Harp Department Guest

From Versailles to Hollywood

Catherine Michel and Andrew Chan, harp

Saturday, March 30, 2024
Hatch Recital Hall
2:30 pm

EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

PROGRAM

Concerto for Harp in G Major — Joseph Anton Steffan (1726-1797), arr. Stéphane Tenente
- Poco allegro
- Adagio
- Allegro

Concerto for Harp in C Major — François-Adrien Boieldieu (1775-1834), arr. Bob D. Litterell
- Allegro brillante
- Andante lento
- Rondeau—Allegro agitato

Catherine Michel, harp

Morceau de concert, Op. 154 — Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

Andrew Chan, harp

INTERMISSION

Music from *West Side Story* — Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990), arr. Jean-Michel Defaye

Andrew Chan, harp

Carousels — Michael Conway Baker (b. 1937)
- Deer Lake Park Carousel (Burnaby, British Columbia)
- Paris, France

US Premiere

Catherine Michel and Andrew Chan, harps
Kangin Han and Yujen Weng, violin
Katherine Park, viola
Felix Kim, cello

Joseph Anton Steffan (1726-1797)

Born in Bohemia, **Joseph Anton Steffan** became a pupil of the composer Georg Christoph Wagenseil after settling in Vienna. He was a renowned teacher whose pupils included the princesses Marie Antoinette (later Queen of France) and Caroline (later Queen of Naples). He wrote some church music and numerous sonatas, divertimentos, and concerti for piano. He is historically important for his four books of songs, *Sammlung deutscher Lieder*. In 1775 he contracted an eye disease which left him with little sight. He gave up his position at the court, but continued to compose until his death in 1797. This *Concerto for Harp* was revised by Catherine Michel and the arrangement for string trio is by Stéphane Tenente.

François-Adrien Boieldieu (1775-1834)

Born in Rouen, France, **Boieldieu** was a member of a fairly prosperous family until the French Revolution. His musical studies were quite successful and he became an organist and composer at a young age. He was accepted into the salon of the piano manufacturer Erard, meeting prominent musicians who assisted him in his career. He began composing operas and in 1798 was appointed Professor of Piano at the Paris Conservatory. In 1803 he was invited to St. Petersburg to write operas for the Imperial Court and supervise music at the court. In 1811 he returned to Paris to write more operas which were highly successful. In all, he wrote 40 operas, the best known of which is *La dame blanche,* hailed as the French answer and challenge to Rossini's rising fame in the operatic field. The *Concerto for Harp and Orchestra* was written in 1795 and published in Paris by Leduc. The reduction for string quartet is by Bob D. Litterell who was commissioned by Lyon & Healy Harps to provide harpists with an alternative to using the piano to accompany the harp when no large orchestra was available.

MEET THE COMPOSERS

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

An exceptionally gifted child, **Saint-Saëns** was performing on the piano before the age of five, and composing by the age of six. He progressed so rapidly in his piano studies that he made his debut at the age of eleven in the famous Salle Pleyel (Paris) playing a Mozart concerto and a movement from Beethoven's C Minor Concerto with orchestra. He studied organ and theory at the Paris Conservatory, developing his reputation as a talented musician during this time. From 1853 to 1857 he was organist at the church of Saint-Merry in Paris and in 1858 he was appointed as organist at the church of the Madeleine. This important position he filled with distinction and soon became known as a virtuoso on the organ and a master of improvisation. He resigned this position in 1877 to devote his time to composing and conducting. His musical output includes operas, symphonies, chamber music, concerti, two books of poetry, a collection of essays and the well-known orchestral suite, *Carnival of the Animals*, known to harpists as containing the famous Swan movement. He was admired by Wagner for playing at sight the scores of Wagner's operas. After Germany invaded France in World War I, he changed his mind about Wagner and wrote scathing articles about German art. He wrote only two other works for harp, *Fantaisie, Op. 95* for solo harp and *Fantaisie, Op. 124* for violin and harp. Saint-Saëns is included in this "Versailles to Hollywood" program because he was the first composer to write film music. The 1908 film called "La Mort du duc de Guise" was a silent film that can currently be seen on YouTube.

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

The American conductor, composer, pianist, music educator, author and humanitarian, **Leonard Bernstein**, is considered to be one of the most important conductors of his time and the first American born conductor to receive international acclaim. He won seven Emmy Awards, two Tony Awards and sixteen Grammy Awards as well as an Academy Award nomination. He also received the Kennedy Center Honor in 1981. As a composer he wrote in many genres, including symphonic and orchestral music, and pieces for piano. He was credited with reviving the music of Gustav Mahler. Among Bernstein's Broadway scores still heard today are *On the Town, Wonderful Town, Candide,* and *West Side Story.*

Michael Conway Baker (b. 1937)

Born in the United States, **Michael Conway Baker** has lived in Canada for many years and is one of the most renowned and prolific composers in Canada. He has composed numerous scores for film and television and has over 180 concert works to his credit. He gained national prominence in 1986 when he wrote three works for the World's Fair, "Expo '86" held in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Baker has received many awards for his compositions. Included in these are three Genie Awards (1982 and 1987), one Juno Award (1991) for his *Concerto for Piano and Chamber Orchestra*, and an ACTRA Award for best score for the television series *A Planet for the Taking*.

He has composed symphonies, concerti, full-length ballets for the National Ballet of Canada and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, choral works, chamber music, fanfares, music for piano and voice, and a *Concerto for Harp and Orchestra*. He has composed more than 250 scores for film and television. His newest work, *Carousel for Two Harps and Strings*, is a first performance in the US.

In 1997, Baker was awarded the Order of the British Columbia and received The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. In 2006 he was inducted into the British Columbia Entertainment Hall of Fame.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Applauded by the National Post as "a rare charisma", Canadian harpist **Andrew Chan** has performed across Canada, USA, and in Asia as a solo, concerto, orchestral and chamber musician. For nine seasons, he performed successfully as Principal Harp for the Toronto Concert Orchestra under the baton of the late Kerry Stratton, who repeatedly featured him as a soloist performing concertos by Debussy, Handel, Mozart, and Ravel. He has recently been appointed as Principal Harp for the National Broadcasting Orchestra (Canada).

Chan performs also as Principal Harp with the Brantford Symphony Orchestra since 2008. The highlights of his solo appearances with them include the *Harp Concerto* by Vancouver's Juno-Award winning composer Michael Conway Baker in 2018. Baker dedicated his second harp concerto to him which is to be featured in Chan's tour across the US and Asia in 2024-25.

Chan in the Artistic Director of the *Harps on the Hill School* in the Greater Toronto area. Acceptances with extensive scholarship packages have been offered to his students from the Cleveland Institute of Music, Colburn School, Eastman School of Music, Juilliard School, Indiana University, McGill, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Peabody Institute of Music, Temple University, University of British Columbia, University of Toronto, and others. At *Harps on the Hill,* Chan hosted masterclasses by faculty members from major music institutions including Juilliard, Eastman, Yale, and Peabody. His visiting students have come from around Canada, Australia, China, England, France, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Spain and the USA.

Chan credits his inspiration from his teachers, they include his early studies with Alice Chalifoux (Principal Harp, Cleveland Symphony Orchestra) at the Salzedo School (Maine, USA); and world-renowned solo harpist Catherine Michel (Principal Harp, Orchestre National de l'Opéra de Paris) in Paris, France.

He performs on the "Salvi Signature" harp, a one-of-a-kind model made of 23-karat gold and precious Ziricote wood. It was the last masterpiece left behind by the late renowned Victor Salvi of Italy after 60 years of harp -making. His collection of harps includes a rare, historical, and well-preserved Erard harp, built in Paris for the Belgium International Expo in 1905.

Chan resides in Toronto and during the pandemic, he continued to share his passion in harp performance and pedagogy with audiences internationally on virtual platforms.

Catherine Michel was born in Amiens, where she studied the harp, piano and music theory with her mother. After her mother's untimely passing, Pierre Jamet took the young girl under his wing and she entered the National Conservatoire for Dance and Music (CNSM) in Paris, where she was awarded a First Prize diploma at the age of 15. She won two major international awards, in Israel and the United States, as well as a Gold Medal at the Paris Competition. She joined the Radio France National Orchestra in 1971, performing under the conductors L. Maazel, P. Paray, J. Martinon, K. Böhm, S. Celibidache, L. Bernstein, M. Rostropovitch, to name but a few. In 1978 she became a harpist with the Paris Opera. Her first recordings for the Philips and Vox labels introduced listeners to seldom-performed concertos. She recorded concertos by Villa Lobos, Rodrigo and Castelnuovo-Tedesco with the Monte Carlo Orchestra; as well as Glière, Reinecke, Pierné and Saint-Saëns with the Radio Luxembourg Orchestra. She worked together with François Lesur to create a repertoire of harp music published in the 18th century. It was with Leonard Bernstein that the idea came up, in 1990, of adapting major musical comedies for harp and orchestra. After this unique musician passed away, she got together with M. Legrand to record her first album of film music, winning the French Victoires de la Musique award in the same year. Together they recorded four CDs for the Naïve and Universal

labels. Over at EMI she accompanied the leading trumpet player Maurice André, performing a variety of works, ranging from Bach to Steven Sondheim, with the Normandy Chamber Orchestra and the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Her teaching duties took her to Dublin, to the Hochschule für Musik in Hamburg, then in Detmold followed by the one in Zurich, which she left in 2010 to focus on her career as a soloist and visiting professor.

We acknowledge with respect the Seneca Nation, known as the "Great Hill People" and "Keepers of the Western Door" of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. We take this opportunity to thank the people whose ancestral lands the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester currently occupies in Rochester, New York.

UPCOMING EASTMAN SERIES CONCERTS

Tickets for all series concerts can be purchased at EastmanTheatre.org

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

Alexander Kobrin, piano

Hatch Recital Hall
Monday, April 1, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Over the course of eight concerts, Professor Kobrin will present all 32 of Beethoven's piano sonatas throughout the 2023-24 academic year. Kobrin will perform on a Shigeru Kawai piano, generously on loan to Eastman for this concert series.

KILBOURN CONCERT SERIES

David Russell, guitar

Kilbourn Hall
Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 7:30 PM

GRAMMY award winner for his CD AIRE LATINO in the category of best instrumental soloist in classical music, classical guitarist David Russell is world renowned for his superb musicianship and inspired artistry, having earned the highest praise from audiences and critics alike. In recognition of his great talent and his international career, he was named a Fellow of The Royal Academy of Music in London in 1997.

UPCOMING STUDENT ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

All student performances are free unless otherwise noted.

Eastman Wind Ensemble

Kilbourn Hall
Monday, April 1, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Music of Debussy, Copland, and Vaughan Williams

Eastman Philharmonia

Kilbourn Hall
Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Music of Mozart, Nielsen, and Beethoven

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