

Artist Series

The Goldberg Variations by J. S. Bach

Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 8pm
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

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

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The Goldberg Variations by J. S. Bach

Artur Girsky, *violin*
Timothy Christie, *viola*
Rowena Hammill, *cello*

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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

Goldberg Variations	J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
<i>Aria</i>	arr. Dmitry Sitkovetsky
<i>Variation I</i>	
<i>Variation II</i>	
<i>Variation III. Canone all'Unisono</i>	
<i>Variation IV</i>	
<i>Variation V</i>	
<i>Variation VI. Canone alla Seconda</i>	
<i>Variation VII. al tempo di Giga</i>	
<i>Variation VIII</i>	
<i>Variation IX. Canone alla Terza</i>	
<i>Variation X. Fughetta</i>	
<i>Variation XI</i>	
<i>Variation XII. Canone alla Quarta in moto contrario</i>	
<i>Variation XIII</i>	
<i>Variation XIV</i>	
<i>Variation XV. Canone alla Quinta. Andante</i>	
<i>Variation XVI. Ouverture</i>	
<i>Variation XVII</i>	
<i>Variation XVIII. Canone alla Sesta</i>	
<i>Variation XIX</i>	
<i>Variation XX</i>	
<i>Variation XXI. Canone alla Settima</i>	
<i>Variation XXII. alla breve</i>	
<i>Variation XXIII</i>	
<i>Variation XXIV. Canone all'Ottava</i>	
<i>Variation XXV. Adagio</i>	
<i>Variation XXVI</i>	
<i>Variation XXVII. Canone alla Nona</i>	
<i>Variation XXVIII</i>	
<i>Variation XXIX</i>	
<i>Variation XXX. Quodlibet</i>	
<i>Aria da Capo</i>	

Program Notes

The name Goldberg became attached to Johann Sebastian Bach's monumental set of variations (or chaconne) for double manual harpsichord when an early Bach biographer, Johann Nicolaus Forkel wrote the following in his 1802 work:

Count Keyserlingk, formerly Russian ambassador to Saxony, often visited Leipzig. Among his servants there was a talented young man, Johann Gottlieb Goldberg – a harpsichordist (cembalist) who was a pupil of Wilhelm Friedemann Bach and later of Johann Sebastian Bach himself. The count had been suffering from insomnia and ill health and Goldberg, who also lived there, had to stay in the room next door to soothe his master's suffering with music. Once the count asked Bach to compose some keyboard pieces for Goldberg, pieces of mellowness and gaiety that would enliven his sleepless nights. Bach decided to write a set of variations, a form that prior to this, hadn't interested him much. Nevertheless, in his masterly hands, an exemplary work of art had been born. The count was so delighted with it, he called them 'my variations'. He would often say: 'My dear Goldberg, play me one of my variations.' Bach had probably never been so generously rewarded for his music. The count gave him a golden goblet with a hundred Louis d'Or!"

Scholars seriously doubt the authenticity of this account, but all agree that publication of the *Goldberg Variations* in 1741 set in motion a narrative that continues up to and beyond our present time. Today, the mere mention of *Goldberg Variations* elicits reverential nods of assent.

The work is 32 movements in total, the first and last taking the form of a 32-bar aria. The variations are not on the aria's melody, but rather on its bass line and the implied harmonic progression. Numbers play an important role throughout. The variations are in groupings of three consisting of two free variations followed by a canonic variation voiced in musical spacings of ever-widening intervals. The first canon begins at the unison (as in "Row, Row, Row your Boat") and is followed by canons at the second through the ninth degrees. Instead of a tenth canon, Bach chooses a form called "quodlibet", a glorious jumble of overlaid musical quotations and references. At last, the aria returns, and we are all changed, performers and audience alike.

Tonight, we present Bach's masterpiece in an arrangement for string trio (violin, viola and cello) by violinist Dmitry Sitkovetsky.

About the Performers

Born in Riga, Latvia, into a family of violinists, **Artur Girsky** began playing violin at age five. He studied with Maya Glezarova at the Moscow Central Music School and with Felix Andrievsky at the Royal College of Music in London. Girsky won third prize at the International Violin Competition of Naples and he served as Concertmaster of the Moscow Soloists chamber orchestra under Yuri Bashmet. He is presently violinist in the Seattle Symphony and first violinist of the Girsky String Quartet.

Violinist and violist **Timothy Christie** enjoys a multifaceted career as performer, teacher, public speaker and recording artist. He is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival, a nonprofit organization in southeastern Washington presenting more than 40 public chamber music events annually. He also serves on the faculty of the School of Music of the University of Puget Sound and is a member of the IRIS Orchestra in Memphis, Tennessee. He is the violist of the Girsky String Quartet.

Rowena Hammill is Associate Principal Cello of the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra. She divides her time between Los Angeles, where she is on faculty at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music, and the Pacific Northwest, where she is Affiliate Artist at PLU and the Artistic Director of Vashon Chamber Music. A graduate of the Indiana University School of Music, she was teaching assistant to Janos Starker before being appointed Professor of Cello at the University of Northern Iowa and later California State University Northridge. She is the cellist of the Girsky String Quartet.

Spring Events

at Pacific Lutheran University

ALL MUSIC EVENTS ARE IN MARY BAKER RUSSELL MUSIC CENTER, LAGERQUIST CONCERT HALL AT 8PM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

FEBRUARY

- 6 Sunday, 3pm**
Benefit Concert for ORS of Tacoma, free admission (donation suggested)
- 13 Sunday, 3pm**
Richard D. Moe Organ Recital Series: Mark Brombaugh, Organist
Tickets: \$17 general admission; \$10 senior citizen (60+), military, alumni, PLU community; \$5 PLU students & 18 and under
- 15 Tuesday, 8pm**
PLU Student Showcase, an AMP fundraising event. Free admission, \$5 suggested donation
- 16 Wednesday, 8pm**
Artist Series: Sheely Alves, Voice; Cassio Vianna, Piano & Wagner Trindade, Bass, free admission
- 20 Sunday, 3pm**
Artist Series: Erik Steighner, Saxophone with Oksana Ejokina, Piano, free admission

MARCH

- 15 Tuesday, 8pm**
University Symphony Orchestra: Student Showcase
- 18 Friday, 12pm**
Artist Series: Bradley Howard, Tenor with Lee Thompson, Piano, free admission
- 19 Saturday, 1pm**
Guitar Orchestra & Guitar Ensemble, free admission
- 19 Saturday, 5pm**
Artist Series: Guitar Faculty Recital
- 19 Saturday, 8pm**
Choral Union. Tickets: \$17 general admission; \$10 senior citizen (60+), military, alumni, PLU community; \$5 PLU students & 18 and under
- 20 Sunday, 3pm**
University Wind Ensemble
- 21 Tuesday, 8pm**
University Jazz Ensemble with Guest Artist Greg Gisbert, Trumpet
Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center
- 24 Thursday, 8pm**
Keyboard Students Recital, free admission
- 25 Friday, 11am**
Pallavi Mahidhara Piano Masterclass, free admission
- 27 Sunday, 5pm**
PLU Honor Orchestra for Strings, free admission

APRIL

- 2 Saturday, 5 and 6:30pm**
Northwest High School Honor Band, free admission
- 6 Wednesday, 8pm**
Artist Series: Jennifer Rhyne, Flute
- 12 Tuesday, 8pm**
University Symphony Orchestra: KammerMusikeren
- 20 Wednesday, 8pm**
Keyboard Students Recital, free admission
- 24 Sunday, 3pm**
Richard D. Moe Organ Recital Series: Paul Tegels, University Organist. Tickets: \$17 general admission; \$10 senior citizen (60+), military, alumni, PLU community; \$5 PLU students & 18 and under
- 24 Sunday, 8pm**
Artist Series: The Goldberg Variations by J. S. Bach, free admission
- 28 Thursday, 8pm**
University Chorale
- 30 Saturday, 1pm**
PLUtonic/Gold Rush, MBR Amphitheater, free admission
- 30 Saturday, 5pm**
University Singers & Knights Chorus, free admission
- 30 Saturday, 5pm**
Artist Series: Aria Manning, Soprano, free admission

MAY

- 1 Sunday, 12pm**
Sølvvinden Flute Ensemble, free admission
- 1 Sunday, 5:30pm**
Second City Chamber Series: Viennese Finesse. Tickets: \$30, purchased through Second City Chamber Series only, by phone at 253-572-8863 or at their website: www.scchamberseries.org
- 1 Sunday, 8pm**
Viennese Piano Masterclass, free admission
- 3 Tuesday, 5:30pm**
Saxophone Quartets & Jazz Combos. The Cave, Anderson University Center, free admission
- 3 Tuesday, 8pm**
Choir of the West
- 6 Friday, 1pm**
Pierre Vallet Voice Masterclass, free admission
- 6 Friday, 8pm**
Steel Band & Percussion Ensemble, free admission
- 7 Saturday, 8pm**
PLU Ringers
- 8 Sunday, 3pm**
Woodwind Students Recital, free admission
- 8 Sunday, 4:30pm**
Brass Students Recital, free admission
- 10 Tuesday, 8pm**
University Symphony Orchestra
- 12 Thursday, 8pm**
Keyboard Students Recital, free admission
- 14 Saturday, 3pm**
Piano Ensemble, free admission
- 14 Saturday, 8pm**
Guitar Orchestra & Guitar Ensemble, free admission
- 15 Sunday, 3pm**
University Wind Ensemble
- 17 Tuesday, 6pm**
Chamber Music Kaleidoscope, free admission
- 17 Tuesday, 8pm**
String Kaleidoscope, free admission
- 18 Wednesday, 8pm**
University Concert Band, free admission
- 19 Thursday, 8pm**
University Jazz Ensemble. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center
- 20 Friday and 21 Saturday**
Opera Scenes. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center.
- 22 Sunday, 3pm**
Composers Forum, free admission
- 22 Sunday, 5:30pm**
Songwriters Workshop. Jennie Lee Hansen Recital Hall, free admission

To Order Tickets:

On Line: www.plu.edu/musictickets

At the Concert: Lobby Desk in Mary Baker Russell Music Center

CONCERTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

All ticket sales are final - no refunds

MUSIC EVENT TICKET PRICES: \$10 GENERAL; \$5 SENIOR CITIZENS (60+), MILITARY, PLU ALUMNI, & PLU COMMUNITY; FREE TO PLU STUDENTS & 18 AND UNDER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. CONCERTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND SOME CONCERTS MAY BE ADDED AFTER PUBLICATION.
www.plu.edu/music/calendar (updated March 22, 2022)