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WINTER/SPRING 2021



Welcome to the second half of our 2020-2021 Season! We are grateful to all of you who began this virtual journey with us—the WCMS audience is genuinely extraordinary. There is light at the end of the tunnel, but we have several months to get through before we are safely there.

Peter Sulski and Randall Hodgkinson are next up in our Spotlight Series with a fantastic program for viola and piano. New in 2021 is our “WCMS Talk” series.

These are “deep-dives” into musical topics that inspire our WCMS team of musicians. There is no cost to attend, and we hope you will tune in. And finally, what would a season be without our free community concerts? Both our Family concert and our Senior concert are happening virtually this spring.

Our winter/spring offerings were created to inspire, excite, and connect all of you as we make our way together. Stay strong, friends; we will see this through.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Kraus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tracy Kraus
Executive Director

ABOUT US

The experience of live classical music can be powerful and transformative. WCMS is committed to engaging audiences through the highest standard of performance and empowering youth through intensive education programs.

Our unique concert experiences are designed to appeal to diverse audiences. This season, we are offering an array of live-streamed concerts **performed live on stage**. Our new **Spotlight Concerts** are curated programs by the individual members of our core and shine a light on the world-class musicianship that embodies the essence of WCMS.

WCMS offers three educational programs. **Neighborhood Strings**, an award-winning community-based program that offers free music lessons in violin, viola, and cello to at-risk youth from Worcester's Main South and Downtown neighborhoods. **ChamberFest Music Camp** is an innovative, fun classical chamber music camp for strings, woodwinds and pianists age 12 through adult.

And finally, **Musician as Citizen**, connecting Neighborhood Strings and ChamberFest, seeks to develop mentorship skills that provide leadership opportunities and build community awareness.



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2020–2021 WINTER/SPRING CONCERTS

THE SPOTLIGHT CONCERTS

Peter Sulski, viola and Randall Hodgkinson, piano

Thursday, January 28 at 7:30 PM

Live Stream from Shapiro Hall at Joy of Music

Paul Hindemith, Johannes Brahms, and Rebecca Clarke

WCMS TALK SERIES – Thursdays at 7:30 PM | Zoom

February 11: David Russell

With Renewed Strength: Beethoven's Heiliger Dankesang in the Age of Covid

February 25: Rohan Gregory

A discussion of fiddle traditions from Appalachia to the Aegean.

March 11: Randall Hodgkinson

Reflections on Robert Schumann's Fantasie in C Major

March 25: Krista Buckland Reisner

Gut Reaction: What's the fuss about Baroque period performance?

HORIZONS – Streaming Premiere Sunday, April 25 at 4:00 PM

On-Demand through June 30

Recorded live at Mechanics Hall

With guest Aaron Engebret, baritone

Samuel Barber, Hilary Tann, and Ludwig van Beethoven

VIRTUAL FREE FAMILY CONCERT - Peter and the Wolf

On-Demand **March 4-March 11**

Recorded Live from Mechanics Hall

The Dr. Ted Conna Memorial Concert

ANNUAL FREE SENIOR CONCERT - On-Demand May 15-June 30

Recorded live at Briarwood Retirement Community

All-Mozart Program

Full program information at worcesterchambermusic.org

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THE DR. TED CONNA MEMORIAL CONCERT

Briarwood Retirement Community | May 13, 2021

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Flute Quartet in D Major, K. 285

- I. Allegro
- II. Adagio
- III. Rondo

KRAUS, BUCKLAND REISNER, SULSKI, RUSSELL

String Quartet No. 19 in C Major, K. 465, "Dissonance"

- I. Adagio-Allegro
- II. Andante cantabile
- III. Menuetto. Allegro
- IV. Allegro molto

BUCKLAND REISNER, GREGORY, SULSKI, RUSSELL

WCMS Musicians

Tracy Kraus, flute • Krista Buckland Reisner, violin 1
Rohan Gregory, violin 2 • Peter Sulski, viola • David Russell, cello

Dr. Ted Conna was a child psychiatrist and social activist in Worcester for more than forty years. The Conna family is pleased to sponsor the annual Senior Concert in his honor, and to share the music he loved with Worcester seniors and friends.

Video Production: Nabil Kapasi, Timeless Lens Photography

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MUSICIANS OF THE WORCESTER CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY



Violist and composer **Mark Berger** has toured throughout the United States and internationally as a member of the Lydian String Quartet. In addition to his work with the quartet, Berger frequently performs with many of Boston's finest orchestras and chamber ensembles including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, Emmanuel Music, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Worcester Chamber Music Society, and

Music at Eden's Edge. He has recently appeared as a guest artist with the Boston Symphony Chamber Players, Boston Musica Viva, Chameleon Arts ensemble, and Radius Ensemble. Strongly devoted to the performance of new music, Berger has performed with many of Boston's new music ensembles including Sound Icon, Dinosaur Annex, Ludovico Ensemble, and ALEA III. He has recorded solo and chamber works for Albany, Bridge and Innova records. An acclaimed composer, Berger's works have been presented by many of the leading contemporary ensembles in the Boston area. His compositions have received awards and recognition from the League of Composers/ISCM, ASCAP, and the Rapido! Composition Competition. Berger is currently chair of the music department at Brandeis University, where he is also Associate Professor of the Practice.



"Things done right.."(Boston Globe), "...Excellent left hand.."(Toronto Star), and "...lovely tonal bloom.."(LeDROIT), describe performances of violinist **Krista Buckland Reisner**.

Over the past 25 years, she has performed with well-known and diverse musicians from Leonard Bernstein to John Williams, Anton Kuerti, Placido Domingo, Brian Wilson, Smokey Robinson, and Diana Krall. Krista has performed across North

America, Europe, Russian and New Zealand, including performances at Carnegie Hall, La Scala, and the Boston Esplanade on July 4th with the Boston Pops. Krista's early career was opera-focused; she served as Principal Second Violin of the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra, Concertmaster of Opera Boston, performed Wagner's "Ring Cycle" with the Arizona Opera and played in the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra. Also an early music aficionado, Krista performed with Canada's Aradia, Boston Baroque, and is currently a tenured member of the Handel and Haydn Society. Krista's love of chamber music led her to join WCMS nine years ago, after playing in the QX string quartet for many years prior with fellow WCMSers Peter Sulski and Rohan Gregory. Her commitment to bringing this art form to the Worcester community also included taking on administrative roles within WCMS as the organization grew. These included acting as General Manager and managing the Summer Festival and Music Camp for six years.



Ariana Falk, cello, serves as Education Director for the Worcester Chamber Music Society, and is a founding director of Neighborhood Strings, an intensive music and social justice program for youth from Worcester's underserved communities. She serves on the faculty of Clark University, and is a former faculty coach at Boston University Tanglewood Institute and Brown University. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Germany,

where she performed with the Heidelberger Symphoniker, and now serves as music director of the Massachusetts Fulbright Association. She appeared as a guest artist on the Marlboro College and Longy Faculty Artist series, live on WGBH Boston, and at Al Kamanjasti festival in the West Bank. She has appeared as soloist with the Columbia and Olympia Symphonies, and is an alumna Fellow at Community MusicWorks in Providence. Ariana has performed at the Juilliard, Norfolk, Banff, Great Lakes, and Deer Valley summer festivals, and collaborated with artists including Menahem Pressler and Paul Katz. She received her doctorate from Boston University and M.M. and Artist Diploma degrees from the Yale School of Music, where she was recipient of the Aldo Parisot Prize, and played with the Grammy-nominated Yale Cellos, including performances at Weill Hall, Europe, and Asia.



WCMS cellist **Joshua Gordon** is equally at home whether performing on stage in famous concert halls around the world, in an Australian limestone arch cave, or with dancers on a Boston housing project basketball court. He joined the Lydian String Quartet and the music faculty of Brandeis University in 2002, and has been resident cellist at the annual Wellesley Composers Conference since 1989. He has been a guest of many ensembles

including the Apple Hill, Cassatt, DaPonte, Juilliard, and Ying Quartets, Boston Baroque, Boston Chamber Music Society, Chameleon Arts Ensemble, Emmanuel Music, Fromm Players at Harvard University, North Country Chamber Players, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Portland Chamber Music Festival, Rockport Chamber Music Festival, and Speculum Musicae. Joshua Gordon's duo with pianist Randall Hodgkinson has been described as "insightful and impassioned" by *The New Yorker*, and their New World recording *Leo Ornstein: Complete Works For Cello and Piano* was named one of the top 10 classical recordings of 2007 by the *All Music Guide*.



Rohan Gregory is a violinist that has cultivated wide-ranging expertise in chamber music, new music, and world music. He has played with the Apple Hill Chamber Players, the Ancora Ensemble and award-winning Boccherini Ensemble and was also a founding member for ten years of the Arden String Quartet, performing new music concerts in New York, Boston, Amsterdam and St. Petersburg, Russia. On the world music scene, Rohan

has toured extensively. His travels have taken him to Europe with the Klezematics, to Thailand with multi-ethnic flute player Abbie Rabinowitz, to India with the Indo-jazz group Natraj and to the U.S. west coast with Sophia Bilides Greek Folk Ensemble. Recently he has played nationally and internationally with the flamenco guitarist Juanito Pascual. Locally, Rohan is a member of the Lyric Opera Company and the Pedroia Quartet.



“The finest performance I have ever heard of this very difficult piece. It was as if he was reading my mind...” Aaron Copland on hearing pianist **Randall Hodgkinson** performing his Piano Fantasy in Jordan Hall. While a student at the New England Conservatory Hodgkinson became grand prizewinner of the International American Music Competition sponsored by Carnegie Hall and the Rockefeller Foundation. He has performed

with orchestras in Atlanta, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Boston, Cleveland and abroad in Italy and Iceland, and also numerous recital programs spanning the repertoire from J.S. Bach to Mark Berger. A frequent guest of the Boston Symphony Chamber Players, he also performs the four-hand and two-piano repertoire with his wife, Leslie Amper. Festival appearances include Ravinia, Bargemusic, Chestnut Hill Concerts in Madison Connecticut, Seattle Chamber Music Festival, and Chamber Music Northwest (Portland, OR). Solo recordings on the Ongaku, New World, and Albany labels have garnered much critical acclaim. Mr. Hodgkinson is on the faculties of the New England Conservatory of Music and Wellesley College and is currently studying to become a certified Feldenkrais Practitioner™.



“Supple and riveting.... elegant and adroit playing...dazzling” (Worcester Telegram) eloquently describes the playing of Executive Director and flutist **Tracy Kraus**. She has performed throughout Europe and the United States, at the Tanglewood and Aspen Music Festivals, at Carnegie Hall, and appeared live on WGBH radio. Her love of the Northern California coast led her to her current orchestral tenure with the Mendocino Music

Festival. In 1982, Ms. Kraus founded the Abbot Chamber Players and quickly discovered her passion for the genre as well as for organization. Ms. Kraus is a co-founder, and the Executive Director of the Worcester Chamber Music Society, leading the organization through a significant stage of growth and success. Ms. Kraus is a recent Katherine Erskine Award recipient, presented by the YWCA, for her leadership and significant contribution to the community.



Hailed as “superb”, “incisive” and “sonorous and panoramic” (Boston Globe), **David Russell** maintains a vigorous schedule both as a soloist and as a collaborator in the U.S. and Europe. He was appointed to the teaching faculty of Wellesley College in 2005 and currently serves as Lecturer and Director of Chamber Music. He has served as Principal cello of the orchestras of Odyssey Opera and Opera Boston since 2010 and performs

regularly with many ensembles based in New England such as Cantata Singers and Ensemble, the Worcester Chamber Music Society and Emmanuel Music. A strong advocate of new music, Russell has performed and recorded with contemporary ensembles such as Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Firebird Ensemble, Ludovico Ensemble, Callithumpian Consort, Music on the Edge, Dinosaur Annex, Collage, the Fromm Players at Harvard, and entelechron. Recent projects include recordings of cello concertos by Chen Yi and Lukas Foss, recordings of solo and chamber works by Lee Hyla, Eric Moe, Tamar Diesendruck, Donald Crockett, Andrew Rindfleisch and Roger Zahab as well as premieres of music by David Lang, Barbara White, Marti Epstein, Daron Hagen, José-Luis Hurtado, Robert Carl, Gilda Lyons, and Jorge Martin. Russell has also recently premiered works for cello and orchestra by Laurie San Martin and Samuel Nichols, as well as works for solo cello by Tamar Diesendruck, Andrew Rindfleisch, and John Mallia. Russell has recorded for the Tzaddik, Albany, BMOPSound, CRI, Centaur and New World Records labels.



Peter Sulski, viola, has performed in over 30 countries as a member of the Apple Hill Chamber Players, London Symphony Orchestra, Academy of St.-Martin-in-the-Fields, Cyprus Chamber Orchestra, and Al Kamandjati Baroque Ensemble (Palestine). He returned to his native Worcester in 2002, after holding the position of Head of Strings of the Edward Said National Palestinian Conservatory. Mr. Sulski is a co-founder

of the Worcester Chamber Music Society and an educator with the society's Neighborhood Strings, a free program for disadvantaged youth. He currently appears as principal violist with Odyssey Opera, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, and the Orchestra of Indian Hill. Other chamber music activities include the Pedroia quartet, duo partnerships with pianists Randall Hodgkinson and Yelena Beriyeveva, Clark 2021 Contemporary Ensemble, and the Al Kamandjati Baroque Ensemble. Mr. Sulski is a United States Cultural Envoy to Jerusalem for his work bringing music to young Palestinians living in refugee camps. He is also a solo recording artist for Parma Records.



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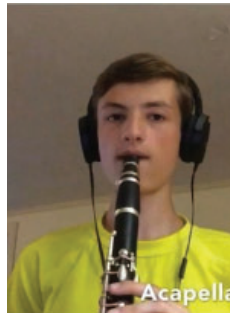
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