Creating Community Through Great Music 2022-2023

Chamber Music Amici

Wildish Community Theater, 630 Main St., Springfield

**Obsession**

3:00 PM Sunday, April 23
7:30 PM Monday, April 24

---

**Ludwig van Beethoven**
Piano Trio in C Minor, Op. 1 No.3

**Nikolai Medtner**

---

Eunhye Grace Choi piano • Jessica Lambert violin
Lillie Manis viola • Steven Pologe cello
Sharon Schuman violin

---

Artwork: *Blue Flower*, by Emily Proudfoot
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.

We hope you stay for our post-concert reception. This season we are partnering with Sweet Life Patisserie.

Reception Sponsor Laurel Ross, in memory of Lynn Ross.
Welcome!

Sometimes, obsession can result in greatness that transcends time and space. Beethoven’s compulsive use of germinal motifs and their development in his composition is quite well known. The C Minor piano trio, one of the composer’s early chamber works, is a perfect example of his masterful writing. Born nearly a century later, the Russian composer and piano virtuoso Medtner admired Beethoven and stayed obsessed with the great composer’s craftsmanship throughout his life. Medtner’s posthumously published piano quintet is a fitting tribute to his hero. I hope you enjoy both musical and historical links between these two geniuses and their works. Finally, I am delighted to welcome our former member and violinist, Jessica Lambert, to join us for this concert!

Eunhye Grace Choi, Artistic Director

Artistic Director Eunhye Grace Choi  
Executive Director Loi Heldt  
Donor Relations Bruce Heldt  

Board of Directors  
Don Hirst, President  
Tory Heldt, Secretary  
Eunhye Grace Choi*  
Nonna Haydock  
Lillie Manis*  
Steven Pologe*  
Laurel Ross  
Sharon Schuman*  

Founding Core Musicians  
Pilar Bradshaw  
Amy Goeser-Kolb  
Steven Pologe  
Sharon Schuman, Founding Artistic Director  
Victor Steinhardt  

*Core musician
Program

Piano Trio in C Minor, Op. 1, No. 3

I. Allegro con brio
II. Andante cantabile con Variazioni
III. Menuetto. Quasi allegro
IV. Finale. Prestissimo

_Ludwig van Beethoven_

_Eunhye Grace Choi, piano; Jessica Lambert, violin_

_Steven Pologe, cello_


I. Molto placido
II. Andantino con moto
III. Finale. Allegro vivace

_Nikolai Medtner_

_Eunhye Grace Choi, piano; Jessica Lambert, violin_

_Sharon Schuman, violin; Lillie Manis, viola; Steven Pologe, cello_
Program Notes

by Dr. Terry McQuilkin

This fourth program, “Obsession,” in Chamber Music Amici’s 2022-23 season consists of just two works: an early trio by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), and one of the last works composed by twentieth-century Russian composer Nikolai Medtner (1880-1951), whose reverence for the Viennese master might well be called an obsession. Though born more than a half-century after Beethoven’s death, Medtner repeatedly referred to himself as “Beethoven’s pupil,” and we can hear in his music unmistakable evidence of his adherence to Beethovenian traits: rhythmic energy, thematic unity, and the thoroughness with which musical motives are developed.

**Ludwig van Beethoven: Trio in C minor, op. 1 no. 3**

In 1792, Beethoven moved from Bonn to Vienna, in order to study with Joseph Haydn. It was likely due in no small part to the urging of Beethoven’s influential friend Count von Waldstein that Maximilian Franz, Elector of Cologne, agreed to pay for the young composer’s expenses.

Beethoven arrived in the imperial capital in November, less than a month before his 22nd birthday. His lessons with Haydn began within a few weeks, although we don’t know the extent of his studies with him. Meanwhile, the young composer set about establishing relationships with well-connected patrons, including Prince Karl Lichnowsky. It was in the prince’s home, in late 1793 or early 1794, that a group of three of the emerging composer’s trios received their first hearing. Beethoven’s friend Ferdinand Ries described it thus:

> Most of the artists and music lovers were invited, especially Haydn, for whose quartets all were eager. The trios were played, and at once commanded extraordinary attention. Haydn also said many pretty things about them, but advised Beethoven not to publish the third, in C minor. This astonished Beethoven inasmuch as he considered the third the best of the trios . . . Consequently, Haydn’s remark left a bad impression on Beethoven, and led him to think that Haydn was envious, jealous, and ill-disposed toward him.

Haydn’s cool reaction to the work, perturbing as it was to Beethoven, was in all likelihood due to the older composer’s assessment of the work’s marketability, rather than his appraisal of its inherent quality. Nonetheless, after making some revisions, Beethoven published all three trios as Opus 1 in 1796, dedicating them to Lichnowsky. His decision to make these pieces his first numbered opus – thus his Viennese debut as composer – was of no small importance in this musically sophisticated city.
Chamber Music Amici

The C minor Trio is a work of seismic power, adumbrating the emotional heft of his mature works in minor keys. The first movement, marked Allegro con brio, opens quietly but soon rises to a fortissimo dynamic. The opening theme is constructed from two distinct motivic gestures; the first one is essentially a series of arpeggiated chords, and the second one, with its descending pickup notes, presages the “Pathétique” Sonata. A furious transition leads to the graceful secondary theme in E-flat (the relative major key), but soon fortissimo chords interrupt the calm. The development section is rife with stark dynamic changes and bold modulations. The recapitulation, a second development section of sorts, takes myriad side trips before charging to the final cadence.

The largely genteel Andante cantabile is a set of five character variations on a simple, elegant theme in E-flat major. Beethoven injects a heightened level of intensity into the chromatically inflected fourth variation, in the parallel minor key of E-flat minor. The Minuet, in C minor, foreshadows Beethoven’s scherzo movements with its abrupt sforzandi, but a period of respite comes during the relaxed trio section in C major.

Like the opening movement, the C minor finale opens with a short, explosive introductory theme that precedes the “real” main theme. Marked Prestissimo, it exhibits the same incendiary passion of the first movement. In the coda, the combustive energy dissipates, and the work ends quietly, in C major.


Nikolai Medtner was 12 years old when he passed the examination to enter the Moscow Conservatory in 1892 – the year in which Alexander Scriabin and Sergei Rachmaninoff completed their studies at the institution. He gained considerable recognition early in his career, but in contrast to his two Russian contemporaries, his name had all but disappeared from musical programs by the time he died in 1951.

Though largely self-taught in the area of composition (piano was his declared area of focus at the conservatory), Medtner proved be a master of form, rhythm and counterpoint. He exhibited a gift for creating melodies, and it was not without reason that his friend (and sometimes financial supporter) Rachmaninoff called him “the greatest composer of our time.”

Some early acclaim notwithstanding, several events militated against his continued success, including the Russian Revolution (he had no use for the Bolsheviks) and subsequent emigration
from his homeland, two world wars, and his dogged adherence to traditional harmonic language during a century that saw a declining interest in music employing functional tonality. His conservatism was not just a reflection of his aesthetic tastes, but a firmly held set of principles, laid out in a monograph titled *Muza i moda* ("The Muse and the fashion"), in which he decried the modernist practices of other composers.

Above all, Medtner believed it was the composer’s duty to obey the Muse, the Muse being inseparable from God. It is in this context that we can best understand his music, particularly his Piano Quintet, which he considered to be a summation of his entire oeuvre. Though he began working on the Quintet in 1904 – completing the first movement the following year – Medtner did not finish it until 1948. It is probably the composition most inspired by his religious faith (raised a Lutheran, he converted to Orthodox Christianity in 1935.)

The first movement opens tranquilly (the tempo marking is Molto placido) with low-register arpeggios in the piano; the piano and strings then utter a melodic line that was certainly derived from the plainchant, "Dies Irae." Soon follows another chant-like melody, this one given the expression marking "cantabile,” which is developed immediately. The “Dies Irae” theme is heard more directly in the formal development section, where both themes undergo extensive development; these themes are combined in the coda.

The second movement is essentially a penitential hymn; in the manuscript the composer penned as annotations several verses from Psalm 25, including “For Your name’s sake, O Lord, pardon my iniquity, for it is great.” Development of the hymn-like melody follows, along with intermittent appearances of thematic material from the first movement. Intensity builds, although the volume level hardly ever rises above *mezzo-forte*. The movement segues into the finale without pause.

The final movement, marked Allegro vivace, is in a modified sonata form. Considerably longer than either of the previous movements, it opens with a celebratory march-like melody, and continues with contrapuntal development of this tune, as well as themes from earlier movements. The *cantabile* melody from the opening movement returns as a joyful paean, and the work draws to a triumphant close.
Musicians

Amici

Eunhye Grace Choi is an active pianist and chamber musician and is currently Artistic Director of Chamber Music Amici. She has performed extensively throughout the United States, France, Belgium, the United Kingdom, and South Korea, and has recorded for Naxos, Emeritus, and Origin Classical. 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 at the Eastern Music Festival. 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 under the baton of Gerard Schwarz. She served as music faculty and collaborative pianist at the University of Oregon (2017-2018) and Tennessee Tech University (2013-2017) in addition to summer faculty positions at the Chapel Hill Chamber Music Workshop and Interlochen Summer Arts Camp. Choi received collaborative piano degrees from Florida State University (MM) and University of Minnesota (DMA).

Lillie Manis is widely recognized for her work as a Suzuki educator and is currently completing her doctorate at Teachers College, Columbia University, where her research focuses on studio teachers’ holistic strategies for cultivating expressive performance in young violinists. From 2009-2020, she was a faculty member at the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance, where she mentored graduate violin and viola pedagogy students and served as the Assistant Director of the Community Music Institute. Lillie is currently on the faculty at the Willamette Violin Academy in Eugene. In the first decade of her teaching career, both the members of her vibrant pre-college studio and her graduate student mentees have achieved noteworthy musical and professional success, including competition wins, full scholarships to major music schools and summer programs, and college teaching appointments. Active as a clinician, master class presenter, adjudicator, and conference presenter at both the regional and national levels, she enjoys performing chamber music alongside some of the Northwest’s finest players, and recently joined the editorial committee of the American String Teacher.

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 Abelianovich. 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 Emeritus Professor, Marjorie Woollacott (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.

Sharon Schuman is co-founder of Chamber Music Amici and served as Artistic Director for the first six years. As a child, she studied violin with Carol Weston, a student of Leopold Auer. After a summer grant to the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, she won a full scholarship in music to Stanford University, where she performed on a resident Strad. After she graduated with a degree in English, she earned a Ph.D. in that discipline at the University of Chicago. She has performed in a master class for Vladimir Spivakov and as concerto soloist with Oregon Mozart Players and the Salem Chamber Orchestra. She has also performed with the Oregon Bach Festival and Eugene Symphony, and she has served as concertmaster for Eugene Opera, Eugene Ballet, Eugene Concert Choir, and Oregon Mozart Players. She is now Assistant Concertmaster of the Eugene Opera Orchestra. After publishing Freedom and Dialogue in a Polarized World (2014), she edited A Voice for Justice: Writings of David Schuman (2021). Sharon is the 2021 recipient of the Eugene Arts and Letters Award.

Guest

Jessica Lambert played with Amici for seven years and completed her rotation as Artistic Director in 2020. 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.
**Pre-Concert Speaker**

**Terry McQuilkin**, DMA, received degrees in music composition from the University of Southern California and the University of Oregon. His catalogue of original compositions and arrangements include works for piano solo, chamber ensembles, wind band, orchestra and chorus, including commissions from Downingtown (Pennsylvania) Public Schools and the Delgani String Quartet. In 2006, the Oregon Music Teachers Association recognized him as the organization’s Composer of the Year. Dr. McQuilkin taught music composition at the University of Oregon for 19 years. As a writer and music critic, he contributed hundreds of reviews and features for the music pages of the Los Angeles Times and the (Eugene) Register Guard.

---

**Featured Artist**

**Emily Proudfoot**

The rhyming and composition of the music became the inspiration for her imagery. “I picked out images and line types that captured that melody — the sweeping or staccato sound — and from there, I made drawings that were evocative of the pieces I was hearing on stage,” Proudfoot said. “The melodies have a lot of movement, a watercolor fluidity to them.”

“I paint to inspire more joy and kindness in the world,” Proudfoot said. “I use bold colors and textured collage, embrace joyful themes, and insert humor in unexpected places for discovery and, ideally, laughter.”

*Blue Flower*
**Founding Supporters**
Bill Bradshaw & Chris Holzapfel
Howard & Vicky Fine
Dave & Lynn Frohnmayer
David Guy
Isler CPA
Bob Lacy
P. Patterson
Peter & Josephine von Hippel

**Season Sponsor**
Isler CPA

**2022 Summer Series Sponsor**
C. Comstock Clayton Foundation

**Summer Concert Sponsors**
Ray and Cathie Staton
Marion Sweeney

**Musician Sponsors**
Lynn Frohnmayer, *Sharon Schuman*
David Guy Stafford, *Lillie Manis*
Jonathan & Molly Stafford, *Steven Pologe*
Marion Sweeney, Kate Laue, & Cama Evans, *Eunhye Grace Choi*

**Grants and Foundations**
C. Comstock Clayton Foundation
Verda M. Giustina Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
Lane County Cultural Coalition
National Christian Foundation
Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency
Springfield Arts Commission

**Guest Musician Sponsors**
Melinda Grier and Jerry Lidz *Joseph Wenda*
Peter & Josephine von Hippel

$10,000 +
C. Comstock Clayton Foundation
Timothy Harrow Estate

* Have made a three-year pledge

**Education Enrichment Sponsors**
Peter & Nancy Carlson*
David Guy
George Rode Repair Shops

**Concert Sponsors**
Mary Jayne Robert Trust
Amici d’Amici at Cascade Manor

**Art Sponsor**
Linda & John Van Peenen

**Friends of Amici**
Cascade Manor
Classic Pianos
George Rode Repair Shops
Melinda Handy CPA
Rainbow Valley Design & Construction

**In-Kind**
Joyce Holmes Benjamin
Daniel Brantley
Hannah and James Dean
Nancy and Tom English
Verda Giustina
Roger & Nonna Haydock
Don & Lin Hirst
Isler CPA
Marion Sweeney
$5,000 +
Anonymous (2)*
C. Comstock Clayton Foundation
Mary Jayne Robert Trust
Ray and Cathie Staton
Marion Sweeney*

Amici Intimi $1,000 +
Anonymous*
Sue Burkholder
Mark Corley & Suzanne Rowe
Hannah & James Dean
Nancy & Tom English*
Howard & Vicky Fine
Violet Fraser
Lynn Frohnmayer
Louise Furukawa
Diana Gardener
Jacqueline Giustina
Verda Giustina*
Andy Grant
Melinda Grier & Jerry Lidz*
David Guy
Bruce & Loi Heldt*
Don & Lin Hirst
Chris Holzapfel & Bill Bradshaw*
Kraig Jacobson*
Bo Jo and Derek Yergler
John & Susan Moseley
Natalie Newlove
Paul Nicholson & Ginnie Lo
Kathryn Porter
Robin Rose
Laurel Ross*
Jim Ruderman and Kate Nelson
Jim & Paula Salerno
Virginia Saunders
Jonathan & Molly Stafford
Linda & John Van Peenen
Pierre & Mary Lou Van Rysselberghe
Peter & Josephine von Hippel
Yvonne Wildish

$500 +
Kay Anthony
Nancy & Peter Carlson*
John & Linda Cummens
Larry Dunn
Ann & David Fidanque
James & Barbara Gant
Sylvia Giustina
Mary Grinage
Claudia & John Hardwick
Jeffrey Morey
    & Gail Harris*
Roger & Nonna Haydock
Allen Johnson
Margie Lininger
Frank & Elizabeth Moss
Barbara Ohlsen
Theodore & Laramie Palmer
Jane & Kenn Poznar
Jim & Ginevra Ralph
Bill Rodgers & Suzie Brown
Kenneth Ross and Jean Bee Chan
Heidi & Paul Sachet
Georgette & Bob Silber
Jason Tavakolian & Jennifer Lamberg
Kathie Tippens Wiper
$250 +
Anonymous
Karen Artiaco & Jack Hart
Robert Baechtold
George Bateman
Joyce Holmes Benjamin
Harriet Borson
Daniel Brantley*
Chris Wesely & Pam Brills
Grete & Warren Brown

John & Toni Brown
Alice Burke
Janet & Leonard Calvert
Mike Eyster
Linda Farley
Elizabeth Hall
Betsy Halpern
& John Bredesen
Patti & Bill Hoyt
Ben Johnson
Cindy Kokis
Katherine Lord
Steven Pologe
Long's Meat Market
Janice Rutherford
June Schwartz
Sandra Weingarten

To $249
Anonymous (2)
Lucille Allsen
Kay Apte
Susan Archbald
Geraldine Aster
Trudie Atkinson
Ted & Penny Berktold
Nami Bolton
& Leanne Carter
Kirk M. Boyd
& Sam Arnold-Boyd
Jim & Joanna Branvold
Debi Broeker
Delpha Camp
Liz Cawood
Scott Clark
Melody Clarkson*
Doug & Yuelian Cone*
Terry & Lynne Cooperman
Lawrence & Ellen Crumb
Julie Daniel
Jim & Janet Dotson
Jim & Dottie Dougher*
May Downey
Esther Erford
Suzanne Fenner
Jan Fillinger & Teri Reifer
Daren Fuster

Barbara Gates
Liz Glover
Robert Granger
Jim Harper
Joanne & Phil Hartwig*
Marilyn & Andrew Hays
John Heintz
Tory Heldt
Lynne & Denny Hellesvig
Martin Henner
Eleanor Herbert
Neil & Margaret Hollander
Helen Hollyer
Brad Holst
Kent Howe
& Kathi Wiederhold
Virginia Hurwitz
Dennis & Patricia Hyatt
Margaret Jackson
Jim & Helen Jackson
Tim & Barbara Jenkins
Colleen Jones
Sarah & Jonathan Kehl
Reida & Charles Kimmel
Eunice Kjaer
Lynn Klingensmith
Anita Klock
& William Looney
Judith Knight
Yekang Ko
Richard Koch
Thomas Kreider
& Paula Gordinier
Rebecca Lacy
Stephen Lamb
Norma Luebke
Gary Macy*
Alex Mathas
Maxine & Bill McWhorter
Tony Metcalf & Dana Gray
Rebecca Mikesell
Letty Morgan
Dennis & Neva Mullins
Beverly & Hank Murrow
Sandy & Nancy Naishat
Beth Naylor
& James Watson
Annette Newman
Ruth Obadal
& Charles Hammond
Sharon Peel
Helmut Plant
Michael & Judy Ponichtera
Otto & Sharon Poticha
Suzana Radivojevic
Ginny & Roger Reich*
Rhea Paul  
Tagi Sagafi-Nejad  
Jane Scheidecker  
  & Duane Partain  
Merle Schultz  
Sharon Schuman  
Chico Schwall*  
Stephanie & Douglas Sears  
Ellen Singer  
LR Smithline  
David Sokoloff  
Dave & Dorothy Soper  
Liba Stafl  
Fay Sunada  
Jean Tate  
Lois Foss-Taylor  
Dale Taylor  
& Jackie Manley  
Gary Tepfer  
& Esther Jacobson-Tepfer  
Kay Varner  
Karalynn Walker  
  & David Sprung  
Richard Weick  
Bob Weiss & Barbara Perry

In Honor or Memory of
Kay Apte  
Joyce Holmes Benjamin  
Gary Bricher  
Ted Burns  
Dorothy Clark  
John W. Farley  
George Kokis  
Mary Louise Morey  
Lynn Negus  
Michelle Pauly  
Lynn Ross  
Jim Wildish  
Ann Woeste

Volunteers
Thanks to Friends of Amici
Please acknowledge all our supporters when you shop; be sure to let them know that you appreciate their support of Chamber Music Amici.
**2022-2023 Season**
Richard E. Wildish Theater
630 Main St., Springfield, OR 97477

**Next: season finale**

**British at War**
3:00 PM Sunday, June 4
7:30 PM Monday, June 5

**Program**
**Arthur Bliss** Piano Quartet in A Minor, F. 18
**Edward Elgar** Piano Quintet in A Minor, Op. 84

**Amici**
Eunhye Grace Choi, piano
Lillie Manis, viola
Steven Pologe, cello
Sharon Schuman, violin

**Guest Musician**
Sunmi Chang, violin

**Pre-concert Talks**
Dr. Terry McQuilkin
2:15 PM Sunday & 6:45 PM Monday

Art: *Red Flower* by Emily Proudfoot

**Tickets** [www.chambermusicamici.org](http://www.chambermusicamici.org) or 541.953.9204

**Chamber Music Amici** 174 E. 16th Avenue, Suite 122, Eugene, Oregon 97401