

University of Maryland School of Music Presents

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

Viva Viola!



Monday, February 19, 2024 • 7:30PM

GILDENHORN RECITAL HALL

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



**SCHOOL OF
MUSIC**

University of Maryland School of Music Presents

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

Viva Viola!

Irina Muresanu, *violin*
James Stern, *violin*
Eric Kutz, *cello*
Katherine Murdock, *viola*
Robert DiLutis, *clarinet*
Rita Sloan, *piano*

Dumka (1940) Rebecca Clarke
 (1886 – 1979)

James Stern, *violin*; Katherine Murdock, *viola*; Rita Sloan, *piano*

Selections from *Eight Pieces* Op. 83 (1910) Max Bruch
 (1838 – 1920)

Robert DiLutis, *clarinet*; Katherine Murdock, *viola*, Rita Sloan, *piano*

INTERMISSION

Piano Quartet in A, opus 26 (1861) Johannes Brahms
 (1833 – 1897)

- I. Allegro non troppo
- II. Poco adagio
- III. Scherzo. Poco allegro – Trio
- IV. Finale. Allegro

Irina Muresanu, *violin*; Katherine Murdock, *viola*;
 Eric Kutz, *cello*; Rita Sloan, *piano*



ROBERT DILUTIS is Professor of Clarinet at the University of Maryland and in his 6th season as Principal Clarinetist of the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra. Mr. DiLutis previously taught at Louisiana State University and held positions with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, San Antonio Symphony Orchestra and Eastman School of Music. His recent recitals and classes have included the Graz Conservatory in Austria, ClarinetPasto in Colombia South America, Cincinnati Clarinet Mini-Fest, University of Michigan, Interlochen Arts Academy and Clarinetfest, Madrid, Spain and

Ostend, Belgium. Born in Baltimore, Maryland to a family of musicians, Mr. DiLutis studied with William Blayney and later at the Juilliard School with David Weber of the NYC Ballet. In 1989 he made his Carnegie Recital Hall debut as the winner of the Artist International Chamber Music Competition. As a soloist Mr. DiLutis has performed with the San Antonio Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and Baton Rouge Symphony. Mr. DiLutis has toured with the New York Philharmonic and is co-director of the Clarinet Academy of America. In addition to his performance career Mr. DiLutis is the creator of the Reed Machine, a reed making device used by top professionals around the world. Mr. DiLutis is an Artist for Buffet Crampon, Rovner, and Lohff and Pfeiffer USA. His work can be heard on the Delos, RM Records and Tonsehen labels.



Cellist **ERIC KUTZ** has captivated audiences throughout both North America and Europe. In 2015 he joined the faculty of the University of Maryland School of Music, where he holds the Barbara Steppel Memorial Cello Fellowship. He had previously been cello professor at Luther College from 2002. He is active as a teacher, a chamber musician, an orchestral musician, and a soloist. His diverse collaborations cut across musical styles and have ranged from cellist Yo-Yo Ma to jazz great Ornette Coleman.

New York Concert Review praised Kutz for possessing a “noble dignity and pure, focused tone,” in its recent review of the Murasaki Duo’s Carnegie Hall concert.

For four years Mr. Kutz was the cellist of the Chester String Quartet, which was in residence at Indiana University South Bend. In 1997 Mr. Kutz traveled to the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow as a visiting artist, performing new chamber works by American composers. He has been broadcast live on WQXR and WNYC, both of New York City, as well as PBS television’s *Live from Lincoln Center*. Recently Mr. Kutz has appeared as a soloist with the Des Moines Symphony, the Malibu Coast Chamber Orchestra, the Danbury Symphony, the Symphony of the Potomac, the Capital City Symphony, the University of Maryland Symphony Orchestra, and the Luther College Symphony. As an orchestral musician, Mr. Kutz spends his summers as a member of the Grant Park Orchestra in Chicago. He has appeared in the sections of the New York Philharmonic, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.

Mr. Kutz holds degrees from the Juilliard School and Rice University. He performs on a cello by Raffaele Fiorini (Bologna, 1877).



KATHERINE MURDOCK, violist, is recognized as a soloist, chamber musician, and teacher. She has performed throughout the world with such groups as the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Boston Symphony, the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Chamber Music Society, and the Mendelssohn String Quartet, of which she was a member for seven years. She was also a member of the Left Bank Quartet and the Los Angeles Piano Quartet, with which she toured and recorded for twenty-one years.

She has toured with *Music from Marlboro* and performed on their fortieth-anniversary concerts; has performed live on NPR, West German Radio, and the BBC; and has been a guest of the Emerson, Vermeer, and Guarneri string quartets as well as the Beaux Arts Trio. Ms. Murdock served for nine years on the faculty of SUNY Stony Brook, as well as Boston Conservatory, Wellesley College, the Hartt School, as Artist-in-Residence at University of Delaware and Harvard University and has been a professor at UMD for twenty-eight years. During the summers she has been on the artist faculty of Yellow Barn and Kneisel Hall festivals for many years. Ms. Murdock's teachers and mentors have included Karen Tuttle, Joseph Silverstein, Sandor Vegh, Felix Galimir, and William Primrose. She has deeply valued the opportunity to pass along the legacy of her great mentors to her students, who hold positions across the globe in orchestras, chamber ensembles, and as professors. She is perpetually inspired by her teaching and continues to be grateful for the meaningful relationships she enjoys with her students.





Romanian-born violinist **IRINA MURESANU** is equally in demand on both sides of the Atlantic, as she has appeared throughout the United States, Canada, the Caribbeans, Europe, Asia and South Africa. Ms. Muresanu has firmly established herself as a successful recording artist, and her adventurous programming and thematic concepts define her as a soloist and chamber musician.

Muresanu is a laureate and winner of top prizes in several prestigious international violin competitions including the Montreal International, Queen Elisabeth, UNISA International String, Washington International, and the Schadt String Competition. Muresanu's awards also include a prestigious New Music USA Grant, a Pro Musicis International Award, the Presser Music Award, the Kate Kinley Fellowship Award from the University of Illinois, and the Arthur Foote Award from the Harvard Musical Association.

Ms. Muresanu's 2023-24 season includes solo, recital and chamber music appearances in France, Serbia, the Cayman Islands, North Macedonia, and the Republic of Moldova, as well as in renowned venues and festivals in the United States. As the recipient of the "Enescu Grant" from the Romanian Cultural Institute, this year she holds a three-month position as Artist-in-Residence position at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris.

Ms. Muresanu is an avid performer of new music, having had numerous works written and dedicated to her. Her most recent releases are "Irina Muresanu plays Violeta Dinescu" of solo violin works by Violeta Dinescu (September 2023) and "Hybrid, Hints and Hooks" of solo and violin/piano works by Romanian composer Dan Dediu (October 2021), both on Métier label. Other recent recordings include Thomas Oboe Lee's *Violin Concerto* (also dedicated to Ms. Muresanu) on the BMOP label, and works by Elena Ruehr for the Avie Records CD "Lift," included on Keith Powers' 13 Best Classical Music Recordings of 2016. She has also recorded the complete William Bolcom sonatas on the Centaur label with pianist Michael Lewin, funded by the Copland Recording Grant, and the Guillaume Lekeu and Alberic Magnard late Romantic Violin and Piano Sonatas with pianist Dana Ciocarlie for the French label AR RE-SE ("singing and soaring...a sizzling performance." *Fanfare*). Of note among additional recordings is the world premiere recording of Marion Bauer's *Sonata for Violin and Piano* with pianist Virginia Eskin for Albany Records.

Irina Muresanu is an Associate Professor in the School of Music and Affiliate Faculty in the Institute for Advanced Computer Studies at the University of Maryland and holds a prestigious Artist Diploma degree and a Doctor in Musical Arts degree from the New England Conservatory. She plays an 1849 Giuseppe Rocca violin with an Étienne Pajet bow.



RITA SLOAN is acknowledged internationally as a leading teacher of piano, collaborative piano and chamber music. In 1999, she was appointed a piano faculty member and director of the collaborative piano program at the University of Maryland. As an Artist Faculty Member at the Aspen Music Festival, Ms. Sloan founded their Collaborative Piano Program. She has performed as a soloist with both the Aspen Festival Orchestra and Chamber Symphony as well as in chamber music with many of Aspen's distinguished guest artists, including pianists Wu Han and Orli Shaham, violinists Sarah Chang and Nadia Salerno-Sonnenberg, cellist Gary Hoffman, bassist Edgar Meyer and flutist Emmanuel Pahud. Teaching residencies and master class presentations have included Tainan National University of the Arts and National Normal University in Taiwan, China Conservatory in Beijing, China, leading universities in Seoul, Korea, London's Royal College of Music, American universities, and conservatories, including numerous visits to the Juilliard School in New York. Ms. Sloan has performed with orchestra, in recital and in chamber music throughout the U.S., Europe, South America and Japan. She has been a guest in many chamber music venues and has performed with members of the Emerson and Guarneri String Quartets. Born in Russia to Polish parents, Ms. Sloan graduated from the Juilliard School, where she studied with Martin Canin and Rosina Lhévinne. Further studies were with Leon Fleisher, Aube Tzerko, Herbert Stessin and Vladimir Ashkenazy.



Hailed by the Washington Post for "virtuosity and penetrating intelligence," **JAMES STERN** has appeared as violinist, violist, and/or conductor at the Smithsonian Museums, National Gallery, Phillips Collection, White House, and the Library of Congress. He has recorded for Dorian/Sono Luminus with the Smithsonian Chamber Players, for Bridge Records with the 21st Century Consort, and has toured internationally with VERGE Ensemble. His complete Sonatas and Partitas by Bach is on Albany Records, and he has presented the cycle live coast to coast. Festival performances include Marlboro, Siletz Bay, and Garth Newel; he has both performed and taught at the National Orchestral Institute, Master Players Festival, California Summer Music, and the Schlern and Orfeo festivals in Italy. Other engagements have taken him to Paris, Munich, Stavanger (Norway), and throughout China. He and his wife, pianist Audrey Andrist are members of two critically acclaimed ensembles, Strata (with clarinetist Nathan Williams) and the Andrist-Stern-Honigberg Trio (with cellist Steven Honigberg). Formerly faculty at the Cleveland Institute, he has taught at the Starling/Delay Symposium at Juilliard, and is currently professor at University of Maryland.



