical integrity, and creative insight. With imaginative programming that communicates his intellectual curiosity, Vosner performs a wide-ranging repertoire from Mozart and Beethoven to Ligeti and composers of his own generation. Hailed by the *Financial Times* as "an artist to follow keenly," Vosner's virtuosity and perceptiveness have increasingly made him a favorite among audiences and critics alike.

Highlights of Vosner's 2009–10 season include his subscription debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, engagements with the BBC Scottish Symphony (a Proms concert at Royal Albert Hall as well as subscription concerts), solo recitals in the United States, as well as duo recitals with Viviane Hagner (at the Kennedy Center) and Jennifer Koh. Other recent highlights have included his critically acclaimed debut with the Cleveland Orchestra, his return to the Atlanta and Houston symphonies, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the Fresno Philharmonic, the Indianapolis and North Carolina symphonies, and recitals at London's Wigmore Hall, the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, and the 92nd Street Y in New York, among others. Recently having concluded his tenure as a BBC New Generation Artist, he continues to collaborate with BBC orchestras and concert series, in recital, chamber music, and concerto repertoire.

In 2005, Vosner won an Avery Fisher Career Grant. In the same year, he received a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award, which led to the commission of Michael Hersch's *Along the Ravines*, a concerto for piano and orchestra.

In recent seasons, Vosner has appeared with numerous major orchestras in North America and Europe, including reengagements with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, and performances with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the symphony orchestras of Chicago, Baltimore, San Francisco, Atlanta, Dallas, Milwaukee, Columbus, and Memphis; the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia; Staatskapelle Berlin, the Gothenburg Symphony, the Barcelona Symphony, the Frankfurt Radio Symphony, and Orchestre National de Belgique, among others. In 2006 he debuted with the Vienna Philharmonic during the 250th anniversary celebrations of Mozart's birth in Salzburg. He has worked with conductors such as Daniel Barenboim, Zubin Mehta, Leonard Slatkin, Donald Runnicles, Hans Graf, Alan Gilbert, Peter Oundjian, James Conlon, James Judd, and Yan Pascal Tortelier.

Vosner is widely sought after by his colleagues for his versatility and spirit of partnership. As a chamber musician, he has collaborated with numerous esteemed artists including Pinchas Zukerman, Lynn Harrell, Cho-Liang Lin, and Christian Tetzlaff. From 2002 to 2004, Vosner was a member of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society Two. He regularly performs at various chamber music festivals, including Chamber Music Northwest in Portland and La Jolla's SummerFest. Other summer festival appearances include the Ravinia Festival, Hollywood Bowl, Mostly Mozart, Grand Teton Music Festival, and Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival. Recent chamber music engagements include a concert with members of the New York Philharmonic at Avery Fisher Hall, a performance of the Mozart concerto for three pianos with Joseph Kalichstein and Alon Goldstein, and the New York String Orchestra with Jaime Laredo at Carnegie Hall, collaborations with both the Tokyo and Miró string quartets, the Georgian Chamber Players at Spivey Hall, and return engagements with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. For several consecutive summers, Vosner was also involved in the West-Eastern Divan Workshop led by Daniel Barenboim and toured as soloist with the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra.

Born in Israel, Vosner enjoyed a broad musical education from a very early age, studying piano with Emanuel Krasovsky as well as composition, theory, and improvisation with André Hajdu. He later studied at the Juilliard School with Emanuel Ax.

Shai lives in New York City with his wife and daughter.

Jennifer Koh

VIOLIN

Shai Wosner

PIANO

Sonata in F Major, K. 377 (374e)

Wolfgang Mozart
(1756–91)

Allegro
Tema con variazioni
Tempo di menuetto

Sonatina in A Minor, op. 137, no. 2, D. 385

Franz Schubert
(1797–1828)

Allegro moderato
Andante
Menuetto—Trio: Allegro
Allegro

INTERMISSION

Sonatina in D Major, op. 137, no. 1, D. 384

Franz Schubert

Allegro molto
Andante
Allegro vivace

Sonata in B-flat Major, K. 454

Wolfgang Mozart

Largo; Allegro
Andante
Allegretto

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

Louis Thaler (1903-79) had a long and successful career as an Ithaca attorney and was the founder and senior partner of the Thaler and Thaler law firm. He was the city of Ithaca attorney from 1940 to 1941 and president of the Tompkins County Bar Association from 1944 to 1945. He also served as a special county judge and surrogate judge. Actively involved in civic affairs throughout his career, 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. Rachel Thaler died in 2004, at the age of 97.

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 residents of the surrounding area.