

KEAN STAGE



*The Sixth Annual ASTA/NJ Chamber Music Institute
at Kean University Presents:*

The Jade String Trio

Sunday, July 25, 2010

7:30 p.m.

Enlow Recital Hall

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Wei Tan, Violin

Ching Chen Juhl, Viola

Marc Tagle, Cello

**“The Jade String Trio displayed impeccable
ensemble, tonal cultivation and unerring
taste...”**

The Strad

*Concert
Artist*
PROGRAM

Dr. Anthony Scelba, Director

Program

String Trio, in C minor, Op. 9 No. 3

Allegro con spirito

Presto

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Grand Duet for Violin and Viola, Op. 69, No. 1

Allegro spiritoso

Allegro - Rondo

Ignace Pleyel (1757-1831)

(Music influenced by folk songs)

Duets Op. 39 for Violin and Cello

Scherzo

Cradle Song

Etude

Reinhold Gliere (1875-1956)

Intermezzo for String Trio

Allegretto

Zoltan Kodaly (1882-1967)

Moon Mirrored on the Er Spring

for Solo Viola

Hua Yanjun (1893-1950)

arr. Ding Zhinuo/Ching Chen Juhl

Thunder in the Drought

Allegro vivace

Classical Cantonese Music

arr. for Jade String Trio: Ding

Zhinuo (b. 1938)

Heart to Heart

Andante espressivo-Allegro con calore

Allargando-Tenero

Dongsheng Zong

arr. for String Quartet: Ding Zhinuo

arr. for Jade String Trio: Ching Chen

Juhl

Program Notes

Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn in 1770 and died in Vienna in 1827. He composed the *String Trio in C minor, Op. 9, No.3* in 1797-98. Under the influence of Haydn, Beethoven began his first Compositions for string ensemble. During 1797-98, Beethoven composed the three String Trios of Op. 9, G major, D major, and the present Trio in C minor. Although he ultimately became noted for his string quartets, Beethoven considered the string trio just as demanding and gratifying a musical challenge. So richly and skillfully did he compose the trio form, the listener can easily believe that there are four instruments playing. Beethoven has special feeling for the key of C minor: Symphony No. 5 the slow movement of the “Eroica” Symphony, the two piano sonatas and the *Coriolanus* Overture. The concentration of the first movement, in C minor; the noble drama of the C major *Adagio*; the minor *Scherzo* with its major trio; and the sonata-form *Presto* finale in C minor all gave notice to eighteenth-century Viennese musicians and their listeners that this Beethoven was much more than a virtuoso of the keyboard.

Ignace Pleyel (1757-1831) was an Austrian-born French composer of the Classical period. The son of a schoolmaster named Martin Pleyel, he was the 24th of 38 children in the family. As with Beethoven, born 13 years later, Pleyel benefited in his study from the sponsorship of aristocracy. Pleyel had a close relationship with Haydn, who considered him to be a superb student. Pleyel was prolific, composing 41 symphonies, 70 string quartets and several string quintets and operas. His *Grands Duos Op. 69* has 3 duos. The No. 1 has two movements, and is in C Major. The musical phrases are short yet clear. The violin and viola compliments each other with tone, color and dynamic exchanges. Sounding vertuousal at times, Pleyel’s scores suit for professional players as well as inter medim student level.

Reinhold Glière (1875-1956) was a Russian composer, conductor, and teacher. Reinhold Glière is noteworthy for his survival skills; he weathered the 1917 Revolution and became director of music education in the new post-czarist government. He also managed to survive the Stalin purges. He wrote over 500 works, almost all in the tradition of late nineteenth century romanticism. Musicologist Arthur Cohn comments on his legacy, noting, “Though the spice and tartness of Prokofiev’s output is lacking, this is not all milk and buttered toast, and it has beautiful warm hues.”

In 1909, **Reinhold Glière’s *Eight Pieces Duo Opus 39*** uses baroque forms along with some added folksong inflections. This is an ingratiating cycle of miniatures, nicely crafted and skillfully written for the violin and cello (Glière was a violinist), that blends neoclassic economy and romantic sentiment with unflinching charm. The Duo is an audience-pleasing eight-movement work. Three of the movements will be played tonight including the vivacious *Scherzo*, beautiful *Cradle Song* and the dramatic *Etude*.

Intermezzo for String Trio is an early work of Zoltan Kodaly. Intermezzo means a character instrumental piece. The year of its composition, 1905, was the same year that Kodaly commenced his field trips during which he collected folk songs. This work shows much grace and elegance of gipsy music.

Program Notes

Zoltan Kodaly (1882-1967) was a 20th century Hungarian composer. His orchestral compositions enjoy a place in the standard repertory. His research into his country's folk music has been a model for ethno musicologists. The program for folk music research led by him and Bartok resulted in collection, classification and editing over 100,000 folk songs. The "Kodaly Method" for teaching music in schools has been adapted worldwide to enhance general music literacy.

The Moon Mirrored on Er Spring (c. 1920) was originally composed for Erhu, the ancient two-string "violin" that is very popular in China, by Hua Yanjun. Hua known as "Blind Ah Bing" was a famous wandering street musician in the first half of the 20th century, who traveled the country studying and playing folk music. The Er Spring, dug during the Tang Dynasty (618-907), is located in Xihui Park in Wuxi, about one hour north of Shanghai by train. Many forms of arrangements have been written for all kinds of solo and ensemble pieces based on Hua's work. Prof. Ding Zhinuo arranged for violin and piano. Ching Chen Juhl will perform her interpretation of the work on solo viola, and to demonstrate and imitate the Erhu playing techniques, including slides, ornamentations, no-vibrato sounds and the division of musical phrases.

***Thunder in the Drought* (c. 1900)**, written in the early 1900's, was originally from the Classical **Cantonese** Music "Three Sacred Buddhas". The music is upbeat and joyful. It expresses the happiness of the farmers feeling the rain and thunder after a long drought. The piece was written for string quartet and later for the Jade String Trio by Ding Zhinuo.

Heart to Heart its original melody was a folk tune from the Yi minority from the Yunnan Province, a southern part of the China. In 1959, this song was used in **The East is Red**, a major musical production in celebration of Mao Ze-Dong and the Communist party. Ding Zhinuo composed the melody for a string quartet during the 1970's; Ching Chen Juhl arranged it for the Jade String Trio in 2001.

The lyric reads:

"Beautiful clouds floating in the sky,

Canary singing up high,

The Red Army is our brother,

They were the true heroes of the Long March."

Ding Zhinuo, violin Professor, arranger and conductor has been on the faculty at the Shanghai Conservatory since 1962. She has taught many chamber music ensembles including the renowned Shanghai Quartet. Her students have won top prizes in many international competitions, such as: the Portsmouth International String Quartet, and the Borciani International String Quartet Competition. Ding is a composer/arranger and has composed many works for violin ensemble, string quartet and chamber orchestra. She has also written and published books on violin teaching, practicing and performing techniques. Ding was trained at the Shanghai Conservatory. She often travels to Europe, Australia and North America for giving lectures and teaching. Ms. Ding's quartet was a winner of the International Schumann String Quartet Competition in 1960. She is the conductor for the Shanghai Chamber Orchestra. Visit: www.dingzhinuo.com for more info.

Biographies

The **Jade Trio** is celebrated for its wide-ranging repertoire, which embraces the Western classical music, contemporary works, and Chinese folk and classical music arranged for violin, viola and cello. Based in New York City, the ensemble was formed in 1999 by three highly accomplished Asian-American musicians. They have concertized widely in the U.S., China and the New York metropolitan area including performances at the Merkin Hall, Bargemusic, Kosciuszko Foundation, Cutting Edge Music Series, Woman's Composers, National Dance Institute and the Downtown Music Production. The Trio has captivated audiences at the Columbia, Rockefeller, Drew Universities, the CUNY and the St. Joseph's College. The Jade Trio was featured on WNYC 93.9 FM and WQXR 96.3 FM live radio programs. A recipient of the New York Women Composers Grant 2006, the Trio has premiered, performed and commissioned new works from composers such as Beth Anderson, Victoria Bond, Ding Zhinuo, Steven Holochwost, Jin Xiang, Joelle Wallach and Davide Zannoni. The trio frequently performs a salon-mixture of chamber music and comedy at the Chamber Music @ the Underground in New York City. In addition to concert appearances, the Trio is in demand for its educational workshops and performances. The Trio recorded Paul Chihara's String Trio and the CD was released by the Albany Records in 2003. For more information, please visit www.jade-stringtrio.com

Violinist **Wei Tan** earned a full scholarship from the Manhattan School of Music as a student of Stanley Bednar, where she completed both her B.M. and M.M. degrees. As a soloist and chamber musician, she has toured Austria, China, Hong Kong and performs regularly in the Northeastern US. She has participated in various chamber groups such as the Northern Country Chamber Players, the Pantoum Trio and the Jade Trio. Her solo and chamber performances have been broadcast on the WQXR and Hong Kong Radio Station and the Shanghai Classical Music television network. Tan is now a faculty member at the Westport School of Music in Connecticut and Tenafly Arts in New Jersey.

Ching Chen Juhl, violist, has performed solo, chamber music and orchestral concerts throughout North and South America, Europe, Hong Kong and China. After graduating from Shanghai Conservatory of Music, she earned a Master's of Music degree from Indiana University. A Silver Prize winner at the Giuranna International Viola Competition, Juhl has appeared as a viola soloist with orchestras in US and China. In 1991, Juhl won the Associate Principal Viola position with the Phoenix Symphony, with whom she performed for seven years. As an educator, she taught at Indiana University, Bloomingdale School Music, International Music Camp and Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Her viola teachers were Csaba Erdelyi, Kim Kashkashian, Xidi Shen and Yushen Wu. Currently, Ching Chen Juhl is a lecturer at the St. Joseph's College. She performs with and manages the Jade Trio since 1999. Having received a video producer's certificate from the New York University, Ching Chen Juhl produces musical documentary films (www.facebook.com/ching.juhl).

Cellist **Marc Tagle** has traveled throughout the U.S., to the Philippines, London, Taiwan, China, Italy, and Canada giving chamber music, recitals, and solo performances. He has participated at numerous festivals and seminars including the Amadeus, the Muir, and the Audubon string quartet seminars and the Aspen, California Summer Music, and Le Domaine Forget festivals. His awards include first prize in the Kohl Mansion Chamber Music Competition in 1996 and second prize in the San Francisco Conservatory Concerto Competition in 1995. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree studying with Irene Sharp at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He currently teaches at the Westport School of Music, The Children's Orchestra Society, and at the Bronxville School.

The Concert Artist Program

The Concert Artist Program of Kean University, in its 12th season, brings world-renowned performing musicians onto the faculty of the Kean University Conservatory of Music. While maintaining successful careers as professional performers, Concert Artists present solo, chamber music, and jazz recitals at Kean; teach private, weekly studio lessons to Kean students; and conduct masterclasses and other community outreach services in the public schools and junior colleges. Some Concert Artists also coach ensembles and teach classroom courses related to their specialties.

Dr. Anthony Scelba first proposed the Program in 1998 (then called the “Affiliate Artist Program”) as part of an overall plan for advancement of the Conservatory. Since then the Program has expanded from three to 20 Concert Artists. Musicians are chosen for the Program after a regional search. Eminent artists with high reputations for excellence and thriving careers, who are eager to devote themselves to Kean as performers and teachers, and who would contribute to the Program’s outstanding chamber music series are selected.

The CAP Concert Series includes performances throughout the school year. In 2008, the CAP appointed Frank Ezra Levy its first Composer-in-Residence. Its 2009-2010 Composer-in-Residence is the Brazilian, Liduino Pitombeira. In 2010-2011 it will be Samuel Zyman of the Juilliard School. In 2009, the Program offered three performances in Merkin Concert Hall, New York. The Concert Artist Series and Enlow Recital Hall—its new state-of-the-art home—are helping to realize President Dawood Farahi’s vision to make Kean University an artistic and cultural center for the region.

Since the Program’s inception, Kean’s Concert Artists individually have performed as soloists and chamber musicians here and abroad, recorded CDs, been nominated for a Grammy and several Latin Grammys, performed on *Live from Lincoln Center* and Kennedy Center broadcasts, won glowing reviews (including 4½ stars from *Down Beat Magazine*), debuted at prestigious venues and received numerous awards and recognitions. In 2004, “Concert Artist” was recognized by Kean University as a distinct category of adjunct faculty.

Information about these wonderful musicians, about the Concert Artist Performance Series, and about their two CDs—*Schubertiana* and the crossover album *The Great Kean Way: Concert Artists on Broadway*—can be found at <http://www.keanconcertartists.com>.

Acknowledgements

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A PASSIONATE
SUPPORTER
of the
CAMPAIGN TO
TRANSFORM
LIVES.

I HOPE
YOU WILL
JOIN ME....”

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