Art Seminar Group

Evan Drachman, cello

Doris Stevenson, piano

Sonata for ‘cello and piano’ in F Major Op. 99 Johannes Brahms

 Allegro vivace (1833-1897)

 Adagio affettuoso

 Allegro passionato

 Allegro molto

***Cellist* Evan Drachman**, Founder and Artistic Director of The Piatigorsky Foundation, has combined musical talent with artistic vision to create a rich and varied career. Mr. Drachman spends much of his time performing recitals, concerti and chamber music in the United States and abroad. As Artistic Director of The Piatigorsky Foundation, he has become one of this country’s most respected authorities on the presentation of live classical music to diverse audiences. The Foundation’s mission is to make live classical music a part of the fabric of everyday life for underserved communities throughout the United States. The organization is named for Mr. Drachman’s grandfather, cellist Gregor Piatigorsky.

Mr. Drachman received his BMA from The Curtis Institute of Music in 1988. His teachers have included Luis Garcia-Renart, Orlando Cole, Laurence Lesser, William Pleeth and Stephen Kates. In 1994, Mr. Drachman performed with the Odessa Philharmonic in Odessa and Kiev. In 1997, at the invitation of Mstislav Rostropovich, Drachman traveled to Russia to perform as soloist with the St. Petersburg Symphony under Maestro Rostropovich.

In 1999, Drachman recorded his first CD, *A Frog He Went a Courting,*with pianist Richard Dowling. The *Baltimore Sun’s* Steven Wigler wrote of the recording: “Drachman possesses in abundance two qualities for which his grandfather was revered: the ability to make the cello imitate the human singing voice and, even more important, the ability to tell a story.” Following this success, Drachman and Dowling released two more recordings titled, *Infinity*in 2004 and *Romance and Revelation* in 2007. In 2012 Evan Drachman released *Full Circle* with pianist Victor Santiago Asuncion. This is their latest recording.
Evan Drachman currently lives in Maryland with his wife Joan and their two sons, Eli and Oliver.

***Pianist* Doris Stevenson** has won lavish praise from critics and public alike in performances around the world. She has soloed with the Boston Pops, played at Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Salle Pleyel in Paris and Suntory Hall in Tokyo. Her acute sensitivity and profound musicality have made her a sought-after partner with some of the leading lights in string playing. She has performed with Gregor Piatigorsky, Ruggiero Ricci and Paul Tortelier, great players of the past. Early in her career, she was invited to play with Heifetz and Piatigorsky together. She was pianist for the cello master classes of Gregor Piatigorsky, who described her as "an artist of the highest order." She is a founding member of the Sitka Summer Music Festival in Alaska and has participated in many other chamber music festivals, including the Grand Canyon Festival, Steamboat Springs in the Mountains, Park City International Festival and Chamber Music/L.A.

Her recordings include the Saint Saens violin sonatas with Andres Cardenes on the Arabesque label and the complete Mendelssohn cello works with Jeffrey Solow for Centaur, as well as three CDs with cellist Nathaniel Rosen: the Brahms Sonatas for JMR records, plus two albums of romantic pieces entitled "Reverie" and "Orientale" for Northstar. A recent Stravinsky CD with violinist Mark Peskanov received a Grammy nomination. Miss Stevenson taught for ten years at the University of Southern California and has been Artist in Residence at Williams College since 1987.

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