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The Alto Voice, Music for Viola, Clarinet, and Piano, February 23, 2020

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The Alto Voice

Music for Viola, Clarinet, and Piano

Matthew Michelic, viola

Orlando Pimentel, clarinet

Elena Abend, piano

Sunday, February 23, 2020

6:00 p.m.

Harper Hall

Fantasy Pieces for Clarinet and Piano, op. 43 (1864) Niels Gade
(1817-1890)
Andantino con moto
Allegro vivace
Ballade
Allegro molto vivace
Orlando Pimentel, clarinet
Elena Abend, piano

Intermezzo for Viola and Piano (1983) Nino Rota
(1911-1979)
Matthew Michellic, viola
Elena Abend, piano

Fantasy Piece for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano (2003) Christian K. Ellenwood
(b. 1970)
Orlando Pimentel, clarinet
Matthew Michellic, viola
Elena Abend, piano

• INTERMISSION •

Prelude, Allegro and Pastorale for Viola and Clarinet (1941) Rebecca Clarke
(1886-1979)
Matthew Michellic, viola
Orlando Pimentel, clarinet

Märchenerzählungen for Viola, Clarinet and Piano, op. 132 (1853) Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)
Lebhaft, nicht zu schnell
Lebhaft und sehr markiert
Ruhiges Tempo, mit zartem Ausdruck
Lebhaft, sehr markiert
Matthew Michellic, viola
Orlando Pimentel, clarinet
Elena Abend, piano

PERFORMER BIOS

Violist **Matthew Michelic** enjoys a vibrant career as an artist-teacher of the viola, and the *Denver Post* has praised his “extraordinarily rich viola sound.” Mr. Michelic has performed throughout North America, Europe and in Asia, collaborating with artists such as Robert McDonald, Jeffery Solow, the Fine Arts Quartet, and the Capela Quartet of Portugal. A featured performer for meetings of the International Viola Society, the International Double Reed Society and the American Choral Directors Association, Mr. Michelic was a guest recitalist for the New York Viola Society and has given a performance for Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican. Recently he presented research at the national conference of the American String Teachers Association, and his discussions of string pedagogy have been published in the *Journal of the American Viola Society* and in *Strings* magazine. Increasingly active as a conductor, Mr. Michelic led the premiere of Nic Bizub’s *Take Ten*, written for Lawrence’s Own Viola Ensemble, and in 2017 he conducted the premiere of acclaimed Dutch composer Chiel Meijering’s *Perpetuate Transmigrations* at the annual convention of the International Double Reed Society.

As a teaching artist, Mr. Michelic has served on the faculty of numerous music festivals in the United States and Canada and has presented master classes at major schools of music including the Oberlin College Conservatory, the Peabody School of Music, the national conservatories of China and Vietnam and the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki, Greece. Currently Mr. Michelic serves on the faculty of the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music, and collaborates regularly within that community of extraordinary teaching artists. He teaches viola, orchestral literature and string pedagogy, offers chamber ensemble coaching and has implemented a course focused on the history of the string quartet. Former students of Mr. Michelic now teach in public school, community school and university settings and perform in professional chamber and orchestral ensembles on several continents.

Clarinetist **Orlando Pimentel** began his musical training in Venezuela’s System of Youth Orchestras, also known as “El Sistema.” From 1989 to 2009, he was a member of the Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra and performed with such renowned conductors as Claudio Abbado, Sergiu Comissiona, Gustavo Dudamel, Eduardo Mata, Sergei Senkov, among others. Orlando Pimentel has participated in master classes held by Luis Rossi, Anthony Pay, Walter Boeykens, Kalman Berkes, Eddy Vanoosthuysse, Michel Lethiec, Mario Frogionni, Walter Seyfarth, Judit Jaimes and Raquel Adonaylo. In 1988, together with three other colleagues, he formed the Caracas Clarinet Quartet (1996 National Artist Award: Best Classical Ensemble), a chamber ensemble that has performed throughout Venezuela, as well as in China, Europe, South America, and The United States of America. The Caracas Clarinet Quartet

released three CD's: *Cuarteto de Clarinetes de Caracas* (1995), *Aires Tropicales* (1997) with guest artist Paquito D'Rivera, and *Suelos* (2007) with guest artist Anat Cohen. Orlando Pimentel performs regularly with the Madison Symphony Orchestra, Fox Valley Symphony, Kenosha Symphony, and Festival City Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Pimentel has been invited to perform as part of the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Sphinx Symphony Orchestra Competition, and most recently to the Four Seasons Arts Festival in Berkeley, CA. Mr. Pimentel received his Master's Degree in Clarinet Performance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee studying under the tutelage of Todd Levy (Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Santa Fe Opera). Most currently he has been appointed as Faculty of Clarinet at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music.

Venezuelan born pianist **Elena Abend**, has performed recitals and chamber concerts as well as toured and recorded with major orchestras of her country. As a recipient of the William Schuman Prize for outstanding achievement and leadership in music, Ms. Abend received her Bachelor and Master degrees from the Juilliard School. Performances have taken her to venues such as Royal Festival Hall's Purcell Room and London's Wigmore Hall, Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Academy of Music with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Toulouse Conservatoire, Theatre Luxembourg, the Corcoran Gallery in Washington D.C., Chicago Cultural Center, Merkin Concert Hall in New York, the Atlanta Historical Society, the Pabst Theater in Milwaukee, Teatro Municipal, Teatro Nacional and Teatro Teresa Carreño in Venezuela. More performances include Ravinia and Marlboro Music Festivals, live broadcasts on Philadelphia's WFLN, The Dame Myra Hess Concert Series on Chicago's WFMT and Wisconsin Public Radio at the Chazen Museum in Madison.

An avid chamber music collaborator Ms. Abend has performed with Frankly Music, Present Music, Chamber Music Milwaukee, Yolanda Marculescu Vocal Arts Series, UWM Faculty Artist Series, Milwaukee MUSAIK, Milwaukee Chamber Orchestra and with the Fine Arts and Philomusica Quartets. Other performances include "Four Seasons" Series in Berkeley, California, "Classical Progressions" at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, and recently at the "Musicales de Montsoreau" in France. Locally she has been heard in recitals at the Polish Center of Milwaukee, UW-Madison, the Rural Musicians Forum in Spring Green, and as soloist with the Green Bay Symphony, Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra.

She has recorded for Albany Records and Avie label, as well as recording and editing projects for Hal Leonard's G. Schirmer Instrumental Library and Schirmer Performance Piano Editions. Ms. Abend is currently Chair of Piano area at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, faculty at Lakeside Chamber Music Workshop and the Collaborative Piano Institute.