



Faculty Recital Series

2021–2021 Season

Sara M. Snell Music Theater

Wednesday, November 3, 8:00 PM

Marie-Élaine Gagnon, cello
Young-Ah Tak, piano

7 Variations on “Bei Männern, welche Liebe fühlen” L.V. Beethoven
WoO 46 based on the opera *Die Zauberflöte* by Mozart (1770-1827)
(1801)

Sonata for Cello and Piano No. 5 Op. 102 No. 2 L.V. Beethoven
(1815)
I. Allegro con brio
II. Adagio con molto sentiment d’affetto
III. Allegro fugato

Pause

Sonata No. 1 in E minor for Piano and Cello Op. 38 Johannes Brahms
(1865) (1833-1897)
I. Allegro non troppo
II. Allegretto quasi Menuetto
III. Allegro



Canadian cellist Marie-Élaine Gagnon is the first prize-winner of numerous music competitions in Canada, which led to many solo performances in her native home. She has performed for the prestigious Canadian Broadcasting Company program: "Jeunes Artists." Gagnon has attended many music festivals, including Le Festival International du Domaine Forget, The Penderecki String Quartet Chamber Workshop, Orford Music Center, and The National Youth Orchestra of Canada. She was the first cellist to win a scholarship from the D. Robinson Foundation to study at the Aspen Music Festival. Her participation in these many music festivals allowed her to study with well-known cellists such as Leslie Snider (Québec), Sharon Robinson (Indiana), Desmond Hoebig (Cleveland), Philippe Muller (Paris), Roland Pidoux (Trio Pasquier), Paul Watkins (London), and David Ellis (Alcan String Quartet).

An avid chamber music player, Marie-Élaine was a member of the Rawlins Piano Trio from 2007 to 2017, in residence at the University of South Dakota. Dr. Gagnon has toured in Taiwan, South Korea, and Panama. She has performed at prestigious music conferences such as the Chamber Music Society in New York and the College Music Society National Conference in San Diego. Most recently, she presented at the Music by Women Conference the Sonata of Canadian composer Jean Coulthard.

A strong advocate for music education and outreach, Dr. Gagnon has taught at the Barry University in Miami before joining the music faculty at the University of South Dakota, taught at the Université de Montréal for the Preparatory Program. Raised in Québec, she received her Diplôme d'Étude Supérieur I at the Conservatoire de Musique de Montréal, her Diplôme d'Étude Supérieur II from the Conservatoire de Musique de Québec, M.M. from the Florida International University and finally her D.M.A. from the University of Miami. Several times a year, she performs with the Zapateado Duo with Venezuelan-born pianist Angelica Sganga. Gagnon was the principal cello for the Sioux City Symphony from 2015 to 2017 and owns a cello made in 1904 by the French Master Paul Bailly. It is with enthusiasm that Dr. Gagnon joined in the fall of 2018, the Crane School of Music at SUNY-Potsdam.



Praised for her “thrilling blend of fury and finesse” (*San Antonio Express-News*) and her “winning combination of passion, imagination, and integrity” (*New York Concert Review*), pianist **YOUNG-AH TAK** enjoys a remarkable career that has taken her throughout the United States, Canada, Austria, Germany, Italy, Korea, and Japan.

Dr. Tak made her New York City debut at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts’ Alice Tully Hall with the Juilliard Orchestra. She has since appeared with numerous orchestras including the Roanoke, Lansing, North Arkansas, Orchestra of Northern New York, Venice, Imperial, Filharmonia Pomorska (Poland), Oltenia Philharmonic (Romania). In her native South Korea, she has appeared with the Korean Symphony Orchestra, as well as the

Seongnam, Busan, and Ulsan Philharmonic Orchestras. Other notable performances by Dr. Tak have taken place at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall, *Kimmel Center’s Perelman Theater in Philadelphia*, Jordan Hall in Boston, Columbia University, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Ravinia Festival and Music@Menlo. She has also appeared in Korea at major concert halls such as Seoul Arts Center, and at international music festivals in Busan, Seoul and Tongyeong. Her performances have been broadcast on WQXR (NYC), WRTI (Philadelphia), WMFT and LOOP (Chicago), WBJC (Baltimore), WCLV (Cleveland), CKWR (Ontario), and Korea’s KBS and Arte TV.

Active as a chamber musician, Young-Ah Tak has collaborated with the late violinist Robert Mann, cellist Bonnie Hampton, the Ma’alot Quintet, and members of The Florestan Trio.

Dr. Tak received her training from The Juilliard School, New England Conservatory and the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University where she earned her doctorate degree under the tutelage of the legendary pianist Leon Fleisher.

She currently serves as an Associate Professor of Piano and Head of the Piano Area at the Crane School of Music of the State University of New York at Potsdam. She is the Founding Artistic Director of the Crane International Piano Festival.

Young-Ah Tak’s debut recording of Judith Zaimont’s *Wizards – Three Magic Masters* was released by Albany Records to critical acclaim. Her recordings are also available from MSR Classics and on Steinway’s *Spirio*. Dr. Tak’s CD recording of works by Beethoven was released on the Steinway & Sons Label in November 2019 as part of the essential series of Steinway Classics. Dr. Tak is a Steinway Artist. [www.youngahtak.com]