

The Chamber Music Society
of Saint Cloud

presents the

Balge–Park–Ross Trio

Bethel Balge, *piano*

Susie Park, *violin*

Tony Ross, *cello*

Sunday, November 19, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.
Ruth Gant Recital Hall, St. Cloud State University
620 3rd Avenue South, St. Cloud

PROGRAM

Piano Trio No. 2 in G Minor, Op 26, B. 56 (1876)

Allegro moderato

Largo

Scherzo. Presto

Finale. Allegro non tanto

Antonin Dvořák

(1841 – 1904)

Theme and Seven Variations on “*Bei Männern, welche Liebe fühlen*” (1801)
from Mozart’s opera “The Magic Flute” for cello and piano WoO 46

Ludwig van Beethoven

(1770 –1827)

INTERMISSION

Piano Trio No 3 in C Minor, Op. 101 (1886)

Allegro energico

Presto non assai

Andante grazioso

Allegro molto

Johannes Brahms

(1833 –1897)

Please join us in greeting the performers at the reception immediately following the performance.

We gratefully acknowledge this afternoon’s concert co-sponsors:

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This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Central Minnesota Arts Board thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



Winner of the Louis B. Sudler Prize in the Arts, pianist **Bethel Balge** has performed in Germany, including at Frankfurt's *Alte Oper*, in Russia as soloist with the Voronezh Philharmonic, as well as in various American venues. Balge's "highly concentrated, technically secure and captivating interpretation" of Ravel's *Gaspard de la Nuit* attracted notice from a reviewer at the Frankfurter *Allgemeine Zeitung* after a performance at the *Alte Oper*. She is founding Artistic Director of the ProMusica Minnesota Chamber Music Series and of the ProMusica Minnesota Chamber Music Festival. As a doctoral student of Lydia Artymiw, Balge performed in a Minnesota Public Radio live broadcast in the Bach Birthday concert organized by MPR host Michael Barone. She has been featured numerous times on American Public Media's program "Performance Today" in ProMusica Minnesota performances. In 2020 Balge became Executive Director of the Mankato Symphony Orchestra. Balge received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Minnesota under Lydia Artymiw in 2014. Previously she received a *Diplom* degree from the University of Frankfurt's *Hochschule fuer Musik* in Germany. She has also received a Master of Music degree from the University of Wisconsin under Howard Karp and is a cum laude graduate of Michigan State University, where she received a Bachelor of Music degree under Van Cliburn gold prize winner Ralph Votapek. She has taught piano, music history, and piano pedagogy courses at Bethany Lutheran College (Mankato, MN) and at Martin Luther College (New Ulm, MN). Recently she completed the League of American Orchestra's Essentials in Orchestra Management course from the Juilliard School of Music.

Australian-born **Susie Park**, the Minnesota Orchestra's first associate concertmaster, had already toured with the Orchestra before beginning her appointment in September 2015, performing concerts and participating in educational programs when the ensemble traveled to Cuba the previous May. Park has concertized around the world, performing solos with such European orchestras as the Vienna Symphony, Orchestre National de Lille and the London-based Royal Philharmonic; American orchestras including the Pittsburgh Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, Memphis Symphony, and Orchestra of St. Luke's; the major symphony orchestras of Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Tasmania, Canberra, and Perth; Korea's KBS Orchestra; and Orchestra Wellington in New Zealand. Park is passionate about chamber music. She is a founding member of ECCO, the East Coast Chamber Orchestra, a conductorless ensemble comprising a diverse selection of talented chamber musicians, soloists, and principal string players from American orchestras; their self-titled debut album of 2012, released on the eOne label, includes works from three centuries, by Geminiani, Tchaikovsky, and Shostakovich. In addition, Park was the violinist of the Eroica Trio from 2006 to 2012, with which she recorded the ensemble's eighth CD, an all-American disc nominated for a Grammy. A native of Sydney, Park picked up a violin at the age of three, made her solo debut at five, and completed preparatory studies at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. She went on to earn a bachelor of music degree at the Curtis Institute and an artist diploma at the New England Conservatory; her teachers have included Jaime Laredo, Ida Kavafian, Donald Weilerstein, Miriam Fried, Shi-Xiang (Peter) Zhang, and Christopher Kimber. In her spare time, she enjoys a variety of creative arts, including knitting and clothing design.

Dynamic leader of the Minnesota Orchestra's cello section since 1991, prize-winning cellist **Anthony Ross** has appeared as soloist many times with the Orchestra, performing all the standard cello concertos under Osmo Vänskä, Edo de Waart and Eiji Oue. Equally passionate about new music, he has given powerful performances of Michael Daugherty's *Tales of Hemingway*, James MacMillan's Cello Concerto, Paul Moravec's *Montserrat*, and he and his wife, Beth Rapier, have championed David Ott's Concerto for Two Cellos since 1993. Prior to assuming the principal role in Minnesota, Ross performed for four years as principal cello of the Rochester Philharmonic under David Zinman. Ross' compelling interpretations have won wide acclaim from Moscow to Kalamazoo, and Dallas to Duluth. As concerto soloist, he has played with the Moscow State Orchestra, the Louisville Orchestra, the Dallas Symphony, the Rochester Philharmonic, the South Dakota Symphony, and many other Midwest regional orchestras. A cellist of many facets and talents, Ross engages with equal passion as he plays tennis, teaches young cellists, and shares the festival stage as a chamber musician or while recording sonatas. Ross has taught at the Eastman School of Music, on the faculties of the Aspen and Grand Tetons Music Festivals and at the Interlochen and Madeline Island Music Camps. His many festival appearances include performances at the Mostly Mozart Festival, Music in the Vineyards, the Colorado Music Festival, the Rhodes Music Festival in Greece, the Cactus Pear Music Festival in San Antonio, Orcas Island Music Festival and the Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society in Madison. In the Twin Cities, he is a member of Accordo and the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota. Winner of the prestigious bronze medal at the 1982 Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, Ross went on to gain the Stulberg Award, the G.B. Dealy Award, and a prize in the Parisot International Cello Competition. He was awarded a McKnight Artist Fellowship, once as soloist and again in 2005 as part of the Ross Rapier Cello Duo. A graduate of Indiana University where he studied with Fritz Magg, Ross earned another degree at the State University of New York, studying with Bernard Greenhouse and Timothy Eddy. Ross' recordings include Leonard Bernstein's Three Meditations from the Mass with the Minnesota Orchestra under Eiji Oue on Reference Recordings, the George Lloyd Cello Concerto with the Albany Symphony under David Alan Miller on Albany Records and the Sonatas of Rachmaninoff and Elliott Carter for Boston Records. Tony likes to tell a joke or a story to the cello section right before going onstage for a concert. His favorite activities are tennis, sailing, hiking, and cooking.



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The **Chamber Music Society of St. Cloud** is a non-profit organization supported in large part by membership contributions. We are grateful to the following individuals, businesses, and grantors who make these programs possible. This list includes contributions received through November 16; donations are always welcome and needed!

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and our annual fundraiser Musical Chairs on Friday, April 19, 7 p.m.

The Chamber Music Society presents the finest in live performance, and enhances enjoyment, appreciation, and understanding of chamber music in central Minnesota communities.

Chamber Music Society of St. Cloud

PO Box 205, St. Cloud, MN 56302

chambermusicstcloud.org • rebecca@chambermusicstcloud.org • 320-292-4645

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