

Clarice Presents

MICHELLE CANN, PIANO



Sunday, February 25, 2024 • 3PM

GILDENHORN RECITAL HALL

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND



SAFETY FIRST!

Your safety is paramount! For your own safety, look for your nearest exit. In case of an emergency, walk, do not run, to that exit. Please follow all instructions provided by Clarice staff and emergency first responders.

PHOTO & VIDEO

Please note, photo and video recording of this performance is strictly prohibited.

Clarice Presents
MICHELLE CANN, PIANO

- Frédéric Chopin** (1810-1849) Ballade No. 3 in A-flat Major, Op. 47
- Joel Thompson** (b. 1988) *My Dungeon Shook*, Three American Preludes
 Totentanz
 Lacrimosa
 L'homme agenouillé
- Alberto Ginastera** (1916-1983) Piano Sonata No. 1
 Allegro marcato
 Presto misterioso
 Adagio molto appassionato
 Ruvido ed ostinato
- INTERMISSION**
- Nathan Gulla** Ballade for Piano
- William Grant Still** (1895-1978) *A Deserted Plantation*
 Spiritual
 Young Missy
 Dance
- Franz Liszt** (1811-1886) *Mephisto Waltz No. 1*, S. 514

This performance is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council and The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.



THE MORRIS & GWENDOLYN
 CAFRITZ FOUNDATION

Nathan Gulla

Commissioned by Michelle Cann

“The writing of my Ballade was a particularly profound experience for me as a composer. Since receiving my master’s degree in piano performance in 2013, my life has gone through a great many transitions, which included my stepping away from the writing of serious pieces of concert music for extended periods of time. Composing this piece felt like a triumphant return to this area of music-making, where I ultimately feel the most at home in terms of my capability and level of interest. Upon its completion, I knew I had reached a new level of maturity as a composer as well as a renewed vigor with which to pursue my still-present musical goals.

“When Michelle and I first sat down to determine the direction of the piece, it became clear that it can—and even should—be quite difficult! A virtuosic display of how the piano can sound as a solo instrument, accompanied by the knowledge that it would reside in Michelle’s extremely capable hands. This led me to take my first set of inspiration from Frederic Chopin, who I consider to be one of, if not the greatest composer of piano music of all time. Few composers in history can match the singular focus that Chopin placed upon the piano as a solo instrument, which resulted in an entire library of exquisite works for it. Stylistically, his ability to craft melody, harmony, and ornamentation in a way that exemplifies the Romantic period results in a tonal language that profoundly suits the instrument. His writing style is easily identifiable to the listener, and the term, “poet,” is aptly given to him.

“Having given myself the monumental task of emulating the likes of Chopin, I began to consider how I would make the piece uniquely mine. As a pianist, I discovered a particular love and identity with American music, and being American myself, I feel the need to advocate this area of contemporary music. Another composer who continues to be influential to me is Lee Hoiby. One of the primary areas of composition he is known for is his writing of opera and song, but he was, himself, a pianist and wrote many instrumental works as well. I had performed his Narrative for Piano during my time in the master’s program, and was astounded at how much he was able to accomplish using a simple two-note motive. He builds and develops upon this motive and reintroduces it in many and various places throughout the piece in such a way as to establish a sense of unity that ties everything together. I tried to do something similar with the Ballade and its initial melody.

“I had now given myself some criteria to work with, and decided somewhat early that I was, in fact, composing a ballade. A ballade in music doesn’t necessarily conform to an overly particular formal design but is typically narrative and lyrical in style. This was consistent with both my Chopin and Hoiby influences and suits my favored way of writing as well. Additionally, the Ballades that Chopin wrote are considered by many to be the pinnacle of his accomplishments, and very often, pieces titled as such come with an expectation of virtuosity and showiness. Everything appeared to be tying together in a satisfying way compositionally, and I hope the audience feels the same way upon hearing it!”

—Nathan Gulla

Michelle Cann

Lauded as “exquisite” by The Philadelphia Inquirer and “a pianist of sterling artistry” by Gramophone, Michelle Cann has become one of the most sought-after pianists of her generation. She made her debut with The Philadelphia Orchestra in 2021 and has recently performed concertos with The Cleveland Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Orquestra Sinfônica Municipal de São Paulo, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the symphony orchestras of Atlanta, Baltimore and Cincinnati. Highlights of Cann’s 2023-24 Season include appearances with the Charlotte, Hawaii, Indianapolis, Québec, Sarasota and Winnipeg symphony orchestras, and recitals in New York, Portland, Berkeley, Beverly Hills and Denver. She also has teaching and performance residencies at the University of Indiana South Bend and Meany Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Washington.

Recognized as a leading interpreter of the piano music of Florence Price, Cann performed the New York City premiere of Price’s Piano Concerto in One Movement with The Dream Unfinished Orchestra in July 2016 and the Philadelphia premiere with The Philadelphia Orchestra and Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin in February 2021. Her recording of the concerto with the New York Youth Symphony won a GRAMMY Award in 2023 for Best Orchestral Performance. Her acclaimed debut solo album *Revival*, featuring music by Price and Margaret Bonds, was released in May 2023 on the Curtis Studio label. She has also recorded two Price piano quintets with the Catalyst Quartet.

Cann was the recipient of the 2022 Sphinx Medal of Excellence, the highest honor bestowed by the Sphinx Organization. She also received the Cleveland Institute of Music’s 2022 Alumni Achievement Award and the 2022 Andrew Wolf Chamber Music Award. A celebrated chamber musician, Cann has collaborated with leading artists including the Catalyst, Dover and Juilliard string quartets, violinists Timothy and Nikki Chooi, and cellist Thomas Mesa. She has appeared as co-host and collaborative pianist with NPR’s From The Top, collaborating with actor/conductor Damon Gupton, violinist Leila Josefowicz and violinist and MacArthur Fellow Vijay Gupta. Cann’s numerous media appearances include PBS Great Performances’ Now Hear This hosted by Scott Yoo and Living the Classical Life with host Zsolt Bogán.

Embracing a dual role as performer and pedagogue, Cann is frequently invited to teach master classes, give lecture-demonstrations and lead teaching residencies. Recent residencies include the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival and the National Conference of the Music Teachers National Association. She has recorded lessons for tonebase, the popular piano lesson platform. She has also served on the juries of the Cleveland International Piano Competition, the Kauffman Music Center International Youth Piano Competition and the piano competition of the Music Academy of the West.

A staunch believer in community-building through music, Cann has served as the director of two children’s choruses in the El Sistema-inspired program Play On Philly and was part of the inaugural class of Artist Year fellows at the Curtis Institute of Music. Through Artist Year, she worked with community partners City Year, Teach for America and AmeriCorps to provide arts education and access to underserved communities in Philadelphia.

Cann holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in piano performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studied with Paul Schenly and Dr. Daniel Shapiro, and an Artist’s Diploma from the Curtis Institute of Music, where she studied with Robert McDonald. She joined the Curtis piano faculty in 2020 as the inaugural Eleanor Sokoloff Chair in Piano Studies. She joined the piano faculty of the Manhattan School of Music in 2023.

Campus and Community Engagement

As part of her time with The Clarice, Michelle Cann is teaching a masterclass to UMD School of Music piano students.

CLARICE PRESENTS SPRING 2024

MUSIC

JAZZ JAM WITH THE HALL CP

Wed, Jan 31 • 7:30PM @ The Hall CP

Wed, Feb 28 • 7:30PM @ The Hall CP

Wed, Mar 27 • 7:30PM @ The Hall CP

Wed, Apr 24 • 7:30PM @ The Hall CP

Join our monthly jazz jam sessions led by D.C.-based saxophonist Elijah Balbed! The house band will play a set starting at 7:30PM. Bring your instrument! After enjoying their set, you'll have a chance to call a tune! Participation in our jazz jams is free—no tickets required and all levels welcome.

COMEDY

Fri, Jan 26 • 8PM

TIG NOTARO

The Emmy and GRAMMY-nominated stand-up comedian, writer, radio contributor and actor, as well as a favorite on numerous talk shows, including “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert” and “The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon” hosts a comedy show at The Clarice.

THEATER

Fri, Jan 26–Sat, Jan 27

INUA ELLAMS: SEARCH PARTY

In partnership with the UNDER THE RADAR Festival

Pick a word, any word. Prompted by audience suggestion and open conversation, Ellams searches through his archive, unearths refined or raw gold and presents his treasure in a spontaneous performance.

THEATER

Fri, Feb 2–Sun, Feb 4

QUEENS OF SHEBA • JESSICA L. HAGAN

In partnership with UNDER THE RADAR Festival

Turned away from a nightclub for being “too Black”, the Queens navigate the minefields of misogynoir, seeking power among the songs of Tina Turner and Diana Ross and Aretha Franklin, finding elevation in sisterhood, sweet relief in the riot of laughter and the shedding of tears.

MUSIC

Thu, Feb 1 • 8PM

EL LABERINTO DEL COCO

Always performing with a unique blend of sizzling musical ideas, the band is an Afro-Puerto Rican Bomba Fusion ensemble.

DANCE

Thu, Feb 8 • 7:30PM

MUSIC FROM THE SOLE:

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO STAY

Music From The Sole celebrates tap's roots in the African diaspora and its connections to Afro-Brazilian dance and music and its lineage to forms like house dance and “passinho” (Brazilian funk).

MUSIC

Fri, Feb 9 • 8PM

MARY HALVORSON: AMARYLLIS

Guitarist and composer Mary Halvorson, “a singular talent” (Jazz Times), brings her sextet in a showcase of her many musical influences—from jazz to experimental.

MUSIC

Fri, Feb 16 • 8PM

BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:

MARIN ALSOP & TIME FOR THREE

Marin Alsop, BSO Music Director Laureate and National Orchestral Institute + Festival Music Director at The Clarice, reunites with composer Kevin Puts to present his dazzling concerto for the improvising/vocalizing/barn-burning/genre-crossing talents of the GRAMMY Award-winning string trio Time for Three. Rounding out the concert are Haydn's “Fiery Symphony” and Ravel's perennial *Daphnis et Chloé* suite.

MUSIC

Sun, Feb 25 • 3PM

MICHELLE CANN, PIANO

Lauded as “technically fearless with...an enormous, rich sound” (La Scena Musicale), pianist Michelle Cann performs a program of works by Maurice Ravel, Franz Liszt and Florence Price.

MUSIC

Sat, Mar 2 • 8PM

BRIAN MARSELLA'S GATOS DO SUL

Pianist and composer Brian Marsella's Gatos do Sul (southern cats) channels Brazilian idioms such as samba, maractú, baio and choro through a kaleidoscopic lens of modern jazz.

MUSIC

Thu, Mar 14 • 8PM

MESHELL NDEGECELLO

A bass player above all else, Meshell Ndegeocello brings her warm, melodic groove to the stage. Join us as the D.C. area native sojourns into soul, R&B, jazz, hip-hop and rock—all bound by the search for love, justice, respect and resolution.

CLARICE PRESENTS SPRING 2024

MUSIC

Fri, Mar 15 • 8PM

**BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & UMD
CONCERT CHOIR: ORFF'S CARMINA BURANA**

Prepare to be blown away by *Carmina Burana*, a rapturous and unsparring invitation to live life to the fullest, featuring BSO Music Director Jonathon Heyward, an all-star cast of operatic soloists and the UMD Concert Choir.

MUSIC

Fri, Apr 5 • 8PM

**ALLISON LOGGINS-HULL, ALICIA
HALL MORAN & GABRIELA MARTINEZ:
DIAMETRICALLY COMPOSED**

"Diametrically Composed" is a collection of newly commissioned works featuring flute, voice and piano exploring the duality of being a mother and an artist.

MUSIC

Fri, Apr 12 • 8PM

**YING QUARTET & XAVIER FOLEY,
DOUBLE BASS**

Now in its third decade, the Grammy Award-winning Ying Quartet has established itself as an ensemble of the highest musical qualifications. They are renowned for combining brilliantly communicative performances with a fearlessly imaginative view of chamber music in today's world.

MUSIC

Sat, Apr 13 • 8PM

**ALARM WILL SOUND:
MUSIC FOR 18 MUSICIANS**

With a long history of presenting works by seminal 20th-century icon Steve Reich, Alarm Will Sound returns to The Clarice to play the Pulitzer Prize winner's *Music for 18 Musicians*, one of the most influential minimalist works of all time.

MUSIC, THEATER, DANCE, ARTS & CRAFTS

Sat, Apr 27 • 10AM

MARYLAND DAY 2024

This annual campus-wide open house features artistic and creative performances, experiences and activities at The Clarice, and across the University of Maryland campus.

MUSIC

Sun, May 5 • 3PM

TESLA QUARTET: MUSICA UNIVERSALIS

The idea that the movements of heavenly bodies created universal harmonies—*musica universalis*—was both a scientific and spiritual belief propounded by great thinkers from Pythagoras to Kepler. In this program, the "technically superb" (The Strad) Tesla Quartet plays music about the universe intertwined with poetry about outer space.

FAMILY

Sun, May 11 • 9:30AM & 11:30AM

COMPAGNIA TPO: FARFALLE

In a brilliantly staged story, *Farfalle* loosely follows the life cycle of a butterfly—from egg to caterpillar. In this intimate, family-friendly show, each member of the audience participates in a variety of ways—from composing songs and lullabies to using parts of their bodies to embrace the five senses.

MUSIC

June 2024

**NATIONAL ORCHESTRAL INSTITUTE +
FESTIVAL**

The National Orchestral Institute + Festival returns to The Clarice for another summer of thrilling orchestral performances in June 2024! Join us for a month of awe-inspiring music-making by the NOI Philharmonic and our extraordinary conductors, insightful masterclasses and open rehearsals plus our lively SPARK! dialogues.

Tickets go on sale in Spring 2024.

TICKETS NOW ON SALE AT [THECLARICE.UMD.EDU](https://www.theclarice.umd.edu) OR 301.405.ARTS!



SAVE THE DATE!

THE CLARICE PRESENTS
NATIONAL ORCHESTRAL INSTITUTE + FESTIVAL
TICKETS ON SALE IN SPRING 2024

noi.umd.edu @noifestival

JUNE 2024

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND