

Creating Community Through Great Music 2021-2022

Chamber Music Amici

Clarinet Trio Series II

Sunday, Feb. 13 • 3:00 PM — Monday, Feb. 14 • 7:30 PM

Wildish Community Theater



Art: *Sympathy*, by Youngson Cho

Amici Eunhye Grace Choi *piano*, Jessica Lambert *violin*, Steven Pologe *cello*

Guest Wonkak Kim *clarinet*

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Chamber Music Amici receives support from the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Welcome!

Our prolonged struggle became a bit more bearable since we vigilantly resumed playing chamber music together and sharing it with you. As we present the “Clarinet Trio Series II” for this February’s concert, I cannot help but to think about what these composers must have endured during the turbulent turn of the previous century. Their music tells that through creativity, humor, and camaraderie, that humanity can once again persist through what we face today. From Armenian folk melodies of Khachaturian to melancholic yet humorous tunes of Nino Rota, once favored by some of the greatest film directors, you are in for a wonderful musical journey tonight. Of course, we are also thrilled to welcome back our guest clarinetist Wonkak Kim who will join in all three musical selections on the program.



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Program

Trio for Clarinet, Violin and Piano

Aram Khachaturian

- I. *Andante con dolore, con molto espressione*
- II. *Allegro*
- III. *Moderato*

Eunhye Grace Choi, piano; Wonkak Kim, clarinet; Jessica Lambert, violin

Clarinet Trio

Nino Rota

- I. *Allegro*
- II. *Andante*
- III. *Allegro*

Eunhye Grace Choi, piano; Wonkak Kim, clarinet; Steven Pologe, cello

Trio for Violin, Clarinet, and Piano

Gian Carlo Menotti

- I. *Capriccio. Allegro*
- II. *Romanza. Andante espressivo*
- III. *Envoi. Allegro*

Eunhye Grace Choi, piano; Wonkak Kim, clarinet; Jessica Lambert, violin

This Season is dedicated to
Victor Steinhardt 1942 – 2021
friend, colleague, and fellow musician

“I met Victor Steinhardt in 1981, the first week I was in Eugene. More than twenty years would pass before we founded Amici, and over that time Victor and I performed concerts together in Oregon and California. Without hesitation he also said “Yes!” to my many requests to join me for benefit concerts on behalf of the Fanconi Anemia Research Fund. I will always be grateful for his generosity and for his ability to infuse both audiences and fellow musicians with a contagious love for music.”



Sharon Schuman, Founding Artistic Director

Program Notes

Aram Khachaturian (1903-1978) is one of Armenia's most celebrated composers and the first to reach the international stage. Born in Tbilisi, Georgia, in 1903, his first musical memories were of his mother singing local folk music. At the age of ten he enrolled at the Tbilisi Commercial College, and it was here that he began composing. He moved to Moscow to study biology in 1921, but he also enrolled at the Gnesin Academy of Music where he took cello lessons and studied composition with Reinhold Glière.

He wrote his *Trio for Clarinet, Violin, and Piano* (1932) while still a student at the Moscow Conservatory. Thanks to Sergei Prokofiev's recommendation, this work was published in Paris shortly thereafter. The first movement, *Andante con dolore, con molto espressione*, gushes with youthful exuberance, and his native Armenian musical ear is on display via rhapsodic melodies and a liberal use of ornaments. The second movement *Allegro* juxtaposes dance-like passages against—and in one section, with—gypsy-inspired melodies. The *Moderato* finale presents another folk-like theme that grows in intensity over the course of variations, then magically dissolves.

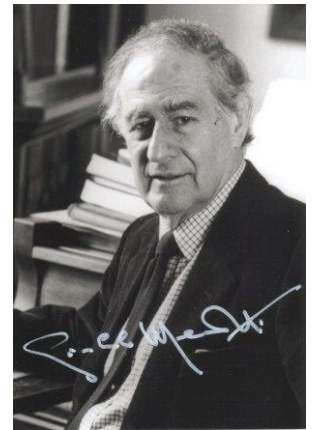


Nino Rota (1911-1979) was born in 1911 in Milan, Italy, to a musical family—his mother was an accomplished pianist and his grandfather a composer. Nino himself began composing at the age of eight, and when he turned twelve his oratorio *L'Infanzia di S. Giovanni Battista* was performed in his hometown and Paris. He studied at the conservatory in Milan from 1923-1926, where he overlapped with Gian Carlo Menotti, and then at the Conservatory of Santa Cecilia in Rome. Like Menotti, he took Arturo Toscanini's advice and furthered his education at the Curtis Institute of Music in the US. There he studied composition with Rosario Scalero and conducting with Fritz Reiner. He also became friends with Aaron Copland and Samuel Barber. During that period he discovered the music of George Gershwin and the magic of Hollywood films. He is most known today for scores of 150 films, including Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*, Coppola's *The Godfather*, and Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet*. He also wrote hundreds of classical music compositions including symphonies, concerti, ballets, sacred choral works, operas, and chamber music.



His *Trio for Clarinet, Cello, and Piano* (1973) begins with call-and-response figures from the clarinet and cello that eventually give way to a lyrical theme handled by the piano alone. This *Allegro* is a pensive waltz with occasional moments of repose. The clarinet and cello are again the primary drivers of the second movement *Andante*, where Rota's unexpected harmonic language is on full display. The writing is lush, dramatic, and at times despondent. The third movement *Allegrissimo* is a sharp departure—childlike, mischievous, and full of life.

Gian Carlo Menotti (1911-2007) was born in 1911 in Cadegliano, Italy—a small town near the border of Switzerland. His prosperous family could afford to have violin, cello, and piano teachers travel all the way from Milan to instruct him. Composition came naturally to Menotti, and he was known to write music for many occasions, including family chamber music nights and puppet shows for his friends. By the time he enrolled at the Verdi Conservatory, at the age of 13, he had already written two operas. A family friend, conductor Arturo Toscanini, suggested that Menotti study at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Although originally forbidden by his mother to do so, he eventually was allowed to enroll in 1928. There he came to know classmate Samuel Barber, who travelled with him to Europe in the summers and, later, shared a house called Capricorn, purchased for them by a generous benefactor. Although Menotti retained his Italian citizenship, he remained in the US during World War II and today is often thought of as an American composer. Mostly known for his many offerings to the stage and for the television driven *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Menotti also wrote delightful chamber works.



His *Trio for Clarinet, Violin, and Piano*, written for the Verdehr Trio, was premiered by them at his 85th birthday celebration in 1996. The entire work is romantic, and in it Menotti takes great care to invite all three instrumentalists to have their say. This is perhaps most evident in the first movement *Capriccio: Allegro*, which is both charming and a little schizophrenic. The second movement *Romanza: Andante espressivo* is overtly sad and full of heart-rending gestures. The finale *Envoi: Allegro* is extremely virtuosic. It begins with a quasi-fugal set of entrances that eventually lead to a playful, abrupt, conclusion.

Amici

Korean pianist **Eunhye Grace Choi** joined Chamber Music Amici as a Core Musician in 2019 and is now Artistic Director. She has performed extensively throughout the United States, France, Belgium, the UK, and South Korea, and has recorded for Naxos, Emeritus, and Origin Classical. Her performances have also been broadcast on NPR's Performance Today.

A versatile keyboardist, she was harpsichord soloist for J. S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto cycle and collaborated with Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg in Vivaldi's Four Seasons. She is frequently invited as a resident pianist at competitions and conventions, including the International Clarinet Association's ClarinetFest and the Meg Quigley Vivaldi Competition and Bassoon Symposium.

Grace served as Collaborative Piano Faculty for six years at Eastern Music Festival, where she was the principal keyboardist of the Festival Orchestra with conductor Gerard Schwarz. She has also served as music faculty and collaborative pianist at The University of Oregon (2017-2018) and Tennessee Tech University (2013-2017). Here in Oregon, in addition to Amici, Grace performs regularly with the Oregon Bach Festival and Eugene Symphony



Jessica Lambert has played with Amici for seven years and completed her rotation as Artistic Director two years ago. She is a graduate of The Eastman School of Music, where she studied with Zvi Zeitlin and members of the Cleveland Quartet. Other major teachers include Alice Schoenfeld and Alexander Treger. Concertmaster of the Corvallis Symphony Orchestra since 2007, she is also the Artistic Director of the OSU Chamber Music Workshop, an intensive quartet program held in Corvallis in July.

Jessica is widely recognized as a teacher and maintains a private studio in Corvallis. Her students have won regional and national competitions and have matriculated to the nation's most prestigious conservatories and summer programs. She has played viola with the Oregon Symphony and violin with the El Paso Symphony. She was concertmaster of the El Paso Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra, for which she was a featured soloist in the New Music series. A frequent guest of the Chintimini Music Festival since 2004, she performs as a soloist and chamber player throughout the Northwest.

Steven Pologe has performed throughout the United States, and in Italy, Sweden, Taiwan, South Korea, Thailand, New Zealand, and Canada. His CDs include quartets by William Grant Still and All That Jazz (both with the Oregon String Quartet), works by Jon Deak for solo cello and piano trio, and the piano trio of Lev Abeliovich.

Steven is professor of Cello at the University of Oregon. He has performed frequently with the Oregon Bach Festival, Grand Teton Music Festival, Aspen Music Festival, Rome Festival Orchestra, and the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival. In 2006, Pologe and a colleague in neuroscience won a grant from the organization behind the coveted Grammy awards, the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. The award supported his research and publications documenting the precise movements of string players. Prior to moving to Oregon, Pologe was principal cellist with the Honolulu Symphony and faculty member at the University of Hawaii. To keep up with all Steven's activities, find him here, on his website, www.stevenpologe-cello.com.

Guests

Korean clarinetist **Wonkuk Kim** has captivated audiences around the world with his “excellent breath control” (*The Washington Post*) and “exuberant musicianship” (*Fanfare*). Kim appeared as a soloist and chamber musician in major venues and festivals throughout North and South America, Asia and Europe, including numerous performances at NYC's Carnegie Hall. A Naxos Recording Artist, he has garnered international acclaim through his extensive discography. *Gulfstream*, a collection of new American chamber music, received many distinctions, including “Music US Choice” (*BBC Music Magazine*). *The International Clarinet Association Journal* lauded Kim's “lovely sound and consummate facility” in *François Devienne: Clarinet Sonatas*. *American Record Guide* praised Kim's “seamless blend and excellent legato” on his *Stephen Krehl: Clarinet Quintet*. His most recent album with enhakē, *Prepárense: The Piazzolla Project* (MSR) was prominently featured by *The Gramophone*: “The playing throughout is sublime...The intensity is real, the sounds gorgeous, the rhythm infectious...this version strides proudly alongside the legendary recording by Piazzolla himself.” Dr. Kim is Associate Professor of Clarinet at the University of Oregon, where he



received the 2020 Presidential Fellowship in Humanistic Studies. He is a Buffet Crampon, Vandoren and Silverstein Performing Artist and regularly invited as guest clinician at world learning institutions, including the Juilliard, Yale, and Manhattan School of Music.

Guest Speaker

Abigail Fine is a music historian specializing in nineteenth-century music culture. She teaches survey courses in nineteenth- and twentieth-century music, the history of opera, and cultural-historical topic seminars on material studies, opera staging, and celebrity. Her research focuses on reception and materiality in Germany and Austria, with a current monograph project that explores how a widespread fascination with composers' earthly traces (relics, shrines, sites of pilgrimage) shaped the reception of their music.



Fine presents her research at conferences and symposia in the U.S. and abroad. Recent presentations include the American Musicological Society, the Sound and Secularity Symposium at Stony Brook University, *After Idealism* in Cambridge, UK, and *Music and the Middlebrow* in London. Her research has been supported by a Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, an International Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council, and the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD).

Next pre-concert talks with Dr. Abigail Fine:

Sunday, June 12, 2:15 PM and Monday, June 13, 6:45 PM

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Thank You Olivia (Bonnie) Lindberg

October 6, 1949 – December 27, 2021

Bonnie was a long-time volunteer and season ticket holder, giving hundreds of hours over the past 3+ years helping staff organize an Operations Manual and assisting with the transition to a new database. Bonnie was committed to working one day a week in our office when she was not enjoying the Oregon Coast or on her annual winter trip to California. Bonnie was generous, funny, smart, and loved Amici concerts. Bonnie was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) in early December and passed away later in the month.

Bonnie is missed!

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Melinda Handy
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The John G. Shedd Institute for the Arts

Monday, April 11 • 7:30 PM

Pre-concert Dinner and Fundraiser 5:00 to 7:00 PM

Tickets \$50

Program

Kenji Bunch String Circle

Johannes Brahms Piano Quartet No. 3 in C Minor

Amici

Jessica Lambert *violin*

Lillie Manis *viola*

Steven Pologe *cello*

Sharon Schuman *violin*

Guest

Kenji Bunch *viola/composer*

Monica Ohuchi *piano*



Art: *Key to Music*, Nora Rodabaugh

Tickets www.chambermusicamici.org or 541.953.9204

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