

THE CPC CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS

Chamber Music Across Three Centuries



John Sharp



Liba Shacht



Winston Choi

April 27, 2025 3:00 p.m.
Community Presbyterian Church
39 N. Prospect Ave. Clarendon Hills IL



A Ministry of
Community Presbyterian
Church of Clarendon Hills
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Program

Piano Trio in G major, "Gypsy", Hob. XV, No. 25

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732 – 1809)

- I. Andante
- II. Poco adagio, cantabile
- III. Rondo all'Ongarese: Presto

Cello Sonata in D minor, Op. 40

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906 - 1975)

- I. Allegro non troppo
- II. Allegro
- III. Largo
- IV. Allegro

Piano Trio No. 2 in C minor, Op. 66

Felix Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847)

- I. Allegro energico e con fuoco
- II. Andante espressivo
- III. Scherzo: Molto allegro quasi presto
- IV. Finale: Allegro appassionato

Today's Performers



Appointed as one of the youngest principal cellists in the history of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, **John Sharp** has served in that position during the tenures of Sir Georg Solti, Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Boulez, Bernard Haitink and Riccardo Muti. A top prize winner of the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, he has appeared as soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Mstislav Rostropovich in the Britten Symphony for Cello and Orchestra, in a recording of Strauss' Don Quixote conducted by Daniel Barenboim, and with Itzhak Perlman and Daniel Barenboim in performances of Beethoven's Triple Concerto. He has performed as a soloist under the baton of Riccardo Muti, Sir Georg Solti, Pierre Boulez, Bernard Haitink, Lorin Maazel, Charles Dutoit and Michael Tilson Thomas.

An active chamber musician, Sharp has appeared at the festivals of Marlboro, Santa Fe, La Jolla and Vail as well as the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. He has recorded Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence* with the Vermeer Quartet, and has performed in chamber music concerts with Mitsuko Uchida, Yo-Yo Ma, Pinchas Zukerman, Emmanuel Ax and Christoph Eschenbach. He and his wife, violinist Liba Shacht, often perform together as a duo and in chamber music concerts, and have appeared in France, Spain and throughout the United States.

Born in Texas, Sharp studied the cello with Lev Aronson and later with Lynn Harrell at the Juilliard School. Previously he has played in the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and served as principal cello of the Cincinnati Symphony. He has given master classes throughout the United States and in Europe, and has coached at the New World Symphony, the National Orchestral Association, the National Youth Orchestra of the USA, the Chicago Civic Orchestra and most recently at the Taipei Music Academic Festival. He is currently a professor of cello at Roosevelt University.

John Sharp plays a rare cello made by Joseph Guarnerius in 1694.

Violinist **Liba Shacht** was born in Vilnius, Lithuania, where she began her musical studies at age five. Shortly thereafter, her family emigrated to Israel. The recipient of an Artist Diploma with distinction from Tel Aviv University, Ms. Shacht appeared as soloist with the Israeli Philharmonic, the Jerusalem Broadcasting Symphony, the Israeli Sinfonietta, and in chamber orchestras and recitals throughout Israel. She represented Israel at the Jeunesses Musicales World Congress in Korea, Japan, and England, where she performed chamber music at the Royal Albert Hall.



Upon the recommendation of Isaac Stern, Ms. Shacht was awarded a special Fellowship by the America-Israel Cultural Foundation to study with Dorothy DeLay at the Juilliard School in New York. She earned a master's degree and a doctorate from Juilliard.

Her New York recital debut at Town Hall was marked by a glowing review from The New York Times : "Miss Shacht plays with Russian intensity, yet her performances are tempered with abundant humor. She delights in her nimble technique, and virtuosic displays present few obstacles. Prokofiev Sonata in D was played with explosive energy, and Schumann's Sonata in a minor was enriched with a dark, songful melancholy."

Ms. Shacht is the winner of several competitions, among them the Artist International Distinguished Artists Award, which led to her first appearance at Carnegie Recital Hall in New York. As the winner of the Affiliated Artists national auditions, she has toured the United States extensively, performing with critical acclaim in recitals, playing with orchestras, and conducting master classes. She later performed as soloist in the rarely-played Glazunov Violin Concerto with the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra.

Ms. Shacht is an avid performer of chamber music. She has participated in the Aspen Music Festival and the Marlboro Music Festival, where she performed with Rudolf Serkin and members of the Guarneri Quartet, as well as the chamber music series at the 92nd Street "Y" in New York.

She is a member of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, as well as principal second violin of the Grant Park Symphony. Ms. Shacht frequently performs with her husband, cellist John Sharp.



Winston Choi is an Associate Professor and the Program Director of Piano at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts. His professional career was launched when he was named the Laureate of the 2003 Honens International Piano Competition and winner of France's 2002 Concours International de Piano 20e siècle d'Orléans. His solo, collaborative, chamber and concerto appearances have taken him across 4 continents.

Known for his colorful approach to programming and insightful commentary from the stage, Choi has recently appeared in recital at the National Arts Centre of Canada, Carnegie-Weill Recital Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Kravis Center, the Library of Congress, Merkin Recital Hall, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Choi performs extensively in France, having played venues such as the Salle Cortot, Lille's Festival

Rencontre Robert Casadesus, the Messiaen Festival, the Strasbourg Festival, and at IRCAM. His debut CD, the complete piano works of Elliott Carter (l'Empreinte Digitale in France) was given 5 stars by BBC Music Magazine: "...sheer élan and pianistic devilment..." He can also be heard on the Albany, Arktos, BIS, la Buissonne, Crystal, Intrada, Naxos and QuadroFrame labels. Choi is an avid and prolific chamber musician, as a member of multiple chamber groups (Duo Diorama, Trio Diorama, the Civitas Ensemble) as well as a core member of Ensemble Dal Niente. He also teaches pre-college students at the Academy of the Music Institute of Chicago and the New Music School.

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