

Kennesaw State University
School of Music



Senior Recital

Grace Johnston, violin

Judith Cole, piano



Saturday, May 6, 2017 at 3 pm
Music Building Recital Hall

One-hundred Forty-ninth Concert of the 2016-17 Concert Season

program

CÉSAR FRANCK (1822-1890)

Violin Sonata

I. Allegretto ben Moderato

JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833-1897)

Violin Concerto

I. Allegro non troppo

ANTONIN DVORAK (1841-1904)

Piano Quintet No. 2, Op. 81

I. Allegro ma non tanto

Grace Johnston, Huijeong Lee, violins

Rachel Fishback, viola

Michael Roberts, cello

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of requirements for the degree

Bachelor of Music in Performance.

Ms. Johnston studies violin with Helen Kim.

program notes

Violin Sonata | César Franck

César Franck hailed from Liège, a French region that is now part of modern-day Belgium. Along with being a very talented pianist, Franck was heavily influenced by the works of Liszt and Wagner. He was also often musically inspired by his strong religious convictions. His *Violin Sonata* was written five years before his passing as a wedding present to his friend Eugène Ysaÿe. While the piano part for this sonata is known for its technical difficulty, the first movement is the easiest. This movement is so sweet and has a touch of whimsy. While it is part of a cyclical sonata, it provides its own completion with the full return of the beginning theme.

Violin Concerto | Johannes Brahms

German-born composer, Johannes Brahms was a true champion of music in the Romantic Era. A difficult childhood, the loss of close friends and family, and unrequited love helped to cultivate the depth that is found in Brahms' music. His violin concerto is certainly no exception. Dedicated to his Jewish violinist-friend Joseph Joachim, it boasts frequent standing in the regular violin concerto performance repertoire. The themes of the first movement are introduced by the orchestra in the lengthy introduction. The violin solo enters quite boldly and starts to work out the themes that have already been introduced. True to Brahms' own style, we find that he toys with the listener by playing with the meter. The recapitulation brings the returning themes to an eventful close at the end of the first movement.

Piano Quintet No. 2 | Antonin Dvorak

Dvorak's second piano quintet came about as an evolution of his *Piano Quintet, Op. 5*. He initially revised this quintet because he was not satisfied with it. The famous cello melody begins the first movement and is carried throughout by the first violin, viola, and cello. The sonata form of this movement is a characteristic first movement for chamber works. Dvorak's composition leanings led him to base the second movement off of a traditional Ukrainian dumka, a ballad of sorts with contrasting sections. The third movement is a rousing scherzo and the last movement, a rondo, creates an exciting finish for the piece.

about the musician

Grace Johnston, after performing in a masterclass for Midori Goto, started to fully perceive her love for violin and the art of teaching music at the individual level. Ms. Johnston currently teaches at a Suzuki Talent Education Program and has worked with a wide range of abilities for several years. Her teaching philosophy seeks to initiate and maintain a lifelong love and habit for music in her students.

Grace currently studies with Helen Kim and has been strongly influenced by members of both the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the Georgia Symphony Orchestra. She has appeared in concert under the batons of Robert Spano, Jere Flint, Dr. Michael Alexander, and Dr. Nathaniel Parker.

In addition to her music studies, Grace has had the opportunity to join the National Society of Collegate Scholars as a sophomore. She has also been honored to become a part of Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society.

Ms. Johnston has had the opportunity to be a concertmaster and principle 2nd violin in KSU's Symphony Orchestra and subs for local orchestras. She was recently able to further her orchestral studies during the Brevard Music Center's 80th Season in North Carolina.

Grace has performed as an ensemble musician in Symphony Hall, the Gwinnett Arena, the Cobb Energy Center, the Savannah Civic Center, and the Georgia International Convention Center. She was able to incorporate her love for dogs by playing the national anthem at a local dog show.

In the fall, Ms. Johnston will begin studies for a Graduate Degree in Violin Performance at the University of Northern Colorado.