

THE PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE OF THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENÆUM PRESENTS THE ANNUAL

PORTSMOUTH ATHENÆUM MEMORIAL CONCERT

FEATURING

SEBASTIAN BÄVERSTAM, 'CELLO

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022, AT 3 P.M.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, PORTSMOUTH, N.H.

REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED PROPRIETOR:

EVANGELINE BRAWN SHARE 287

SUITE No. 4 FOR UNACCOMPANIED CELLO, BWV 1010 JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
PRELUDE IN E FLAT MAJOR
BOURRÉE IN E FLAT MAJOR

REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED PROPRIETOR:

THOMAS CATALANO SHARE 195

THEME AND VARIATIONS IN D MINOR, CELLO SOLO, JS 196 JEAN SIBELIUS
SELECTED VARIATIONS

SONATA FOR SOLO CELLO GYÖRGY LIGETI
I. DIALOGO – ADAGIO, RUBATO, CANTABILE

REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED PROPRIETOR:

RICHARD E. WINSLOW III SHARE 80

APPALACHIA WALTZ FOR UNACCOMPANIED CELLO MARK O'CONNOR

SUITE No. 6 FOR UNACCOMPANIED CELLO, BWV 1012 JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
SARABANDE IN D MAJOR

THE CONCERT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – CONTRIBUTIONS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

ABOUT OUR PERFORMER:

PRaised by *THE STRAD* for his "...POWERFULLY EXPRESSIVE STYLE," CELLIST **SEBASTIAN BÄVERSTAM** IS A WINNER OF THE 2009 CONCERT ARTISTS GUILD INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION. AFTER HIS PERFORMANCE AT WEILL RECITAL HALL AT CARNEGIE HALL WAS NOTED IN *THE STRAD* FOR ITS "CONSUMMATE INSTRUMENTAL MASTERY," HE WAS SELECTED BY *MUSICAL AMERICA* AS ITS "NEW ARTIST OF THE MONTH" FOR JUNE 2011.

MR. BÄVERSTAM HAS SPENT SUMMERS AS A MEMBER OF THE RAVINIA FESTIVAL'S RENOWNED STEANS INSTITUTE. HIS CROSS-COUNTRY RECITAL TOURS IN THIRTEEN DIFFERENT STATES INCLUDE PERFORMANCES FOR PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY AND THE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF LITTLE ROCK. CONCERTO PERFORMANCES INCLUDE THE DUPAGE (IL) AND MANKATO (MN) SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS, PLAYING STRAUSS' *DON QUIXOTE* WITH BOTH, AND THE SOUTH BAY SYMPHONY IN MYRTLE BEACH, SC (SAINT-SAËNS CONCERTO No. 1).

SEBASTIAN BÄVERSTAM HAS APPEARED MULTIPLE TIMES ON THE NATIONALLY SYNDICATED RADIO AND TV SHOW *FROM THE TOP*, AND HE HAS ALSO BEEN HEARD ON THE *VOICE OF AMERICA*. HE HAS PARTICIPATED IN A PBS DOCUMENTARY FILMED AT CARNEGIE HALL, AND A NATIONALLY TELEVISED COMMERCIAL FOR BOSE MUSIC SYSTEMS.

A WINNER OF THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S CONCERTO COMPETITION, MR. BÄVERSTAM PERFORMED THE SHOSTAKOVITCH CONCERTO WITH THE BSO AT SYMPHONY HALL. LATER HE WAS CALLED ON TO SUBSTITUTE FOR LYNN HARRELL WITH THE CAPE COD SYMPHONY ON ONLY SIX HOURS' NOTICE. HE DELIGHTED THE AUDIENCE PLAYING SCHUMANN'S CELLO CONCERTO AND WAS PRAISED BY THE *CAPE COD TIMES* FOR HIS "INSIGHTFUL MUSICIANSHIP AND POETIC FEELING."

COMMITTED TO PERFORMING MUSIC OF OUR TIME AND TO WORKING WITH LIVING COMPOSERS, MR. BÄVERSTAM WAS THE 2006 WINNER FOR CONTEMPORARY INTERPRETATION AT THE JOHANSEN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR STRING PLAYERS. HE HAS ATTENDED MANY SUMMER FESTIVALS INCLUDING THE ASPEN FESTIVAL, THE BANFF CENTRE IN CANADA, THE VERBIER FESTIVAL ACADEMY AND THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC ACADEMY OF SWITZERLAND, DIRECTED BY SEIJI OZAWA.

MR. BÄVERSTAM OFFERED HIS FIRST FULL RECITAL AT THE AGE OF SIX AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY AND HIS FIRST CONCERTO WITH ORCHESTRA AT THE AGE OF SEVEN. IN 2002 AT THE AGE OF FOURTEEN, HE MADE HIS WEILL HALL DEBUT. SINCE THEN HE HAS GIVEN NUMEROUS SOLO RECITALS, RECENTLY PERFORMING ALL SIX BACH CELLO SUITES AT WILLIAMS COLLEGE. HE APPEARED AS THE FEATURED YOUNG ARTIST OF THE WILLIAMSTOWN CHAMBER CONCERTS AND HAS ALSO PERFORMED AT THE CAPE COD CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL, THE ASCAP AWARDS AT LINCOLN CENTER, THE THÉÂTRE DES CHAMPS ÉLYSÉES IN PARIS AND MANY OTHER VENUES.

A DUAL CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES AND SWEDEN, SEBASTIAN BÄVERSTAM HAS PARTICIPATED IN MASTER CLASSES WITH FRANS HELMERSON, ORLANDO COLE, PIETER WISPelWEY, AND BERNARD GREENHOUSE, AMONG OTHERS, AND HE CURRENTLY STUDIES WITH PAUL KATZ AT THE NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY IN BOSTON.

ABOUT THE MUSIC:

BACH'S GENIUS NEEDS LITTLE ELABORATION; SUFFICE IT TO SAY HIS PRÆTERNATURAL TALENTS LED HIM TO CREATE WORKS FOR ORGAN, CHORUS, AND ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENTS THAT LITERALLY STAND ALONE, UNEQUALED IN THEIR IMAGINATION AND POWER. ONE THINKS OF THE B MINOR MASS, THE MOTETS FOR A CAPPELLA CHOIR, THE VARIOUS DANCE SUITES FOR KEYBOARD AND FOR ORCHESTRA, AND OF COURSE HIS ORGAN WORKS. BUT IT IS SAFE TO SAY THAT NOTHING IN HIS OEUVRE BETTER EXEMPLIFIES BACH'S GENIUS THAN HIS SUITES FOR SOLO VIOLIN AND FOR CELLO. BACH WEAVES SOMETHING MAGICAL OUT OF SEEMINGLY SIMPLE SOLO LINES OF SOUND. COMPOSED SOMETIME BEFORE 1720, THE SIX SUITES FOR CELLO DO NOT EXIST IN ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPH FORM; IT IS INTRIGUING THAT THE COPIES WRITTEN OUT BY ANNA MAGDALENA BACH LACK BACH'S USUAL DETAILS OF PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUE, AND PERFORMERS ARE FORCED TO RESOLVE MANY QUESTIONS OF INTERPRETATION ON THEIR OWN...

SIBELIUS WROTE HIS THEME AND VARIATIONS IN D MINOR FOR SOLO CELLO IN 1887, BUT THE MANUSCRIPT WENT UNPUBLISHED AND WAS REDISCOVERED ONLY IN 1995. AS SOULFUL AND EVOCATIVE AS HIS SYMPHONIES, THIS WORK BY SIBELIUS WAS THE FIRST SUITE FOR SOLO CELLO BY A MAJOR COMPOSER SINCE BACH'S.

LIGETY COMPOSED DIALOGO FOR A FELLOW STUDENT AT BUDAPEST MUSIC ACADEMY IN 1948; SHE SPURNED HIM AND IT. LATER HE ADDED A SHORT CAPRICCIO MOVEMENT TO CREATE A SONATA, BUT THE ADDED MUSIC WAS FAR TOO 'MODERN' FOR A COMMUNIST GROUPTHINK MUSIC COMMITTEE, AND THE PIECE WAS BANISHED FOR OVER 25 YEARS. NOW IT IS A QUALIFYING TEST PIECE FOR EACH YEAR'S ROSTROPOVICH PRIZE CELLO COMPETITION IN PARIS.

MARK O'CONNOR (BORN AUGUST 5, 1961) IS AN AMERICAN FIDDLE PLAYER AND COMPOSER WHOSE MUSIC COMBINES BLUEGRASS, COUNTRY, JAZZ AND CLASSICAL. A THREE-TIME GRAMMY WINNER, HE HAS WON SIX COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS. HIS APPALACHIA WALTZ HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY CELLIST YO-YO MA AS PART OF HIS LIVE PERFORMANCE REPERTOIRE, AND IS FREQUENTLY USED AS MUSIC FOR WEDDINGS INCLUDING TWO OF FORMER VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE'S DAUGHTERS.