



Sunday, March 2, 2025

# SIMONE PORTER, VIOLIN with PALLAVI MAHIDHARA, PIANO

**Deux Morceaux** (1911/1914)

Nocturne  
Cortège

Lili Boulanger (1893–1918)

**Romance No. 2 in F major, Op. 50** (1798)

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

**Sonata No. 1 for Violin and Piano** (1923)

George Antheil (1900–1959)

- I. Allegro moderato
- II. Andante moderato
- III. Funebre, lento espressivo
- IV. Presto

**Berceuse from *The Firebird*** (1910, arr. 1932)

Igor Stravinsky (1882–1971)  
arr. for violin and Piano by  
Samuel Dushkin

**Danse Russe from *Petrushka*** (1911, arr. 1932)

Stravinsky, arr. Dushkin

INTERMISSION

**Violin Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 18** (1887)

Richard Strauss (1864–1949)

Simone Porter is represented by Opus 3 Artists.



## NOTE FROM THE CURATOR

American violinist Simone Porter makes her Gardner debut on today's recital. Beethoven's less-often performed Romance is one of a pair he wrote for violin and orchestra. Its tuneful directness, with elegant ornamentation, looks forward to the bel canto-inspired nocturnes of Chopin. Aside from the Beethoven, the earliest work on the program is Richard Strauss's early and gorgeous violin sonata. Porter rounds out her program with the irreverent Deco-era sonata of American George Antheil, two lyrical miniatures by the immensely talented and short-lived Lili Boulanger, and a pair of flashy ballet arrangements of Igor Stravinsky.

—George Steel, *Abrams Curator of Music*

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Violinist **Simone Porter** has been recognized as an emerging artist of impassioned energy, interpretive integrity, and vibrant communication. She has debuted with the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Seattle and Pittsburgh Symphonies, and with a number of renowned conductors, including Stéphane Denève, Gustavo Dudamel, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Nicholas McGegan, Ludovic Morlot, Donald Runnicles, David Robertson, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Manfred Honeck, Louis Langrée, and David Danzmayr. Porter made her professional solo debut at age 10 with the Seattle Symphony and her international debut with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London at age 13. In March 2015, Porter was named a recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant.

Porter's recent seasons include extensive US touring with debuts and return visits to orchestras such as Colorado, North Carolina, St. Louis, Oregon, Hawaii, Grand Rapids, Omaha, Quebec, and Jacksonville symphonies, Erie Philharmonic, Florida Orchestra, and many more. In the 2024–25 season Porter will return to Nashville and Baltimore symphonies, as well as Santa Rosa, Monterey, and Westchester symphonies and a debut with Arkansas Symphony performing Glass's first violin concerto and a visit to Johnson City Symphony in Tennessee. Internationally, Porter has performed with the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra with Gustavo Dudamel; the Orquestra Sinfônica Brasileira in Rio de Janeiro; the National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica; the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong; the Royal Northern Sinfonia; the Milton Keynes City Orchestra in the United Kingdom; Orquesta Clasica Santa Cecilia de la Fundación Excelentia in Madrid; the Opera de Marseille; and at the Edinburgh Festival performing Barber under the direction of Stéphane Denève.

Recent recital highlights include a tour in Spain with pianist Pallavi Mahidhara and debuts at Celebrity Series in Boston and 92NY, both of which featured the newly commissioned piece by composer Reena Esmail. She returned to Florida in recital in January 2025. An avid chamber musician, Porter was



heard at La Jolla Summerfest in August 2024, followed by projects with Bay Chamber Music, Moab Music Festival, and Charlottesville Chamber Music Festival. Together with her colleagues violinist Blake Pouliot and pianist Hsin-I Huang, Porter will present a program at Cliburn Foundation in Fort Worth, TX, and Broad Stage in Santa Monica, CA, in the spring of 2025.

At the invitation of Esa-Pekka Salonen, Porter performed his work *Lachen verlernt (Laughing Unlearned)*, at the New York Philharmonic's "Foreign Bodies," a multi-sensory celebration of the work of the composer and conductor. Porter made her Carnegie Zankel Hall debut on the Emmy Award-winning TV show *From the Top: Live from Carnegie Hall*, followed in November 2016 by her debut in Stern Auditorium. She returned to Carnegie in December 2024 together with cellist Joshua Roman as a part of their Well-Being Concert. In June 2016, her featured performance of music from *Schindler's List* with Maestro Gustavo Dudamel and members of the American Youth Symphony was broadcast nationally on the TNT Network as part of the American Film Institute's *Lifetime Achievement Award: A Tribute to John Williams*.

Raised in Seattle, WA, Porter studied with Margaret Pressley as a recipient of the Dorothy Richard Starling Scholarship and was then admitted into the studio of the renowned pedagogue Robert Lipsett, with whom she studied at the Colburn Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles. Summer studies have included many years at the Aspen Music Festival, Indiana University's Summer String Academy, and the Schlern International Music Festival in Italy.

Porter performs on a 1740 Carlo Bergonzi violin made in Cremona, Italy on generous loan from The Master's University, Santa Clarita, CA.

Indian-American pianist **Pallavi Mahidhara** made her orchestral debut at the age of 10, performing at the Ravinia Festival in Chicago. She is the Second Prize winner and Young Audience Award winner of the 69th Geneva International Piano Competition, and of the VI International Prokofiev Competition in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Other awards include the Olivier Berggruen Prize at the Gstaad Menuhin Festival, the Steinway Förderpreis in Germany, the Astral Artists National Auditions in the US, and on multiple occasions, the "Sobresaliente" Award from the hands of Queen Sofía of Spain.

Praised for her unique artistry and charismatic stage presence, she has appeared in solo and orchestral concerts across five continents, performing at the Konzerthaus in Berlin, the Auditorio Nacional in Madrid, the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and the Grand Hall of the Dimitri Shostakovich Philharmonia in Saint Petersburg.

Performances in the 2023–24 season included appearances in Europe and the US, and recitals with renowned chamber music colleagues, including two European tours with Curtis on Tour. 2022–23 highlights include a solo recital at the Gstaad Menuhin Festival, a recital with renowned cellist Gary Hoffman, chamber music performances at Lincoln Center with members of the New York Philharmonic, and orchestral performances around the US, including with Eugene Symphony under Maestro Joseph Young and Symphony Tacoma under Maestra Sarah Ioannides.

Pallavi was selected by Sir András Schiff for his concert series Building Bridges, a platform to support and promote young pianists. Performances included solo recitals in Germany at the Konzerthaus in Berlin, the Beethoven Haus in Bonn, the Classeek Showroom in Aubonne, Switzerland, and the Centro Cultural de Belem in Lisbon, Portugal. The Klavier-Festival Ruhr in Essen released a live performance recording of her recital from October 2021.

Pallavi has performed at important festivals such as Marlboro Music, Verbier Festival, and Gstaad Menuhin Festival. She has given chamber music performances with renowned artists such as Diemut Poppen, Wolfram Christ, Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt, Arnold Steinhardt, Peter Wiley, and Michael Rusinek, István Várdai, Pablo Ferrández, Josef Špaček, and Théo Fouchenneret. She has performed under the direction of Arjan Tien, Thomas Sanderling, Daniel Boico, Róbert Farkas, Daniel Abad Casanova, and Pablo González, among others.

Pallavi is the executive producer, writer, and host of *The Conscious Artist*, a new podcast designed to promote mental health awareness for musicians, artists, and all human beings. She received her bachelor's degree from the Curtis Institute of Music and her master's degree at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler. She studied for several years with Dimitri Bashkirov at the Escuela Superior de

Música Reina Sofía. Aside from her private studio, Pallavi served as the Artistic Advisor and a Piano Professor for the Young Artists Program at the Reina Sofia School in Madrid, Spain, for several years, and as a Professor for Curtis's Mentor Alumni Program.

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES:

### ACRONYM WITH REGINALD MOBLEY, COUNTERTENOR

Sunday, March 9

### JOHAN DALENE, VIOLIN WITH SAHUN SAM HONG, PIANO

Sunday, March 16

### NEVERMIND

Sunday, March 23

### MORGENSTERN TRIO

Sunday, March 30

### SŌ PERCUSSION

Sunday, April 6

### STRING TRIO: GENEVA LEWIS, VIOLIN | YURA LEE, VIOLA | JAY CAMPBELL, CELLO

Sunday, April 13

### STERLING ELLIOTT, CELLO WITH WYNONA WANG, PIANO

Sunday, April 27

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum resides on the homelands of the Massachusetts Tribe, who belong to this place and continue to regard these lands and waters as sacred.

Music at the Gardner is supported by Nora McNeely Hurley / Manitou Fund. Hemenway & Barnes LLP is the lead corporate sponsor of the Weekend Concert Series. The Museum thanks its generous concert donors: The Coogan Concert in memory of Peter Weston Coogan; Fitzpatrick Family Concert; James Lawrence Memorial Concert; Alford P. Rudnick Memorial Concert; David Scudder in memory of his wife, Marie Louise Scudder; Wendy Shattuck Young Artist Concert; and Willona Sinclair Memorial Concert. The piano is dedicated as the Alex d'Arbeloff Steinway. The harpsichord was generously donated by Dr. Robert Barstow in memory of Marion Huse, and its care is endowed in memory of Dr. Barstow by The Barstow Fund. Music at the Gardner is also supported in part by the Francis Golet Charitable Lead Trusts, New Music USA's Organization Fund, Nicie and Jay Panetta, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which is supported by the state of Massachusetts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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