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CHAMBER MUSIC AMICI PRESENTS THE “NEXT GENERATION” IN MARCH

SPRINGFIELD, OR — Chamber Music Amici celebrates in March the “unparalleled friendship” of two lauded composers with cherished guest artists, including six exceptional young musicians from the Willamette Valley.

The Sunday, March 8, concert is a joyful program of Johannes Brahms’s Sextet No. 1 in B-flat Major and Antonín Dvořák’s Piano Quintet in A Major, with featured guest violinist Pilar Bradshaw, who last played with Amici during its season-opening concert of October 2018. One of the five founders of Amici, Bradshaw, who retired in 2017 to focus on her medical practice, offers a sense of continuity, said Amici Art Director Jessica Lambert, especially as Amici shares the stage with six up-and-coming musicians, all who are mentees of Amici core musicians.

Cellists Sarah Rosier and Adrian Hsieh study privately with Steve Pologe; Julia Daniels studies both violin and viola with Lillie Manis; violinist Avery Hsieh is a former student of Lambert’s; and all six, including Michael Gu, piano, and Katie Siegfried, viola, have attended for at least one year Lambert’s summer Oregon State University Chamber Music Workshop in Corvallis. All the string players have been members of the UO Community Music Institute, where Manis is assistant director and teaching faculty.

“We have seen them grow and develop into young adults with a steadfast commitment to musical excellence,” Lambert said of the teenage guest musicians, “and I am proud to share the stage with them.”

As for the composers, “Brahms and Dvořák had an unparalleled friendship that lasted over 20 years until Brahms passed away, and throughout that time, Brahms supported Dvořák in his development and encouraged others to do the same,” Lambert said. “Theirs was a friendship of admiration, emulation and genuine affection.”

Both 19th century composers gained worldwide recognition for their contribution to classical music.

“Dvořák was bringing Czech tunes and other Eastern European elements into the mix, and in later works, he even included folk melodies from America in some pieces,” Lambert said. “These inclusions of folk traditions, as actual quoted melodies or characteristic rhythms and structures, added a national ‘spice’ to the music.”

And Brahms was particularly influential in shifts to the musical style of sextets.

“By the time Brahms tried his hand at the string sextet, composers and their audiences were creating a more intense emotional journey, and the writing was more deeply layered and complex,” Lambert said. “This Romantic style was so much more in sync with the times (then and now!) that interest in the earlier compositions for sextets faded.”

— more —

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The Next Generation begins at 3:00 p.m., is without an intermission and is followed by a complementary post-concert party, where audience members can meet the musicians and enjoy baked creations from Excelsior Inn & Ristorante.

For tickets: <https://bit.ly/AmiciMarch2020NextGeneration>, or call (541) 953-9204 for more information.

Concert sponsors are Columbia Bank, Leahy Cox, LLP, and George Rode Repair Shops.

Concert Summary:

- Next Generation, Sunday, March 8, 2020, 3:00 p.m.; Richard E. Wildish Community Theater, 630 Main Street, Springfield, Oregon
- Ticket Link: <https://bit.ly/AmiciMarch2020NextGeneration>
- Ticket Prices: \$28-40; \$5 student
- Pieces performed: Piano Quintet in A Major by Antonín Dvořák; Sextet No. 1 in B-flat Major by Johannes Brahms
- Core musicians performing: Jessica Lambert, violin; Sharon Schuman, violin; Lillie Manis, viola, Steven Pologe, cello
- Guest artists: Pilar Bradshaw, violin; Michael Gu, piano; Avery Hsieh, violin; Julia Daniels, viola; Katie Siegfried, viola; Adrian Hsieh, cello; Sarah Rosier, cello

Chamber Music Amici is a resident company of the Richard E. Wildish Community Theater in Springfield, Ore., that also holds performances at the John G. Shedd Institute for the Arts in Eugene. Made up of a group of five accomplished classical musicians, Amici has as its mission to produce exciting chamber music concerts and to promote a new generation of music lovers. Amici concerts are fun and filled with variety brought by its virtuoso guests. For more information: chambermusicamici.org

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