

GRAND PIANO SPECTACULAR

Jon Kimura Parker, piano | Gabriela Martinez, piano
Osip Nikiforov, piano | Szuyu Su, piano

Thursday, August 1, 2024, 7PM | Orchestra Hall

Astor Piazzolla/ arr. Kyoko Yamamoto	<i>Libertango</i>	CA. 4'
Claude Debussy/ arr. Léon Roques	<i>Arabesque No. 1</i>	CA. 5'
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart/ arr. Arcadi Volodos	<i>Rondo alla Turca, from Piano Sonata No. 11 in A major, K.331/300i Osip Nikiforov, piano</i>	CA. 4'
Darius Milhaud/ arr. Jon Kimura Parker	<i>Scaramouche</i> Vif Modère Brazileira	CA. 11'
Adam Schoenberg	Selections from <i>Picture Etudes</i> Olive Orchard Miro's World <i>Gabriela Martinez, piano</i>	CA. 6'
Gustav Holst/ arr. Ahmed Al Abaca	<i>Jupiter, from The Planets</i>	CA. 8'
I N T E R M I S S I O N		CA. 20'
Nikolai Kapustin	Variations, Opus 41 <i>Szuyu Su, piano</i>	CA. 6'
George Gershwin/ arr. Adam Stern	<i>Rhapsody in Blue</i>	CA. 18'
Scott Joplin	<i>Solace</i> <i>Jon Kimura Parker, piano</i>	CA. 4'
George Gershwin/ arr. Gregory Stone	<i>Cuban Overture</i>	CA. 10'

Jon Kimura Parker's profile appears on page 10, Gabriela Martinez's on page 44 and Osip Nikiforov and Szuyu Su's on page 45.

PRE-CONCERT

Visit minnesotaorchestra.org/soundsandbites for information about free pre-concert activities.

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 2023–24 season included multiple performances of nine different piano concertos, including appearances with the Taiwan National Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Austin (Minnesota) Symphony Orchestra; a solo recital in Los Angeles; performances on the Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach, Phoenix Chamber Music Society and Rice University Faculty series; multiple appearances at the Sun Valley Music Festival; and performances with Aloysia Friedmann and Melissa Ousley on an Earthbound Expeditions “April in Paris” Seine River cruise, among numerous other engagements. Next season is highlighted by two engagements playing Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue*, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, and here in Orchestra Hall for the Minnesota Orchestra’s New Year’s Celebration concerts.

A collaborator in a wide variety of styles, Parker has performed with Doc Severinsen, Audra McDonald, Bobby McFerrin, Pablo Ziegler, Sanjaya Malakar and Dessa, 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 and keyboard chair 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 and Princeton. Last summer he was featured in a special role coaching the finalists of the Cliburn Junior Competition in their concerto rehearsals.

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



Josh Kohanek

performances of great composers, is available on Amazon Prime Video. His recent Tonebase video on the 15th Variation of the Rachmaninoff Paganini Rhapsody has over a half million views.

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.



LEO MANZARI,
TAP DANCER

Originally from Washington, D.C., Leo Manzari is a Lucille Lortel Award-nominated tap dancer, headlining in various productions such as the touring and off-Broadway productions of *Maurice Hines is Tappin' Thru Life*, and being featured as a guest artist on *So You Think You Can Dance*, the Kennedy Center's concert celebrating the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's inauguration and a Marvin Gaye tribute, Dorrance Dance's *Nutcracker Suite*, *The Mo'nique Show*, *The Kate TV*, *TEDMED*, *PBS News Hour*, Jerry Lewis Telethon and ABC's *The View*. Manzari has also been featured as a solo tap dancer in Hozier's music video *Almost (Sweet Music)* and guest starred with Anderson Paak's band the Free Nationals for various virtual events. Now residing in Los Angeles, Manzari currently headlines alongside Byron Stripling and Grammy-nominated jazz vocalist Carmen Bradford, collaborating with multiple pops orchestras around the world including the Winnipeg Orchestra, Florida Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and Philly Pops—as well as the Minnesota Orchestra this August. More: leomanzari.com.



GABRIELA MARTINEZ,
PIANO

Venezuelan pianist Gabriela Martinez has a reputation for the lyricism of her playing, her compelling interpretations, and her elegant stage presence. She has a vast repertoire and a deep commitment to expanding the canon through new commissions and multi-disciplinary collaborations. She also has a strong belief in the importance of arts education and bringing classical music to younger audiences, as well as to people and places that might not normally experience it. Gabriela made her orchestral debut at age 6, and has performed with over 100 orchestras since including the San Francisco, Chicago and Houston symphonies; Germany's Stuttgarter Philharmoniker, and Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra in Venezuela. Her debut album, *Amplified Soul*, was released on the Delos label, and was recognized with a Grammy Award for Producer of the Year David Frost. She has performed at such venues as Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Merkin Hall and Alice Tully Hall in New York City and at numerous major festivals. She was the First Prize winner of the Anton G. Rubinstein International Piano Competition in Dresden. She then attended the Juilliard School, where she earned her bachelor and master of music degrees as a full scholarship student of Yoheved Kaplinsky. More: gabrielamartinezpiano.com.



TERRYANN NASH,
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE
INTERPRETER

Terryann Nash, MAPL, is an American Sign Language (ASL) performance artist and CEO of Nashinspired LLC. She has been an interpreter for productions of *The Miracle Worker*; Sounds of Blackness' *The Night Before Christmas* and *Songs for Martin*; *Black Nativity 2022*; and the 2017 National Day of Prayer at U.S. Bank Stadium. She has also been an ASL performing member in several performances by Sweet Honey in the Rock. She works closely with Nashinspired ASL consultant Rebecca Demmings. More: nashinspired.com.



OSIP NIKIFOROV,
PIANO

Osip Nikiforov is a Russian pianist who studied under the tutelage of two world-renowned pianists: Yefim Bronfman at Manhattan School of Music and Jon Kimura Parker at Rice University. Born in Siberia to a family of musicians, he started studying piano with his father at age 6. While still living in Russia, he participated and won numerous awards in national and international competitions. At just 14 years of age, he performed a movement from Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 with the Minnesota Orchestra as part of the e-Piano Junior Competition. Since 2010 he has resided in the United States. This past February he was part of the recording project Folk Classics from Across the Globe at Minnesota Public Radio, where he recorded a series of folk tale-inspired piano pieces for children by the Ukrainian composer Aida Isakova. In 2023 Nikiforov performed a series of all-Rachmaninoff solo programs in Texas and Minnesota, dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the composer. He is regularly invited to perform at festivals and concert series including the Schubert Club Courtroom Concert Series in St. Paul. In fall 2021 his first piano solo album, *Russian Elegie*, was released by Orpheus Classical Label. More: osipnikiforov.com.



SZUYU SU,
PIANO

Born in Tainan City, Taiwan, Szuyu Su began to learn the piano at the age of 4. She earned a bachelor's degree from the Curtis Institute of Music and a master's degree from the Juilliard School. She is currently pursuing her doctorate degree in piano performance at Rice University under the instruction of Jon Kimura Parker, the creative partner for Summer at Orchestra Hall. Su is the winner of the 2023 Solo Piano Competition at the Music Academy of the West. She is also a recipient of the CHIMEI Arts Award and the second prize winner at the 2022 Mieczyslaw Munz Piano Competition. In 2019 she won second prize and best mazurka performance at the Beijing Chopin Piano Competition. She participated in the 2021 Warsaw Chopin International Piano Competition and advanced to the second stage. Since then she has been invited to play with orchestras and give recitals in major venues. Besides performing, she is interested in teaching. Her appearance at the Grand Piano Spectacular marks her Orchestra Hall debut.