
Inside Chamber Music Lecture

Inventing Modernism

Leoš Janáček: *A Chord is Alive*

with Bruce Adolphe, Resident Lecturer

Wednesday, October 29, 2008 at 6:30 PM
Daniel and Joanna S. Rose Studio

LEOŠ JANÁČEK (1854–1928) | *Pohádka* (Fairy Tale) for Cello and Piano (1910, rev 1923)

Sophie Shao, cello; Benjamin Hochman, piano

Music from today's lecture was heard in concert on October 26 and 28 at The New York Society for Ethical Culture. The next Inside Chamber Music lecture, *Alexander Scriabin: Musical Mysticism*, is on Wednesday, November 5.

Meet the Artists

Lecturer **Bruce Adolphe** is a well-known composer, the author of several books on music, an innovative educator, and a versatile performer. He has taught at The Juilliard School, New York University, and Yale, and is a frequent guest lecturer at schools and concert series throughout the United States. His weekly radio program, *Piano Puzzlers*, in its fourth year as a part of American Public Radio's *Performance Today*, is now heard in over 200 cities, and he has appeared on *Live From Lincoln Center* telecasts and on New York's *Metro Arts* for PBS. At the Chamber Music Society since 1992, Mr. Adolphe is the resident lecturer of Inside Chamber Music, director of the family program *Meet the Music!*, and host of the New Music in the Rose concert series. As a composer, he has held residencies across the country, most recently at the Brain and Creativity Institute in Los Angeles, and fulfilled commissions from many leading organizations and artists, from Itzhak Perlman and the Brentano String Quartet to the Metropolitan Opera Guild and The Washington National Opera. For many years an annotator for SONY Classical Records and a featured speaker at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, he has also written three books on music — *The Mind's Ear: Exercises for Improving the Musical Imagination*, *What to Listen for in the World*, and *Of Mozart, Parrots and Cherry Blossoms in the Wind: A Composer Explores Mysteries of the Musical Mind*. With Julian Fifer, he co-founded PollyRhythm Productions and The Learning Maestros, both devoted to the creation of interdisciplinary, arts-focused educational repertory and materials in a wide range of media. (The company is named after Mr. Adolphe's opera- and jazz-singing parrot, Polly Rhythm.)

Pianist **Benjamin Hochman** is achieving widespread acclaim for his performances as orchestral soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. He has performed with the New York Philharmonic; the Chicago, Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh symphony orchestras; the New Jersey Symphony; and the National Arts Centre Orchestra under eminent conductors such as Jaime Laredo, Jun Märkl, Bramwell Tovey, and Pinchas Zukerman. He recently appeared at the Bard Music Festival's Prokofiev-themed season, and performed Bach's *Goldberg Variations* at the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival in August. Upcoming highlights include performances of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 9 with the Vancouver Symphony, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, and an appearance with the Daedalus Quartet at Atlanta's Spivey Hall. Overseas, recitals are scheduled for Barcelona, London, and the Concertgebouw in

Amsterdam. He has also been invited by two renowned chamber ensembles, the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio and the Tokyo String Quartet, to appear in their respective series' at the 92nd Street Y. He has performed at the Marlboro, Ravinia, Santa Fe, Spoleto/Italy, Lucerne, Verbier, Bravo! Vail, Eastern Shore, and Vancouver festivals. He has collaborated with members of the Guarneri, Orion, Mendelssohn, Prazak, and Daedalus string quartets and with Jaime Laredo, Sharon Robinson, Ani Kavafian, and Ralph Kirshbaum. Born in Jerusalem, Mr. Hochman is a graduate of The Curtis Institute of Music and the Mannes College of Music, where his principal teachers were Claude Frank and Richard Goode, and is a former member of CMS Two. His studies were supported by the America-Israel Cultural Foundation.

This summer cellist **Sophie Shao** performed at Bargemusic and the Bard Music Festival. Prizewinner at the 2001 Rostropovich and the 2002 XII Tchaikovsky competitions, she was awarded the Avery Fisher Career Grant at the age of 19. She made her first appearance with the Houston Symphony at 11, playing Boccherini's Cello Concerto. Other orchestral appearances include the Orchestre de Paris and the Russian State Academic Symphony Cappella. She has performed in recital throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. As chamber musician, she has appeared with members of the Beaux Arts Trio, the Guarneri, Juilliard, Orion, Cleveland, and Mendelssohn string quartets, and has made festival appearances at Marlboro, Chamber Music Northwest, Bard College, Caramoor, Bravo! Vail Valley, Bridgehampton, Sarasota, Music from Angel Fire, Saratoga, and Ravinia. Ms. Shao has recorded for the EMI Classics, Bridge Records, and Albany Records labels. A native of Houston, she began playing the cello at age six and became a student of Shirley Trepel, who was then principal cellist of the Houston Symphony. At age 13, she enrolled at The Curtis Institute of Music, studying cello with David Soyer and chamber music with Felix Galimir. She also studied at Yale University, receiving a bachelor of arts degree in religious studies from Yale College and a master's degree from the School of Music. Ms. Shao lives in Manhattan and teaches at Princeton University, Vassar College, and the Bard Conservatory. She is a former member of CMS Two.