

Sunday, March 16, 2025

JOHAN DALENE, VIOLIN with SAHUN SAM HONG, PIANO



Sonata No. 1 for Violin and Piano, Op. 105 (1851)

Robert Schumann (1810–1856)

- I. Mit leidenschaftlichem Ausdruck
- II. Allegretto
- III. Lebhaft

Notturmo e Danza (1993)

Einojuhani Rautavaara (1928–2016)

- Notturmo
- Danza

Kolysanka (1952)

Grażyna Bacewicz (1909–1969)

Humoreske (1953)

Bacewicz

Tzigane (1924)

Maurice Ravel (1875–1937)

INTERMISSION

D'un matin de printemps (1917–18)

Lili Boulanger (1893–1918)

Partita for Violin and Piano (1984)

Witold Lutosławski (1913–1994)

Violin Sonata No. 2 in G major, Op. 13 (1867)

Edvard Grieg (1843–1907)

- I. Lento doloroso—Allegro vivace
- II. Allegretto tranquillo
- III. Allegro animato

Johan Dalene is managed by Enticott Music Management in association with IMG Artists.
He records exclusively for BIS Records.

This concert is performed in memory of James Lawrence.

ISABELLA
STEWART GARDNER
MUSEUM



NOTE FROM THE CURATOR

Grieg's sonata is a work that demands a musical storyteller, one who can move deftly between atmospheric oratory and Beethovenian developmental drive. It has an ideal champion in the Scandinavian violinist Johan Dalene, who makes his Gardner debut today. Dalene also brings us Schumann's late first violin sonata, as well as a pair of works each from 20th-century French and Polish composers—the former exuding a certain voluptuousness and the latter brimming with driving Slavic modernism.

—George Steel, *Abrams Curator of Music*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Winner of the 2019 prestigious Carl Nielsen Competition, Swedish-Norwegian violinist **Johan Dalene** “is not just a virtuoso like many others, he is a voice. He has a tone, a presence” (*Diapason*). At the age of 24, he has performed with leading orchestras and in celebrated recital halls both at home and abroad. His ability to “make his Stradivarius sing like a master” (*Le Monde*), coupled with his refreshingly honest musicality and engagement with musicians and audiences alike, has won him countless admirers. In 2022, he was named *Gramophone's* Young Artist of the Year.

After simultaneous residencies with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Gavle Symphony, Johan takes on a new collaboration with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, working with conductors such as Antonello Manacorda and Robert Trevino. An advocate for new music, he continues to perform the concerto written for him by Tebogo Monnakgotla, notably with the Berlin Radio Symphony and Giedrė Šlekytė, having given the world premiere with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic and John Storgårds in April 2023. Johan's other recent and forthcoming highlights include debut performances with the Minnesota Orchestra and Thomas Søndergård, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and Sakari Oramo, and San Francisco Symphony and Esa-Pekka Salonen; and return appearances with the Bergen Philharmonic, Swedish Radio Symphony, London Philharmonic, and Warsaw Philharmonic.

Johan is equally passionate about chamber music and will be coming back to North America to give recitals, notably on the

Vancouver Recital Series, San Francisco Performances, and at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, as well as making his debut tour in Australia. He is otherwise making return appearances at the Verbier and Rosendal festivals as well as London's Wigmore Hall, where he is now a regular guest.

Recording exclusively for BIS, Johan released his fourth album on the label in October 2023, a recital disc comprising Ravel's Sonata and Prokofiev's Second Sonata, alongside short pieces by Arvo Pärt, Lili Boulanger, and Grażyna Bacewicz. The *Strad* hailed this album as "interesting by its repertoire and marvellous by its quality." His previous recording featured the Nielsen and Sibelius concerti with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic with John Storgårds, and garnered Johan his third coveted Editor's Choice from *Gramophone* magazine, as well as a prestigious Swedish Grammis Award.

Johan began playing the violin at the age of four and made his professional concerto debut three years later. In summer 2016, he was student-in-residence at Switzerland's Verbier Festival (where he made his performance debut in 2021) and in 2018 was accepted to the Norwegian Crescendo program, where he worked closely with mentors Janine Jansen, Leif Ove Andsnes, and Gidon Kremer. Andsnes subsequently invited Johan to play at the Rosendal Chamber Music Festival, and they performed together again in May 2019 at the Bergen International Festival. In 2019, he joined Janine Jansen and other members of the Crescendo program for a performance at Wigmore Hall in London and at the International Chamber Music Festival in Utrecht.

Johan studied with Per Enoksson, Professor at

the Royal College of Music in Stockholm, as well as with Janine Jansen, and has also participated in masterclasses with several distinguished teachers, including Dora Schwarzberg, Pamela Frank, Gerhard Schulz, and Henning Kraggerud. He has been awarded various scholarships and prizes, notably from the Royal Swedish Academy of Music, the Anders Wall Giresta Scholarship, Queen Ingrid's Honorary Scholarship, the Håkan Mogren Foundation Prize, Equinor Classical Music Award, Norwegian Soloist Prize, Sixten Gemzéus stora musikstipendium, Expressen Cultural Prize Spelmannen, and Rolf Wirténs Kulturpris. Johan plays the 1725 "Duke of Cambridge" Stradivarius, generously on loan from the Anders Sveaas' Charitable Foundation.

Praised as an "artist of enormous prowess" (Verbier Festival newsletter) with "lots of clarity, confidence, and wisdom" (*New York Concert Review*), and a "wide range of rich colors" (*San Diego Story*), pianist **Sahun Sam Hong** brings his colorful style and riveting energy to the solo, chamber, and concerto stage.

Hong was the winner of the 2017 Vendome Prize at Verbier and a prizewinner of the Naumburg International Piano Competition and International Beethoven Competition Vienna. He was also the recipient of a 2021 American Piano Award.

Hong has been featured as a soloist with orchestras including ORF-Vienna, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Camerata New York, Fort Worth, Richardson, Racine, Waco, Galveston, and Brazos Valley Symphony. He has performed in prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, the Vienna Musikverein, Église de Verbier, Merkin Hall, and the Kennedy Center.



A sought-after interpreter of the duo and chamber repertoire, Hong has been invited to perform at major chamber music festivals including Marlboro, Music@Menlo, Ravinia's Steans Institute, Taos, and Four Seasons. He recently became a member of the Bowers Program (2024–27) at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

In addition to performing, Hong is a prolific arranger of chamber music and orchestral works, and his innovative transcriptions are performed all over the world. The chamber music collective ensemble 132 presents Hong's creative transcriptions on annual tours throughout the United States.

At the age of 16, Hong graduated magna cum laude from Texas Christian University (TCU), studying with John Owings. He also studied with Leon Fleisher and Yong Hi Moon at the Peabody Institute. Hong is currently based in New York City and serves on the faculty of CUNY Queens College. Sahun Sam Hong is a Steinway Artist.

JAMES LAWRENCE MEMORIAL CONCERT

James Lawrence was an architect who designed a number of public structures in the Boston area and was a leading preservationist of the city's natural beauty and historical landmarks. He graduated from Harvard University in 1929, and in 1935 he received a master's degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

As an architect, he played a key role in designing the Mary Ellen McCormack public housing development in South Boston, which was widely regarded as the city's most impressive housing project. As a preservationist, Mr. Lawrence fought to prevent high-rise construction in the Back Bay as well as the preservation of its elms. Mr. Lawrence served as a Trustee of the Gardner Museum from 1945 until his death in 1995. He also designed Gothic-style greenhouses at the Museum, as well as the Museum's cafe, shop, and library, which served the Museum until the addition of the New Wing in 2012.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES:

NEVERMIND

Sunday, March 23

MORGENSTERN TRIO

Sunday, March 30

SÕ 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

Kindly turn off all electronic devices during the concert and refrain from any photography or filming in the hall. Also, please note the location of the emergency exit doors: across the hall from the doors through which you entered.

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 Goelet 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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