Kennesaw State University
College of the Arts
School of Music

presents

Junior Recital

Samantha Tang, viola
Arie Motschman, piano

Saturday, April 4, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Music Building Recital Hall

Ninety-ninth Concert of the 2014-15 Concert Season
MAX REGER (1873-1916)
Suite No. 1 in G minor, Op. 131d for Solo Viola

I. Molto sostenuto
IV. Molto vivace

JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833-1897)
Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 120 for Viola and Piano

I. Allegro appassionato
IV. Vivace

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)
Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 in Bb Major, S.1051 for Two Violas and Piano

I. Allegro

Perry Morris, viola

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of requirements for the degree Bachelor of Music in Performance. Miss Tang studies viola with Allyson Fleck.
Suite No. 1 in G minor, Op. 131d
MAX REGER (1873-1916)

Most German composers of the 1900s forward have been forgotten, Max Reger being one of them, but he was a very prolific composer in his short lifetime. Reger took influence from Johannes Brahms and Johann Sebastian Bach, and we can distinguish his dense harmonic and contrapuntal style in the rapid fourth movement of his *Suite No. 1 in G minor*, much like the fugues of the Baroque period. He also draws upon influence from Protestant hymns in the first movement, but yet all in all, it is very virtuosic in nature, bringing the viola into the spotlight as a solo instrument.

Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 120 for Viola and Piano (1895)
JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833 - 1897)

Originally written for clarinet in 1894 during his last years, Johannes Brahms transcribed the piece for viola in 1895. He quickly found the transcription for viola to be quite "awkward and unpleasant," but nonetheless, despite the awkwardness, Brahms truly encompasses the wide range and depth of the viola in his *Sonata No. 1*.

The first movement, labeled *Allegro appassionato*, is written in Sonata-Allegro form (ABA sections), used in most sonatas of the Classical era with Haydn and Mozart. Movement IV, labeled *Vivace*, is in Rondo form (ABACBA). The transcription encompasses the soaring melodic lines of the violin, and the sonorous resonance of the cello with the continuous use of the C-string. Since the viola utilizes a wider breadth of techniques as compared to that of the clarinet, there is room for many different interpretations when faced with the ornamentation, chords, and *rubatos*.

Brahms was a traditional composer, following the normative forms of his predecessors, especially Beethoven, and it paved the path into the early Romantic era. He was also an absolute composer, writing music for music's sake, unlike program music of many other composers. And through his love of folklore and folk music, Brahms was exposed to *style hongrois*, a blending of Hungarian musical gestures and gypsy style. Because of this, we can see the use of irregular rhythms, triplet figures, and the use of *rubato* in his both the first and fourth movement of this Sonata.
Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 in Bb Major, S.1051
JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

Written in 1721, J. S. Bach, at that time, was a court composer for Prince Leopold of Cöthen, serving from 1717-1723. However, Bach wrote these Brandenburg Concerti as a form of job application, hoping to secure employment under Margrave Christian Ludwig of Brandenburg.

In the first movement, Allegro, is a fugue. The violas move in stretto-canon, where a subject and answer is imitated before the previous has finished, and you will hear and see the passing-off between the two violas.

Customarily thought as an accompaniment instrument, the Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 brought the viola into the spotlight as a solo instrument. This work is scored for two violas de braccio (modern-day violas), accompanied by two violas da gamba, violoncello (cello), and continuo (violone, cembalo, and harpsichord).
Samantha Tang began studying the viola at a young age; first under Samantha Lester, and shortly afterwards, with Dr. Allyson Fleck, a student of Sally Chisholm and Manuel Diaz. Ms. Tang continues to study viola with Dr. Fleck at Kennesaw State University and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree, with a concentration in Viola Performance. She has also received extensive private piano instruction for nine years under Jody Smith Parrish. Extracurricularly, Ms. Tang had participated in the Cobb County Honor Orchestra and was also a member of the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra (GYSO) for four years prior to her time at Kennesaw State University.

During her studies at KSU, she has performed in chamber ensemble and viola masterclasses for Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) violists Lachlan McBane and Paul Murphy, violinist Justin Bruns, and Manuel Diaz (Columbus State University). In 2014, Ms. Tang had been selected to participate in the Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA) All-College Orchestra in Savannah, Georgia. Recently, Ms. Tang attended the Franklin Pond Chamber Music College Festival in Atlanta, Georgia, where she spent a five-week intensive learning and performing in chamber masterclasses amongst Atlanta Symphony Orchestra musicians.

Ms. Tang is also an active chamber music ensemble participant. As an active member of the American String Teachers Association (ASTA), she attended the 2014 National ASTA Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Outside of classes, Ms. Tang volunteers extensively for middle school and high school orchestra events, coaching students. Ms. Tang teaches, practices, and freelances in the majority of her spare time. She aspires to continue her career with graduate and post-graduate studies in hopes of creating her own private studio, as well as a new creative and collaborative chamber ensemble.
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Tuesday, April 14
Student Composer Recital

Wednesday, April 15
Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, April 18
Surge of Power: Spring 2015 Opera Gala

Sunday, April 19
Tara Winds Clarinet Choir with Sqwonk Bass Clarinet Duo

Monday, April 20
Wind Ensemble

Tuesday, April 21
Jazz Ensembles

Unless otherwise noted, all events are held in Morgan Concert Hall and begin at 8 p.m.

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Michael Alexander
Interim Director, KSU School of Music

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upcoming events

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