

NightCap Chamber Music Concert

Osmo Vänskä, clarinet | Anthony Ross, cello | Jon Kimura Parker, piano

Friday, July 22, 2022, 10:30 pm | Orchestra Hall

Johannes Brahms

Trio in A minor for Clarinet, Cello and Piano, Opus 114

ca. 25'

Allegro
Adagio
Andantino grazioso
Allegro

Osmo Vänskä, clarinet

Anthony Ross, cello

Jon Kimura Parker, piano

Osmo Vänskä's profile appears on page 10; Anthony Ross' on page 48; Jon Kimura Parker's on page 8.

[thank you](#)

This concert is co-sponsored by Dr. Stanley M. and Luella G. Goldberg.



profile Osmo Vänskä, music director

finnish conductor Osmo Vänskä, the Minnesota Orchestra's tenth music director, whose 19-year leadership tenure ends this summer, is renowned internationally for his compelling interpretations of the standard, contemporary and Nordic repertoires. Throughout the 2021–22 season, the Orchestra celebrated his lasting impact through performances of Sibelius symphonies and other signature repertoire, reconnections with favorite guest soloists, and the continuation of a project to perform and record all ten Mahler symphonies that will conclude next season, when Vänskä returns to lead the Third Symphony.

Vänskä has led the Orchestra on five major European tours, as well as a 2018 visit to London's BBC Proms, and on historic tours to Cuba in 2015 and South Africa in 2018. He has also led the Orchestra in appearances at New York's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, Chicago's Symphony Center and community venues across Minnesota.

Vänskä's recording projects with the Orchestra have met with great success, including a Sibelius symphonies cycle, one album of which won the 2014 Grammy Award for Best Orchestral Performance. In February 2021 BIS released the Orchestra's newest album, featuring Mahler's Tenth Symphony—part of a Mahler series that includes a Grammy-nominated Fifth Symphony recording. Other releases include an album of in-concert recordings of Sibelius' *Kullervo* and *Finlandia* and Kortekangas' *Migrations*; albums of Beethoven and Tchaikovsky piano concertos with Yevgeny Sudbin and Stephen Hough, respectively; *To Be Certain of the Dawn*, composed by Stephen Paulus with libretto by Michael Dennis Browne; and a particularly widely-praised Beethoven symphonies cycle.

As a guest conductor, Vänskä has received extraordinary praise for his work with many of the world's leading orchestras, including the Boston and Chicago symphony orchestras, Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, London Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Vienna Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic



Travis Anderson

and Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra. In January 2020 he became music director of the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2014 he became the Iceland Symphony Orchestra's principal guest conductor; since then he has been named the ensemble's honorary conductor. He is also conductor laureate of the Lahti Symphony Orchestra, which, during two decades as music director, he transformed into one of Finland's flagship orchestras.

Vänskä began his music career as a clarinetist, holding major posts with the Helsinki Philharmonic and the Turku Philharmonic. Since taking up the instrument again for Sommerfest 2005 he has performed as clarinetist at Orchestra Hall, other Twin Cities venues, the Grand Teton Festival, the Mostly Mozart Festival, La Jolla Summerfest, the Seattle Chamber Music Festival, and several festivals in Finland. He has recorded Bernhard Henrik Crusell's three Clarinet Quartets and Kalevi Aho's Clarinet Quintet for the BIS label and is in the process of recording several duos for clarinet and violin which he has commissioned with his wife, violinist Erin Keefe.

His engagements for the 2021–22 season included conducting the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Pittsburgh Symphony, Orchestra Orchestre National de Lyon, Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra and Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, and a residency at the Curtis Institute. For more information, visit minnesotaorchestra.org.



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Anthony Ross, cello

Anthony Ross, now in his 34th year as a Minnesota Orchestra member, assumed the principal cello post in 1991. He has been a soloist many times with the Orchestra, and next fall he will be featured in Daugherty's *Tales of Hemingway*. In 2015 he performed Schumann's Cello Concerto under the direction of the late Stanislaw Skrowaczewski—thereby becoming the final musician to perform a concerto under Skrowaczewski's baton at Orchestra Hall. An avid chamber musician, Ross is a member of *Accordo*, an ensemble composed of principal string players from the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Minnesota Orchestra. He also plays regularly with the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota and with ensembles of his Orchestra colleagues. He has performed at music festivals in the U.S. and Europe and has been a faculty member at the Grand Teton, Aspen, Madeline Island and Indiana University festivals. More: minnesotaorchestra.org.



G. Phillip Shoultz, III, host

G. Phillip Shoultz, III, who is known for fostering community and inspiring action among people of all ages and abilities, enjoys a multifaceted career as artist, educator, consultant, speaker and pastoral musician. He is the associate artistic director of VocalEssence, where his most visible impact is seen through his visionary leadership as founding conductor of the VocalEssence Singers *Of This Age* and through his engaging *Take 5 with GPS* daily livestream and series of instructional videos. He also serves Westwood Lutheran Church as Cantor for Music, Worship and the Arts, and he frequently appears throughout the U.S. as a guest clinician, adjudicator and consultant. Each year, he serves as mentor to educators through classroom visits and as an adjunct faculty member in the Graduate Music Education program at the University of St. Thomas. He is the winner of the 2015 American Choral Directors Association Graduate Student Conducting Competition, and he has appeared as a conducting fellow with the Oregon Bach Festival, Chorus America, Choral Music Experience Institute and several other summer programs. More: vocalessence.org.



Caleb Young, conductor

Known for his energetic interpretations of American music, Berlin-based conductor Caleb Young has gained international renown as one of the most exciting emerging American artists of today. In summer 2021, Finland's Fiskars Summer Festival awarded him mentorship under legendary conductors Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Hannu Lintu, Sakari Oramo and others at the LEAD! Foundation Academy's conductors' masterclass. Young was further awarded the honor of conducting the Finnish Chamber Orchestra alongside Saraste and Salonen. Having made a strong impression in Finland, in the 2022-23 season he will make his debut with the Tapiola Sinfonietta; he will also return to the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and to the Cleveland Ballet to conduct Balanchine's *Serenade*. His conducting résumé includes a number of the world's leading orchestras; as cover conductor, he works regularly with John Williams and orchestras such as the Berlin Philharmonic, Vienna Philharmonic and Los Angeles Philharmonic, and has served the Cincinnati Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Atlanta Opera, Portland Symphony, and the National Music Festival. More: calebwyoung.com.

profile Jon Kimura Parker, creative partner for Summer at Orchestra Hall

Known for his passionate artistry and engaging stage presence, pianist Jon Kimura Parker has performed regularly at the Berlin Philharmonie, Carnegie Hall, London's South Bank, the Sydney Opera House and the Beijing Concert Hall. In 2019 he was appointed the Minnesota Orchestra's first-ever creative partner for Summer at Orchestra Hall, a new role in which he is serving as a creative force behind the Orchestra's summer festival and appearing each summer as a host, performer and personality. He is also artistic director of the Honens International Piano Competition and artistic advisor for the Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival.

Highlights of Parker's 2021-22 season included concerto appearances with the Phoenix, Peninsula, San Antonio, Rhode Island and Kansas City orchestras, a special appearance with the Galilee Chamber Orchestra in Toronto, recitals including Portland Piano International, and performances with Cho-Liang Lin at Chamber Music International in Dallas and with Paul Huang at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in New York. He also tours as a member of the Montrose Trio, which he founded with Martin Beaver and Clive Greensmith. Following their first tour in 2015, *The Washington Post* described them as "poised to become one of the top piano trios in the world."

A collaborator in a wide variety of styles, Parker has performed with Doc Severinsen, Audra McDonald, Bobby McFerrin, Pablo Ziegler and Sanjaya Malakar, among many others. As a founding member of Off the Score, he also performed with Stewart Copeland—the legendary drummer of The Police—for the Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival's 20th Anniversary Season, featuring his own arrangements of music by Prokofiev, Ravel and Stravinsky. He has accompanied Frederica von Stade, Susan Graham and Luca Pisaroni in recital.

A committed educator, Parker is professor of piano at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. His students have won prizes in major competitions internationally and given concerto performances in the U.S., Europe, Russia and China. He has also lectured at the Juilliard School and given master classes at Yale. This season he chaired the jury of the Hilton Head International Piano Competition.

Parker's discography of a dozen albums features music ranging from Mozart and Chopin to Barber, Stravinsky and John Adams. His most recent recording *Fantasy*, built around William Hirtz's *Wizard of Oz Fantasy*, was described by *Musical Toronto* as giving "a big, clear picture window of a rich soul and great artistic depth." His YouTube channel features a series of *Concerto Chat* videos that explore the piano concerto repertoire. In addition, his *Whole Notes* series, featuring performances of great composers, is available on Amazon Prime Video. He is now



Tara McMullen

recording master class videos for Tonebase on major works of the piano concerto repertoire.

Parker studied with Edward Parker and Keiko Parker, Lee Kum-Sing at the Vancouver Academy of Music and the University of British Columbia, Marek Jablonski at the Banff Centre and Adele Marcus at the Juilliard School. Winner of the Gold Medal at the 1984 Leeds International Piano Competition, Parker is an Officer of The Order of Canada and has received honorary doctorates from the University of British Columbia and the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto.

Known to friends—new and old—as “Jackie,” Parker is married to violinist/violist Aloysia Friedmann, and their daughter Sophie graduated from Rice University in 2021. For more information, visit jonkimuraparker.com.

Jon Kimura Parker, creative partner for Summer at Orchestra Hall, holds the Marilyn and Glen Nelson Chair.