



University of Maryland School of Music Presents

**MASTERFUL STRINGS:
Murasaki Duo**

Saturday, March 30, 2024 • 8PM

GILDENHORN RECITAL HALL

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



**SCHOOL OF
MUSIC**

University of Maryland School of Music Presents

MASTERFUL STRINGS:

MURASAKI DUO

Eric Kutz, *cello*
Miko Kominami, *piano*
Philip Kramp, *viola*
James Stern, *violin*

Sonata in A Minor Gaspar Cassadó
(1897–1966)

- I. Rapsodia
- II. Aragonesa
- III. Saeta
- IV. Paso-doble

Shackled Footprints Karen Walwyn
(b. 1962)

World Premiere

INTERMISSION

Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 47 Robert Schumann
(1810–1847)

- I. Sostenuto assai—Allegro ma non troppo
- II. Scherzo: Molto vivace
- III. Andante cantabile
- IV. Finale: Vivace

Tonight's premiere of Shackled Footprints is made possible by the generous support of the String Division and the School of Music.

Since its founding in 1996 at the Juilliard School, the **Murasaki Duo** has been dedicated to performing the cello and piano literature as chamber music. Named in homage to Lady Murasaki, the author of the world's first novel, cellist **Eric Kutz** and pianist **Miko Kominami** weave their instruments' voices together in a unique and compelling equal partnership. The Duo has performed in North America, Europe, and Asia, including concerts in New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Toronto, Washington, London, Tel Aviv, Copenhagen, and Oslo.

In 2015 the Duo released a new compact disc entitled *Duo Virtuoso* on the Delos label. American Record Guide praised the recording as containing "fine, beautifully balanced performances," concluding "these are two outstanding musicians." The disc won the Violoncello Foundation's "Listeners Choice" Award, from among all cello CDs released that year. More recently, the Duo released a new CD featuring the complete cello/piano works of Los Angeles composer Maria Newman.

The Duo earlier released its debut compact disc—featuring works of Beethoven, Chopin, and Rachmaninoff—on the Centaur Records label. The disc was recommended by the Journal of the Atlanta Audio Society as "ebullient...brilliant throughout."

Advocates for new music, the Murasaki Duo actively commissions new works, in addition to performing the classics. Its program "The Commissions" features five commissioned works from 2007-2012. The Duo has been a part of leading festivals, such as the Niagara International Chamber Music Festival, the Malibu Coast Music Festival, the Icicle Creek Music Center, Cello an American Experience, and it has been broadcast on public radio stations throughout the country.

Eric Kutz teaches at the University of Maryland School of Music, and he also performs as a member of the Left Bank Quartet and the Grant Park Orchestra. Miko Kominami is a faculty member at Luther College, and she is Principal Keyboard of Orchestra Iowa.



Dr. Karen Walwyn is an Albany recording artist and a Florence Price scholar. Noted as the first pianist to record the Florence Price Concerto in E Minor for piano, Walwyn has continued to perform, record, and present research on Florence Price as she began her work on composers of color with her first two recordings from Albany Records. Additionally, Walwyn made her compositional debut at the Kennedy Center where she performed "Reflections on 9/11" for solo piano. She later recorded it at Albany Records, receiving rave reviews from the American Record Guide and Fanfare Magazine. Walwyn received her B.M. and M.M. from the University of Miami and completed her education with her D.M.A. from the University of Michigan.

Walwyn performs as a solo artist and as a guest artist with symphony orchestras across the continent and abroad. She has recorded and produced five albums and was a guest artist with the New Black Music Repertory Ensemble and the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra in 2021, where she premiered the newly released recording of Price's authentic score of Concerto in One Movement. Walwyn was featured in the Emmy-nominated documentary *The Caged Bird: The Life and Music of Florence B. Price*, NPR's *Classical Breakdown* with Jonathan Banther, and PBS's *Now Hear This* with Scot Yoo. Walwyn's most recent album release, *Florence B. Price*, was selected as a top five pick by Fanfare Magazine's critic James Harrington. Dr. Walwyn taught for many years at Howard University, and recently joined the faculty of the Berklee College of Music in Boston.



Philip Kramp is a versatile performer and teacher whose playing has been heard worldwide. Praised by the New York Times for his “impressive” performances, he has participated in chamber music festivals at Marlboro, Ravinia, Yellow Barn, Sarasota and many others. Based in Washington, DC, Phil is a former violist in the Kansas City Symphony and a former faculty member of the University of Kansas. Currently, he plays regularly with the National Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony and Pittsburgh Symphony. In chamber music settings, Phil plays regularly with the Chiarina Chamber Players, as well as in concerts with members of the National Symphony, Baltimore Symphony and Philadelphia Orchestra. He is a past participant of the Marlboro Music Festival and has performed on several tours with Musicians from Marlboro. He is also a regular participant in the Twickenham Music Festival and the Music in the Mountains Festival in Durango, Colo. Phil has also enjoyed collaborating with the Mark Morris Dance Group, and has performed alongside many of the world’s greatest artists, such as Richard Goode, Peter Wiley, Michael Tree, Arnold Steinhardt, Marcy Rosen, Miriam Fried and many others.



James Stern is a multi-faceted musician whose violin playing has been heard worldwide and cited by the Washington Post for “virtuosity and penetrating intelligence.” He has performed at the Marlboro, Ravinia, Banff and Bowdoin festivals as well as at New York’s Alice Tully Hall and Carnegie Hall. He did all of his formal training at the Juilliard School. Stern is a member of two critically acclaimed ensembles, the Stern/Andrist Duo with his wife, pianist Audrey Andrist, and Strata, a trio in which they are joined by clarinetist Nathan Williams. The duo has performed throughout the United States, Canada and China, with additional recitals in Munich and Paris. Well-known to Washington, DC audiences, Stern has performed as a member of VERGE ensemble, the 21st Century Consort, the Smithsonian Chamber Players and the Axelrod Quartet, at such venues as the Corcoran Gallery, the German and French Embassies, the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, the National Gallery, the Phillips Collection, Strathmore Mansion and the White House. In frequent appearances at The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland, he has brought innovative programming that includes performing in multiple capacities (as violist, pianist, conductor, reciter and arranger), and providing program annotations that are integral to the performance.