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Music for Viola and Piano, September 30, 2018

Lawrence University

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Guest Recital

Music for Viola and Piano

Sheila Browne, viola

Julie Nishimura, piano

Sunday, September 30, 2018

6:00 p.m.

Harper Hall

Sonatensatz from the F-A-E Sonata, WoO posth. 2

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Sonata for Viola and Piano (1979)

Allegro moderato
Adagio lamentoso
Fantasia: Epilogue

George Rochberg
(1918-2005)

♦ INTERMISSION ♦

Convergence (2009)

Andrea Clearfield
(b. 1960)

Sonata for Viola and Piano (1919)

Impetuoso
Vivace
Adagio

Rebecca Clarke
(1886-1979)

PERFORMER BIOS

Hailed by the New York Times as a “stylish player” for a concerto performance in Carnegie Hall’s Stern Auditorium, violist **Sheila Browne** is an accomplished international soloist, chamber musician and professor. Honored to be named the William Primrose Memorial Recitalist of 2016, Ms. Browne has performed in major halls on six continents, including solo performances with the Juilliard Orchestra, Kiev Philharmonic, New World Symphony, in Carnegie Hall with the New York Women’s Ensemble, South African International Viola Congress Festival Orchestra, and the Viva Vivaldi!, Reina Sofia and German French chamber

orchestras, and with the Highland Mountain Correctional Center Women's String Orchestra in Alaska. She was the only viola finalist in the 2004 International Pro Musicis Solo Awards at Carnegie Hall.

A proponent of new music, she has premiered a concerto written for her by Kenneth Jacobs at the international viola congresses in Australia and South Africa, which was recently released on CD, recorded with the Kiev Philharmonic. She has worked on solo and chamber works with living composers William Bolcom, Krystof Penderecki, Joan Tower, Judith Shatin, and Gabriella Lena Frank, among others.

She has performed with Shmuel Ashkenazy, Aretha Franklin, Miriam Fried, Matt Haimowitz, Gilbert Kalish, Paul Katz, David Krakauer, Anton Kuerti, Ruth Laredo, Joseph Robinson, Arnold Steinhardt, Richard Stolzman, and members of Guarneri, Vermeer, Brentano, Audubon and Calidore quartets, Diaz Trio, and has recorded with Fire Pink Trio, Audra MacDonald, Natalie Cole and Lisa Loeb, on Sony, Bridge, MSR, Albany, Centaur, and Rising with Carol Wincenc was chosen as Minnesota Public Radio's CD of the Month.

A devoted and sought-after teacher and clinician, Ms. Browne has given master classes around the world, including at Seoul National, Luebeck Musik Hochschule, Leopold Mozart Academy, Eastman, Oberlin, Rice University, Lynn, U. of Michigan, Boston University, among many others. As the first viola professor ever to teach in Iraqi Kurdistan at the National Youth Orchestra of Iraq's inaugural year, she is featured in a recent book about the group, UPBEAT. She is Director of the January Karen Tuttle workshops, and is also on faculty at the annual NYU Tuttle Workshops in New York City and in Prague, and at several other summer festivals.

Sheila's students have gone on to many of the major viola programs in the U.S., either with substantial or full scholarships. This list includes: The Juilliard School, New England Conservatory, Colburn, Manhattan School of Music, Cleveland Institute of Music, Indiana University, Eastman, Peabody, University of Michigan, Boston University. An avid chamber coach, she has had quartets advance in competitions such as Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, and her students have won competitions such as Kauder.

Ms. Browne received a Naumburg scholarship and earned a Bachelor of Music degree at the Juilliard School, where she was Karen Tuttle's teaching assistant for four years. She was awarded a DAAD scholarship to study with soloist Kim Kashkashian, and was Karen Ritscher's teaching assistant at Rice University while earning a Master's degree in Paul Katz's String Quartet program. She serves as assistant viola professor at the

University of Delaware, and has served on the faculties of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, University of St Louis-Missouri, and New York, Duke and Tennessee universities. She has had both a viola and bow made for her, by Maarten Cornelissen and MacArthur Genius Grant winner Benoit Rolland.

Pianist **Julie Nishimura** is celebrating 30 years as faculty accompanist for the Department of Music at the University of Delaware. In addition to having performed in over 400 collaborative recitals, including in multimedia and mixed chamber ensembles, she was a recipient of a Delaware State Arts Council Fellowship Grant as a solo artist. At Delaware, she also serves as secondary faculty, teaching accompanying/chamber music and sight-reading at the keyboard.

Ms. Nishimura has been the rehearsal pianist for over 45 productions of UD's Opera Workshop and Opera Theater. A popular and frequent guest artist, she has performed with the Serafin and Cypress String Quartets, the Gold Coast Chamber Players, and at the Delaware Chamber Music Festival. She was a staff pianist at California Summer Music for 20 years and the Philadelphia International Music Festival for five. With members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Ms. Nishimura performed twice in Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, in addition to several performances in the Perelman Theater and Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center.

Ms. Nishimura's recording projects include collaborations with Denise Tryon, French horn (winner of the 2015 Global Music Award), Christopher Nichols, clarinet, and UD's former faculty member, soprano Marie Robinson. She can be found performing George Rochberg's *Sonata for viola and piano* with Sheila Browne on YouTube and the *John Ireland Sonata* with cellist Lawrence Stomberg on Vimeo.

She has been music director for City Theater Company and Opera Delaware's joint production of Michael Ching's chamber opera *Out of the Rain* as well as for the Delaware Theater Company's production of *The Gift of the Magi*, which was staged by the late Fontaine Syer. She has performed in Hungary, Germany, Poland, England and Sweden.

Ms. Nishimura serves as artistic director of Wilmington-based Distant Voices Touring Theatre, which she founded with her late husband, writer, director and acting teacher Danny Peak. DVTT currently tours a documentary theatrical piece with piano: *Distant Voices*, based on Ms. Nishimura's father's diary of his time in a Japanese-American concentration camp during World War II.