

ASU School of Music
presents

Faculty and Guest Artist Series

Brinton Averil Smith, cello

Evelyn Chen, piano

Guest Artists

Saturday, January 28, 2012

7:30 p.m.

Katzin Concert Hall

Program

Christoph Gluck 'Melodie' from 'Orfeo et Euridice'

Johannes Brahms
(arr. Klengel/Smith)

'Regenlied' Sonata, Op.78

Vivace ma non troppo

Adagio

Allegro molto moderato

Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco
(arr. Smith)

Figaro Variations from
Rossini's 'The Barber of
Seville'

-----Intermission-----

Manuel de Falla
(arr. Kochanski/Maréchal)

Siete Canciones
Populares Españolas

El Paño Maruno

Canción

Nana

Jota

Richard Strauss
(arr. Váša Příhoda)

Rosenkavalier Waltzes

George Gershwin
(arr. Jascha Heifetz)

'My Man's Gone Now'
'It Ain't Necessarily So'

Praised by New York Newsday for "extraordinary musicianship... forceful sophisticated and entirely in the spirit of the music," American cellist BRINTON AVERIL SMITH's performances have received rave reviews throughout the United States and the world. Smith's debut recording of Miklos Rozsa's Cello Concerto with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra for Koch Classics received widespread critical acclaim, including the annual *Gramophone* Awards Issue which praised Smith as a "hugely eloquent, impassioned soloist" and added, "The sheer bravura of Smith's reading is infectious." His recording of Fauré's Piano Trio and *Après un Rêve* with Gil Shaham for Vanguard Classics was among BBC Music magazine's best albums of the year and the American Record Guide praised Smith's performance as "Stunningly beautiful...I cannot imagine a better stylistic match for Shaham." *Strings* magazine proclaimed him "an extraordinary cellist" for his playing on a recent Naxos release of chamber music by Steven Gerber..

Mr. Smith joined the Houston Symphony as principal cellist in 2005 and appears regularly as a soloist. Previously, he was in the New York Philharmonic and had been principal cellist of the San Diego and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras. Other North American engagements include performances at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Marlboro Music Festival, Aspen Music Festival, Banff Centre for the Arts, concert with orchestras in Detroit, San Diego, Houston, New Jersey, Fort Worth, San Jose, Tucson and Phoenix, and appearances at the Texas, Las Vegas, Bear Valley and Aspen Music Festivals. Mr. Smith teaches at the Shepherd School of Music of Rice University, and has given masterclasses throughout the U. S., including the New World Symphony and the National Orchestral Institute. Mr. Smith is an artistic director of the Restoration Chamber Music Festival in Galveston.

Smith has often collaborated in chamber music with violinist Gil Shaham, including at the Aspen Music Festival and Carnegie Hall's Gil Shaham and Friends. He has also collaborated with cellists Yo-Yo Ma and Lynn Harrell, with the Beaux Arts Trio and with the Guarneri, Emerson, Juilliard, Cleveland, and Berg quartets. Smith has performed with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the New York Philharmonic Chamber Series, Mainly Mozart, El Paso Pro Musica, and with the Marlboro, Aspen, Killington, Brevard, and Texas Music Festivals. As a student, Mr. Smith was a prize-winner in the Leonard Rose International Cello Competition and in Juilliard and Aspen concerto competitions. At Juilliard, he received the Melini Award for excellence in performance and was invited to play at the American Cello Congress. He has been broadcast on CBS and on NPR's Performance Today.

Brinton Averil Smith, son of a mathematician and a pianist, began his musical studies at five. At 10 he was admitted to ASU, where he studied German, mathematics, and music. After he earned a B.A. in mathematics from ASU at 17, and completed work for a mathematics M.A. at USC by 19, serving as a Teaching Assistant, and also studying cello as a scholarship student with Eleonore Schoenfeld. He relocated to New York to study with cellist Zara Nelsova at The Juilliard School, where he received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree, writing on the playing of Emanuel Feuermann. Mr. Smith resides in Houston with his wife, pianist Evelyn Chen, and their daughter, Calista.

encore: Theme from Flower duet Delibes

The New York Times hailed EVELYN CHEN as "a pianist to watch" praising her "brilliant technique, warm, clear tone, and exacting musical intelligence." Ms. Chen's engagements have included performances on five continents, including at Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Wolf Trap, the Salzburg Mozarteum, Taipei's National Concert Hall, Hong Kong's Cultural Center, Beijing's Central Conservatory, and Moscow's Tchaikovsky Hall.

A Steinway Artist, Ms. Chen has performed with numerous orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the National Symphony Orchestra, the San Diego Symphony, the Philharmonia Orchestra of London, the New Zealand Symphony, the Taiwan National Symphony Orchestra, and the Mexican State Symphony Orchestra. She has collaborated with renowned conductors including Riccardo Muti, Leonard Slatkin, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Zdenek Macál, Joseph Silverstein, and JoAnn Falletta.

Ms. Chen's recordings have received international critical acclaim. Her Sony/BMG recording of *Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 2* and *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* with Slatkin and the Philharmonia Orchestra was among the top ten best-selling classical recordings in England. Ms. Chen's Koch International Classics recording of Miklos Rozsa's *Piano Concerto* with James Sedares and the New Zealand Symphony also received rave reviews. She has been featured on the CBS Evening News, and her performances have been broadcast by National Public Radio, WGBH (Boston), WQXR, WNYC, WNCN (New York), WFMT (Chicago), WGTS (Washington, D.C.), and KUHF (Houston), and throughout Taiwan and Great Britain (Classic FM). She has collaborated in chamber music with violinists Cho-Liang Lin and Frank Huang, cellists Brinton Smith and Leslie Parnas, and pianist Charles Wadsworth, as well as with members of the New York Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony, Houston Symphony, and Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. While touring Asia as soloist with the Harvard Orchestra, Ms. Chen performed before dignitaries including the Princess of Thailand and the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

A winner of several international competitions, Ms. Chen was awarded a fully sponsored New York debut recital at Alice Tully Hall by the 1998 Petschek competition. She was the First Prize Winner of the 1993 Mieczyslaw Munz International Competition and the Grand Prize Winner of the 1984 Piano Guild International Recording Competition. At age fourteen, the youngest competitor, Ms. Chen captured First Prize in the 1981 Bach International Competition in Washington D.C.

Ms. Chen received a Doctor of Musical Arts from the Juilliard School, a Master of Music from the New England Conservatory, and a Bachelor of Arts in composition, Magna Cum Laude with Highest Honors, from Harvard University. Her teachers have include pianists Russell Sherman, Earle Voorhies, Constance Keene, and Jerome Lowenthal; and composers Leon* Kirchner and David Lewin. She is currently Associate Professor of Piano at Teachers College, Columbia University, in New York City. She is also a cofounder of the Restoration Chamber Music Festival in Galveston, Texas (www.RestorationChamberMusic.com). She and her husband, cellist Brinton Smith, have a 9-year-old daughter, Calista, who plays both violin and piano.