

Artist Series

**Appalachia Piano Trio**  
**with David Kováč & David John Yeh, *violas***

Friday, March 15, 2019 at 5pm  
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

Pacific Lutheran University  
School of Arts and Communication / Department of Music presents

Artist Series

## **Appalachia Piano Trio**

Miroslav Hristov, *violin*  
Nathan Jasinski, *cello*  
Chih-Long Hu, *piano*  
with David Kováč & David John Yeh, *violas*

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Welcome to Lagerquist Concert Hall.  
Please disable the audible signal on all watches and cellular phones for the duration of the concert.  
Use of cameras, recording equipment and all digital devices is not permitted in the concert hall.

### **PROGRAM**

**Piano Quartet No. 1 in G Minor, op. 25** ..... **Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)**  
*Allegro*  
*Intermezzo: Allegro ma non troppo—Trio: Animato*  
*Andante con moto*  
*Rondo alla Zingarese*

### *INTERMISSION*

**Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, op. 47** ..... **Robert Schumann (1810-1856)**  
*Sostenuto assai—Allegro ma non troppo*  
*Scherzo: Molto vivace—Trio I—Trio II*  
*Andante cantabile*  
*Finale: Vivace*

## About the Ensemble



The Appalachia Piano Trio, formed in 2009, enriches audiences with innovative and impassioned performances. The Trio is comprised of University of Tennessee faculty artists Dr. Chih-Long Hu (piano), Dr. Miroslav Hristov (violin), and Eastern Kentucky University faculty artist Dr. Nathan Jasinski. Dr. David Kováč, professor of violin and viola at East Tennessee State University, along with Dr. David John Yeh (viola), join the Appalachia Piano Trio for this concert.

## About the Performers

A native of Taiwan, pianist **Chih-Long Hu**'s performance career was launched after receiving honors including the Taipei National Concert Hall Arising Star, the Chi-Mei Artist Award, and prizes from the Mauro Monopoli International Piano Competition in Italy, the Concours International De Piano D'Escaldes-Engordany in Andorra, the Takamatsu International Piano Competition in Japan, and San Jose International Piano Competition in California.

An active performer, Hu performs extensively in Asia, Europe, and America appearing as a concerto soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. His recent performance highlights include concerto performances of Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1*, Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No. 3*, Saint-Saëns *Piano Concerto No. 2*, Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, and solo and chamber recitals in China, Taiwan, Korea, Canada, and throughout the US. Hu's performances have been broadcast in "Performance Today" through NPR stations across the country and televised in Taiwan, China and Japan. His CD albums "Formosa Caprices," "Complete Rachmaninov Etudes-Tableaux," and "Trifecta Trio" have received critical acclaim. His latest album of *Bach Goldberg Variations* has been released under Blue Griffin Recording.

Hu holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in piano performance from the University of Michigan, a master's degree from Taipei National University of the Arts, and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from National Taiwan University. His piano teachers include Arthur Greene, Hung-Kuan Chen, and Tai-Cheng Chen. Dr. Hu has served on the faculty at East Tennessee State University, and was appointed the Sandra G. Powell Endowed Professor of Piano at the University of Tennessee in the fall of 2016.

Violinist **Miroslav Hristov** was hailed by *Fanfare Magazine* for his "razor sharp technique" and a "full palette of tonal colors." He presents master classes and performs extensively throughout the United States, Europe and Latin America. As a soloist and chamber musician, he has performed in several international festivals and concert series, including the Musical Treasures series in Carnegie Hall, the Interharmony International Music Festival in Arcidosso, Italy, the Sofia Music Weeks International Festival, The Balabanov House Music Days, the International Violin Festival in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the Big Arts Concert Series in Florida. Dr. Hristov was First Prize winner of the International Violin Competition "Dobrin Petkov," and a prizewinner for the MTNA Collegiate String Performance Competition.

Dr. Hristov has recorded for Centaur Records, Romeo Records, the Divine Arts Recordings Group, Bulgarian National Radio and WUOT Knoxville. His recordings are broadcast on NPR stations across the country. As part of the internationally-acclaimed Kaleidos Duo with pianist, Vladimir Valjarevic, Dr. Hristov's recordings and performances have received rave reviews from *The Strad Magazine*, *Fanfare*, *DUMA* (Sofia, Bulgaria), and *Lucid Culture* (New York). An avid chamber musician, Dr. Hristov also tours and performs regularly with the Appalachia Piano Trio.

Cellist **Nathan Jasinski** has given solo performances in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and throughout the United States. A recent highlight includes a performance of Dvorak's *Cello Concerto* with the Keweenaw Symphony in Michigan. He performs regularly with the Appalachia Piano Trio, as continuo/solo cellist with the Kentucky Bach Choir, and as a solo recitalist.

An enthusiastic educator, Dr. Jasinski frequently gives cello and chamber music master classes at educational venues throughout the country. He joined the music faculty at Eastern Kentucky University in 2006. Prior to this appointment, he taught at Bowling Green State University in Ohio and Snow College in Ephraim, UT. His love of teaching has led to his working with young musicians, formerly at the Interlochen and currently, Steven Foster music camps. He is currently president of the Kentucky Cello Club, an organization that promotes cello playing and teaching throughout the lower Midwest.

Dr. Jasinski earned degrees in cello performance from Brigham Young University and Arizona State University, and his doctorate from the University of Michigan.

**Dr. David Kováč** began his musical studies on violin at the age of four in his home country, the Czech Republic. Later, at the Janáček Conservatory in Ostrava, he chose the viola as his main instrument. Dr. Kováč maintains a varied career as a violist, artistic director, chamber musician, and instructor of violin and viola. He was appointed as assistant professor of violin and viola at East Tennessee State University in 2016.

In 2009 Dr. Kováč performed the world premiere of Gabriela Lena Frank's *Puntos Suspensivos* at the Joyce Theatre in New York City. The work was commissioned in part by the performing arts series, "Works and Process" at the Guggenheim Museum. That same year he co-founded the Stringendo Chamber Music Program as part of the Heartland Music Academy in Mission, Kansas. The year-round program is designed to coach new and beginning chamber ensembles. Dr. Kováč's work with the Heartland Music Academy also included coaching the Heartland Virtuosi and Camerata Chamber Orchestras. He remains artistic director of the Heartland Chamber Music Festival, an internationally renowned summer program for young musicians that draws students and faculty from across the world, including the Miami String Quartet, Ivan Chen, and Noah Geller.

**Dr. David John Yeh** graduated from the University of New Orleans with a degree in music performance. He completed medical school and neurosurgery residency at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, GA. His music teachers included Roberta Figgins, Jeff Cox, Syoko Aki, and Charles Castleman. He has won awards in music, psychiatry, general surgery, and neurosurgery. Dr. Yeh performed with the Augusta Symphony from 1994-2004 and served on their Board of Directors from 1998-2004. He has performed regularly in the New Orleans area, including the Jazz and Heritage Festival. He studied classical chamber music at the Johannesen International School of Arts, Music Festival of Arkansas, Hampden Sydney Music Festival, and the Eastman Quartet Program. As the founding member of the Aloha Piano Quartet and a Kentucky Colonel, he is dedicated to philanthropy. He lives in San Luis Obispo, California, where he practices neurosurgery with Central Coast Neurology Surgery PC.



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