A Tribute to Hans-Karl Piltz

Marina Thibeault viola

with David Gillham violin

Eric Wilson cello

Jasper Wood violin

Duo in B-flat major for violin and viola, K. 424

i. Adagio-Allegro
ii. Andante cantabile
iii. Tema con variazioni

David Gillham violin
Marina Thibeault viola

Lullaby and Grotesque for viola and cello

i. Lullaby
ii. Grotesque

Marina Thibeault viola
Eric Wilson cello

Three Madrigals

i. Poco allegro - Poco vivo
ii. Poco andante - Andante moderato
iii. Allegro - Moderato

Jasper Wood violin
Marina Thibeault viola

Composed: Mozart (1783); Clarke (1916); Martinů (1947)

We acknowledge that the University of British Columbia is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.
Professor Hans-Karl Piltz was a talented violist and teacher who helped shape the School of Music as it evolved from a small Bachelor of Arts program in the late 1950s to the large and thriving School it is today. He was 96 years old when he passed away this April.

Prof. Piltz loved teaching, and in 1959 joined the UBC Department of Music — as the School of Music was then known. As Professor of Viola, he mentored several generations of strings musicians who have gone on to long and successful careers in orchestras and as soloists in North America, Europe, and all over the world. He founded and directed the UBC Symphony Orchestra from 1959–1970 and also helped found the Vancouver Society for Early Music — now known as Early Music Vancouver — in 1969.

Prof. Piltz retired from UBC in 1991 at the age of 65 but remained very active as a musician and teacher in Vancouver. He played viola with the Pro Nova Ensemble, a chamber group, and performed many concerts every year at public schools across the Lower Mainland.

Even after he developed arthritis in both hands, Prof. Piltz continued to play the viola d’amore with a small group of gamba players. Well into his nineties, he kept himself busy arranging and adapting for the viola Late Renaissance and Romantic music written for other instruments. His goal, as he explained, was to create “a library of materials for violists that may help develop another marketable professional possibility. Of course, maybe more importantly, it adds another repertoire just for the violist’s pleasure in making music.”

Tribute from Marina Thibeault

“Hans-Karl Piltz and I met backstage after my UBC debut on October 9th 2019, where I performed in front of my new family, with my long-time friends and musical partners, pianist Philip Chiu and clarinetist Jean-François Normand. Prof Piltz and I immediately discussed string pedagogy & engagement and made plans for meeting soon again.

I was blessed with a polite knock on my office door from time to time and short visits from him in between lessons. These lovely encounters would automatically fill the next viola lesson or chamber music coaching with a tremendous amount of energy! I did not realise that my new friend was 96. He was driving to school, attending many concerts (sometimes during the day, sometimes in the evening, sometimes both in one day).”

Read more
BIOGRAPHIES

Marina Thibeault viola

Celebrated for her “deep rich sound, exceptional virtuosity, and enthusiasm,” violist Marina Thibeault travels the world as a sought-after soloist. Named Radio-Canada’s classical “Revelation” for 2016-2017, Marina has delighted audiences across Canada, the United States, and Europe with her elegant, spellbinding performances and engaging presence.

Thibeault has appeared internationally as a soloist with the North Czech Philharmonic, the Mariánské Lázně Symphony Orchestra, the Santiago Chamber Orchestra, as well as in recital at the Verbier festival and in Canada with the Orchestre Métropolitain, the Sinfonia Toronto, the Appassionata Chamber Orchestra, and the Drummondville Symphony, to mention a few. An avid chamber musician, Marina has collaborated with members of the Guarneri Quartet, the Cleveland Quartet, Charles-Richard Hamelin, Marie-Nicole Lemieux, and Johannes Moser, amongst other renowned chamber musicians. Her interest in new music has led her to work with composers such as John Corigliano, Joan Tower, and Krzysztof Penderecki.

David Gillham violin

David Gillham has an extensive solo and chamber music career, having performed throughout Asia, Europe, the Americas and South Africa. He has performed in major venues such as Tokyo’s Opera City and Bunka Kaiken Recital Halls, Baxter Concert Hall in Cape Town, SA and the Chicago Cultural Centre, as part of the prestigious Dame Myra Hess memorial concerts.

As an enthusiastic interpreter of chamber music, Gillham is currently a member of the Archytas Ensemble and the Ridge Piano Trio. He enjoyed extensive concertizing with the Arianna String Quartet as its second violinist from 2005-2012. In addition, he enjoys collaborating with musical personalities such as Johannes Moser, Noah Bendix-Balgley, James Dunham, Atar Arad, Anton Nel, Jose Franch Ballester, Jane Coop, and Robert Silverman to name just a few.
Eric Wilson *cello*

Eric Wilson was awarded the Bronze Medal (1971) in the Geneva International Competition and co-winner of the Morris Loeb Prize for Strings (1973) at the Juilliard School. Eric Wilson was solo cellist of the Ensemble of New York in residence at the Lincoln Centre, New York. He was also a founding member of the Emerson String Quartet that won in 1978 the prestigious Walter W. Naumberg competition Prize for Chamber Ensemble.

Wilson has performed with such eminent artists as Menahem Pressler and Walter Trampler and with the Boston Chamber Soloists, New York Chamber Soloists, Lyric Piano Quartet, Quartet Canada, Pro Arte Quartet and the Melos Quartet. As guest artist, Wilson has appeared at the Wolf Trap; Newport (R.I.); Katonah (N.Y.); Banff, Alberta; Scotia; Meadow Brook, and Vermont Mozart Festivals among others.

**Jasper Wood *violin***

Canadian violinist Jasper Wood has established a flourishing reputation as a soloist through his frequent performances with many of North America’s finest orchestras, in cities such as Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Buffalo, and throughout Europe. He has performed under the batons of Gregory Novak, George Cleve, Georg Tintner, Bramwell Tovey, and Miguel Harth-Bedoya. He has also toured extensively throughout the East Coast, including appearances with Debut Atlantic, Prairie Debut, and throughout Quebec under the auspices of Jeunesses Musicales Canada.

Wood has also garnered acclaim for his dazzling performances as a recitalist and chamber musician which have taken him to major cities worldwide. He has performed at important venues such as Dame Myra Hess (Chicago), Carnegie Weill Recital Hall (New York) and the Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts. Wood, originally from Moncton, New Brunswick, is equally committed to performing in Canada’s smaller communities, such as the Northwest Territories and other parts of northern Canada.
UPCOMING EVENTS
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Wed Oct 21
Roy Barnett Hall 10th Anniversary Celebration
Featuring Jane Coop piano
A special feature event celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Roy Barnett Recital Hall
Works by Bach and Rachmaninoff
12:00 noon, streaming release of prerecorded event at Barnett Hall
FREE, online only

Wed Oct 28
Wednesday Noon Hours — Winner of the 43rd Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition
Brittany Rae soprano  Jesse Plessis piano
Featuring the competition commissioned work Han Kang: Lost in Translation
by Gordon Fitzell
12:00 pm, streaming live from the location of the competition winner
FREE, online only

Wed Nov 4
Wednesday Noon Hours — Introducing Krisztina Szabó, our new faculty member
Krisztina Szabó mezzo-soprano  Leslie Dala piano
Wagner Wesendonck Lieder
Jeffrey Ryan Miss Carr in Seven Scenes
12:00 noon, streaming live from the Chan Centre
FREE, online only

For further details and a complete list of events, please visit: music.ubc.ca/calendar or call 604.822.5574.

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