



BRIDGET KIBBEY, harp ALEXI KENNEY, violin



Photos: Mike Grittani; Ronald Smith

FEBRUARY 12, 2022
SATURDAY | 5PM

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Dear Friends,

We're excited to bring you today's program, *Counterpoint in Motion*, performed by two remarkable musicians, Bridget Kibbey at the harp and Alexi Kenney on the violin. The Duo brings new dimensions to masterworks and rarely performed compositions through the touch of harp strings and the rich voice of the violin. This chamber music is surprising, its voicing is ethereal, and its performance is virtuosic.

Friends of Chamber Music welcomes you to the new year on this Valentine's weekend, with live concerts that will continue through the end of April, featuring international musicians, the Arod String Quartet from Paris, and pianist Rachel Cheung from Hong Kong. We also offer livestreaming of tonight's performance and upcoming concerts, for those who prefer to enjoy our events from the safety of their own homes. We hope you can stay for this evening's Artist's Forum, which will follow directly after the concert. Please write down questions you'd like to ask the musicians on the forms our volunteers have handed out. We will collect your questions during intermission, and we will ask the artists to respond after the concert.

As you know, Friends of Chamber Music concerts and educational programs are available to all members of our community, free of charge. In addition, we now support local students going on to college with music scholarships so they can continue their musical interests, no matter what major they choose to study. Our performances and educational outreach are only possible through your generous support and through grants from the Plass Arts Foundation and the Arts Council of Brazos Valley. This season, we also benefit from support by the Texas Commission on the Arts and the Nina Astin Winkler Charitable Trust.

Most of all, we depend on your attendance and enjoyment of fine music. We love to receive your concert reviews and comments. If you have only recently learned of our concert series, and you enjoy what you hear, please consider joining our circle of patrons and make a donation tonight, either in person or through our website, fcmx.org.



Andreas Kronenberg
President, Friends of Chamber Music

Friends of Chamber Music brings music from diverse periods and cultures, performed by world-class musicians, to the Brazos Valley. Through concerts and outreach programs at area schools, we strive to enhance the cultural life of the community.

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Covid-19 Guidelines

The safety of our audiences, guest musicians, and the venues' staff remains our priority. Friends of Chamber Music follows these requirements and recommendations at the indoor events:

- All members of the audience are required to wear a mask covering nose and mouth during concerts, intermissions, and forums.
- All guest musicians performing in the 2021-2022 concert series are fully vaccinated.
- Social distancing from non-family members of the audience is recommended.

Student Volunteers

Friends of Chamber Music is grateful for having students volunteering at our events during the 2021–2022 season! They work tirelessly at the concerts and forums greeting and assisting patrons, making photos and videos, taking interviews with the audience members, and entering survey information into FCM forms online. Look for them around wearing FCM signature T-shirts!

We are thankful for having effective communication with great educators at Texas A&M University who encourage their students to volunteer for FCM, Travis Albany, Director of Orchestras and Associate Director of Bands, and Dr. Timothy Rhea, Director of Bands at Department of Music Activities; Dr. James Balls at Department of Performance Studies; Dr. Nancy Street, Associate Head for Undergraduate Studies and Internship Director at Department of Communication; and Dr. Donna Sullins at Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Sciences.

Tonight's student volunteers are Abby Ceella, Natalie Collins, Mckenna Dudley, Zoe Eagleston, Emma Ehle, Ella Howland, Catherine Kim, Nikki Lawrence, Madelyn Palmer, and Sadie Stites.

Educational Outreach

Due to the ongoing public health safety concerns FCM has suspended educational outreach events with guest artists at local schools and colleges. We look forward to resuming our work on this important part of FCM mission soon.

BRIDGET KIBBEY, harp
ALEXI KENNEY, violin

*NOTE: Pieces grouped together will be played without pause.

Fantaisie for Violin and Harp, Op. 124 CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS (1835-1921)

Sonata in G minor , H 542.5 C.P.E. BACH (1714-1788)

Allegro

Adagio

Allegro

Romanian Folk Dances, Sz. 56 BÉLA BARTÓK (1881-1945)

Joc cu bâta

Brâul

Pe loc

Buciumeana

Poarga romaneasca

Maruntel

----INTERMISSION----

Mystery Sonata No. 1 in D minor HEINRICH IGNAZ FRANZ BIBER (1644-1704)

"The Annunciation"

Praeludium

Aria allegro - Variatio

Finale

Vocalise-Étude OLIVIER MESSIAËN (1908-1992)

Tradimento BARBARA STROZZI (1619-1677)

Flow My Tears JOHN DOWLAND (1563-1626)

Selections from:

Siete Canciones Populares Españolas MANUEL DE FALLA (1946-1876)

4 Madrigales Amatorios JOAQUÍN RODRIGO (1901-1999)

Night Time Suite SEBASTIAN CURRIER (b. 1959)

Dusk

Sleepless

Vespers

Nightwind

Starlight

Bridget Kibbey and Alexi Kenney are represented by Opus 3 Artists.



Tonight, Bridget Kibbey performs on the Lyon & Healy Style 23 harp brought for this concert by Delaine Fedson Leonard, Senior Lecturer in Harp at Butler School of Music at The University of Texas at Austin.

Forum with Artists

We invite you to participate in the forum with Bridget Kibbey and Alexi Kenney after the concert. Write your questions for the artists during the first part of the concert, pass them to our student volunteers during intermission, and then look forward to hear the artists answering them after the performance!

Ellen Ritscher Sackett, editor-in-chief of the Insite Magazine, will be the moderator at tonight's forum.

Called the “Yo-Yo Ma of the harp,” by Vogue Senior Editor Corey Seymour, Bridget Kibbey is in demand for her innovative, virtuosic performances that expand the expressive range of the harp. As a soloist and collaborator with today’s top artists, she crosses genres to emphasize and elevate the harp’s role through centuries and cultures of music.

As The New York Times says, “...she made it seem as though her instrument had been waiting all its life to explode with the gorgeous colors and energetic figures she was getting from it.”

Kibbey is the recipient of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant and a Salon de Virtuosi SONY Recording Grant. She is the winner of the Premiere Prix at the Journées de les Harpes Competition in Arles, France, the Concert Artists Guild competition, and the Juilliard School’s Peter Mennin Prize for Artistic Excellence and Leadership. She is a graduate of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center’s Bowers Program (formerly CMS Two) and is featured annually with the CMSLC. She made her NPR TinyDesk debut in 2020. Kibbey’s debut album *Love is Come Again* was listed as a top ten debut by Time Out New York, and she’s been featured as a soloist on Front Row Washington, A&E’s *Breakfast with the Arts*, WQXR, and WRTI, among others.

With the harp as her muse, Bridget Kibbey is sought after for her keen curatorial ideas through music. She currently tours several projects of her own conception — ranging from French Masterworks of the Belle Époque, to the riches of Baroque Counterpoint, to popular folk music from South America, to Sephardic and Persian traditions.

Kibbey’s 2021/22 season is a cornucopia of these cross-genre projects at series and festivals across the United States. She presents concertinos of Debussy, Ravel, and Caplet at the La Jolla and Savannah Music Festivals.

She performs her own adaptations of J.S. Bach's keyboard concerti and sonatas, re-imagined alongside the Dover Quartet. She tours duo recitals with the Iranian Singer Mahsa Vahdat, exploring the poetry of Rumi, Hafez, and Vahdat. In a new partnership with violinist Alexi Kenney, the duo explores the works of Bach, Dowland, Saint-Saëns, Falla and Currier, from the most virtuosic to the most intimate.

Also during the 2021/22 season, Carnegie Hall presents Kibbey as bandleader/soloist in her Bach to Brazil project via CityWide, their free concert series that celebrates the sounds from around the globe that make New York City so vibrant. Bach to Brazil includes newly-commissioned works that highlight the Nuevo Latino luminaries living in NYC alongside the folk masters that inspired them in a mash-up of maracatú, frevo, chorinho, bossa nova, joropo, tango, and cumbia from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, and Venezuela. Kibbey performs the project with Latin Grammy-winning percussionist Samuel Torres and clarinetist Louis Arques.

This season, Bridget Kibbey also delves into her passion for Brazilian popular music with a new harp concerto by Brazilian composer João Luiz Rezende, performing with A Far Cry in Boston's Jordan Hall. The concerto for harp, strings, and percussion explores the evolution of the dance forms maracatú and frevo from Pernambuco, Brazil. It has been commissioned by four American Orchestras and premiered with the Orlando Philharmonic and Music Director Eric Jacobsen in fall 2019.

Kibbey has appeared as a soloist and chamber musician in festivals across the globe, including Schloss Elmau, Pelotas Festival, Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, International Festival d'Avesnois, Aspen Music Festival, Bravo! Vail Music Festival, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Spoleto Festival, Big Ears Knoxville, Chamber Music Northwest, Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival, Bay Chamber Concerts, Savannah Music Festival and Music@Menlo, among others.

The recipient of a 2016 Avery Fisher Career Grant and a 2020 Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award, Alexi Kenney is building a career that defies categorization, following his interests, intuition, and heart. He is equally at home creating experimental programs and commissioning new works, soloing with major orchestras in the USA and abroad, and collaborating with some of the most celebrated musicians of our time.

In the 2021/22 Season, Alexi debuts as soloist with the Pittsburgh Symphony, Orchestra de la Suisse Romande, Virginia Symphony, Reno Philharmonic, Eugene Symphony, and New Haven Symphony, returns to the Indianapolis Symphony, California Symphony, and Santa Fe Symphony, and appears at Wigmore Hall, Princeton University Concerts, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, and with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. He also performs duo concerts with harpist Bridget Kibbey, and as a member of Owls, a new quartet collective with violist Ayane Kozasa, cellist Gabe Cabezas, and cellist-composer Paul Wiancko.

In 2021, Alexi released his first recording, Paul Wiancko's X Suite for Solo Violin, accompanied by a visual album that pairs each of the seven movements of X Suite with seven contemporary sculptures, filmed on location at the Donum Estate in Sonoma, California.

In recent seasons, Alexi has performed as soloist with the Detroit Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Sarasota Orchestra, Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, and in a play-conduct role as guest leader of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra. He has played recitals at Wigmore Hall, on Carnegie Hall's 'Distinctive Debuts' series, Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Phillips Collection, 92nd Street Y, Mecklenberg-Vorpommern Festival, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

Winner of the 2013 Concert Artists Guild Competition and laureate of the 2012 Menuhin Competition, Alexi has been profiled by Musical America, Strings Magazine, and The New York Times, and has written for The Strad.

Chamber music continues to be a major part of Alexi's life, performing at festivals including Bridgehampton, Caramoor, ChamberFest Cleveland, Chamber Music Northwest, Festival Napa Valley, La Jolla, Ojai, Kronberg, Music@Menlo, Ravinia, and Spoleto, as well as on tour with Musicians from Marlboro and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

Born in Palo Alto, California in 1994, Alexi is a graduate of the New England Conservatory in Boston, where he received his Artist Diploma as a student of Miriam Fried and Donald Weilerstein. Previous teachers include Wei He, Jenny Rudin, and Natasha Fong. He plays a violin made in London by Stefan-Peter Greiner in 2009 and a bow by François-Nicolas Voirin.

Outside of music, Alexi enjoys hojicha, bauhaus interiors, baking for friends, and walking for miles on end in whichever city he finds himself, listening to podcasts and Bach on repeat.

These supporters have made donations over the last 12 months.

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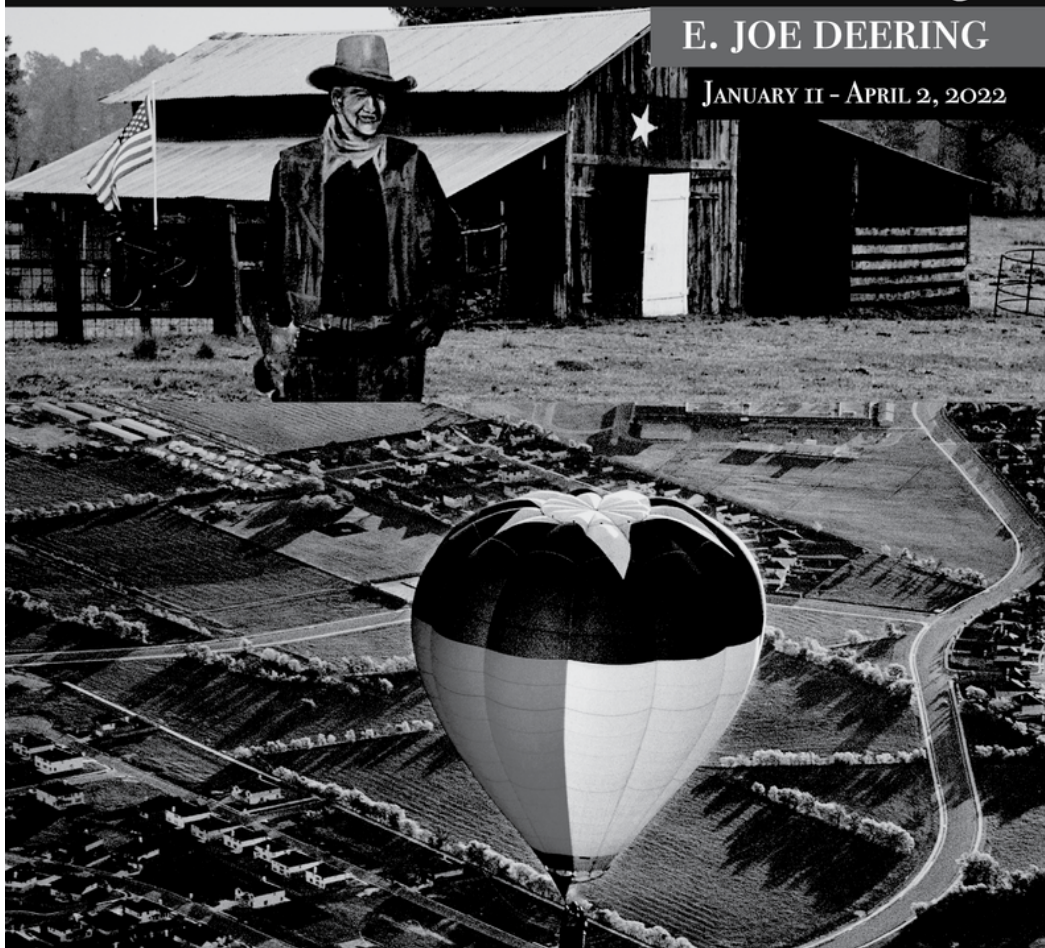
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FRI, April 1, 2022, 7:00pm **AROD QUARTET**
Jordan Victoria, *violin*; Alexandre Vu, *violin*
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(in collaboration with Friends of Chamber Music)

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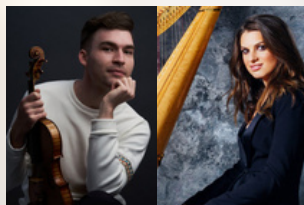
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Saturday, February 12, 2022, 5 pm

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BRIDGET KIBBEY, harp

ALEXI KENNEY, violin

COUNTERPOINT IN MOTION

J.S. Bach, C.P.E. Bach, Saint-Saëns, Falla



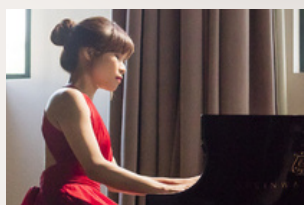
Friday, April 1, 2022, 7 pm

First Presbyterian Church

AROD STRING QUARTET (FRANCE)

MOZART, BARTÓK, RAVEL

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