



Western
Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

**FRIDAYS AT 12:30 SERIES
MUSICIANS FROM MARLBORO**

Friday, November 14, 2025
12:30 p.m., von Kuster Hall and [via livestream](#)

Phantasy, Op. 2 (1932)

Benjamin Britten
(1913-1976)

Donovan Bown, *oboe*
Itamar Zorman, *violin*
Hiroki Kasai, *viola*
Oliver Herbert, *cello*

44 Duos for Two Violins, Sz. 98 (1931): *Selections*

Béla Bartók
(1881-1945)

- 5. Tót nóta (Slovakian Song) [1]
- 16. Burleszk (Burlesque)
- 26. "Ugyan édes komámasszony..." (Teasing Song)
- 10. Rutén nóta (Ruthenian Song)
- 22. Szunyogtánc (Mosquito Dance)
- 34. Számláló nóta (Enumerating Song)
- 42. Arab dal (Arabian Song)
- 28. Bánkódás (Sorrow)
- 43. Pizzicato
- 44. "Erdélyi" tánc (Transylvanian Dance)

Clara Neubauer, *violin*
Itamar Zorman, *violin*

INTERMISSION

String Quintet in A Major, Op. 18 (1826; rev. 1832)

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy
(1809-1847)

Allegro con moto
Intermezzo: Andante sostenuto
Scherzo: Allegro di molto
Allegro vivace

Itamar Zorman, *violin*
Clara Neubauer, *violin*
Sharon Wei, *viola*
Hiroki Kasai, *viola*
Oliver Herbert, *cello*

This concert is generously supported by [Serenata Music](#) (Renee Silberman and Ted Medzon)

THE ARTISTS

The **Musicians from Marlboro** touring program was created as an extension of Vermont's Marlboro Music Festival, founded in 1951. Musicians from Marlboro tours are noted not only for their joyous performances but also for offering valuable touring experience to artists at the beginning of their careers and touring with unusual chamber repertoire. Since their inception, the Musicians from Marlboro tours have introduced such great talents as Richard Goode, Yefim Bronfman, Jaime Laredo, Murray Perahia, Paula Robison, Sir Andrés Schiff, Peter Serkin, Richard Stoltzman, and Benita Valente. They have also featured other exceptional artists now heard in the Emerson, Juilliard, Takács, and Dover Quartets and Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio. In the words of the Washington Post, "Musicians from Marlboro is a virtual guarantee of musical excellence!"

Donovan Bown, oboe, began oboe studies with Mary Lynch VanderKolk in his hometown of Seattle. He then earned a Bachelor's degree at Indiana University as a student of Linda Strommen, and a Master's Degree in the studio of John Ferrillo at the New England Conservatory, where he was recipient of a Dean's Scholarship. He has performed as Guest Principal Oboe for Boston Opera Collective, for the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, for the Evansville Philharmonic, and substitute oboe and English horn for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. In addition to Marlboro, Bown has participated in the Aspen Music Festival, where he was recipient of the Allen and Kelli Questrom Foundation Scholarship, the Chautauqua Festival, and the Hidden Valley Oboe Institute. While an undergraduate at Indiana University, he was a finalist in the University Woodwind competition.

Clara Neubauer, violin, is establishing herself as a deeply expressive and authentic artist. She is a recipient of the Kovner Fellowship from the Juilliard School as well as winner of the Peter Mennin Prize for Outstanding Achievement and Leadership in Music. Neubauer received the Ana Chumachenco Award at the Kronberg Academy Masterclasses and was chosen to perform as soloist with the Württemberg Chamber Orchestra Heilbronn. She received her BM from The Juilliard School as a student of Li Lin and Itzhak Perlman, and is currently pursuing her MM as a student of Catherine Cho and Itzhak Perlman. Neubauer has appeared at festivals across North America, including Marlboro, Ravinia Festival, Taos School of Music, Four Seasons Winter Workshop, Music from Angel Fire, Perlman Music Program, Music@Menlo, and Olympic Music Festival. Recent highlights include appearances with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Tippet Rise Art Center, Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players, Four Seasons Festival, and Perlman Music Program. She has collaborated with artists including Mitsuko Uchida, Christoph Richter, Don Weilerstein, Alexi Kenney, Frans Helmerson, Misha Amory, Nina Lee, Daniel Phillips, and the Dover Quartet.

Itamar Zorman, violin, is regarded as a singularly soulful and evocative artist. Acclaimed for his emotionally gripping performances and gift for musical storytelling, he is the recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant and a Borletti-Buitoni Trust award and was also a laureate of the 2011 International Tchaikovsky Competition. Zorman has given recitals at Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Louvre Recital Series in Paris, the Laeishalle Hamburg, Muziekgebouw Frits Philips in Eindhoven, the HR-Sendesaal Frankfurt, and the Kolarac Hall in Belgrade. A committed chamber player, he has led the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and play-directed Camerata Nordica. He is a founding member of the Israeli Chamber Project and a member of the Lysander Piano Trio, with which he won the 2012 Concert Artists Guild Competition. Born in Tel Aviv to a family of musicians, Zorman is a graduate of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, the Juilliard School, where he studied with Robert Mann and Sylvia Rosenberg, and the Manhattan School of Music. He is also an alumnus of the Kronberg Academy where he studied with Christian Tetzlaff. Zorman is currently on faculty at the Eastman School of Music. He plays on a 1734 Guarneri del Gesù, from the collection of Yehuda Zisapel.

Hiroki Kasai, viola, has been performing extensively on violin and viola across Europe, Asia, Australia, and the United States. He has performed in such prestigious venues as the Elbphilharmonie, Carnegie Hall, Suntory Hall, Lincoln Center, and Barbican Center and at music festivals such as the Beethovenfest Bonn,

Pacific, Pablo Casals, Schleswig-Holstein, and Gstaad Menuhin Festivals. Kasai graduated from the Royal Academy of Music in 2021, studying under the tutelage of Rodney Friend. He continued his studies on the violin at the International Menuhin Music Academy. Beginning in 2023, he studied viola at the Escuela Superior de Musica Reina Sofia in Madrid with Nobuko Imai. Kasai has appeared as a chamber musician at prominent music festivals such as Marlboro, Pacific, Prussia Cove, Schleswig-Holstein, and Gstaad Menuhin, and collaborated with Midori, Lawrence Power, Thomas Riebl, Sayaka Shoji, Ivan Monighetti, and Christoph Richter, among others. He is a scholar of the Seiji Ozawa Academy Switzerland and the Villa Musica Rheinland Pfalz.

Oliver Herbert, cello, is a concert artist with a rapidly growing international presence. The recipient of a 2021 Avery Fisher Career Grant, he is acclaimed for his natural musicianship and connective performances. As a soloist, Herbert has appeared with world-renowned orchestras such as the San Francisco Symphony and Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and he appears regularly at leading chamber music festivals and venues such as the Rheingau Festival, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, La Jolla SummerFest, Verbier Festival, ChamberFest Cleveland, 92nd Street Y, and the Ravinia Festival. He is the recipient of the 2017 Verbier Festival's Jean-Nicolas Firmenich Prize, as well as top prizes in the Lutoslawski International Cello Competition, Klein Competition, and Stulberg Competition. Herbert is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and the Colburn School, where he studied with Carter Brey, Pamela Frank, Clive Greensmith, and Peter Wiley. He is now a student of Frans Helmerson in the professional studies program at the Kronberg Academy, generously funded by the Nanno Lenz patronage. He plays on a Guadagnini cello that belonged to the great Italian cellist Antonio Janigro, on generous loan from the Janigro family.

Joining MfM today is Canadian violist **Sharon Wei**, Associate Professor at Western University, a dynamic and multifaceted artist, recognized for her excellence as a performer, educator, and dedicated contributor to Canada's musical landscape. She has appeared as soloist with orchestras including Symphony of the Redwoods, Kingston Symphony, Sinfonia Toronto, Thunder Bay Symphony, and London Symphonia, where she premiered Richard Mascall's Ziigwan concerto with Indigenous Elder John Rice and conductor Tania Miller. This season, she premieres a new viola concerto by Canadian composer Saman Shahi with the Obiora Ensemble in Montreal. Sharon is the violist of the acclaimed New Orford String Quartet, comprising principal players from the Toronto and Montreal Symphonies. The quartet is deeply committed to highlighting Canadian compositions through frequent commissions and performances of works by Ian Cusson, Ana Sokolović, Dinuk Wijeratne, Dean Burry, Samy Moussa, Marjan Mozetich, and Kelly-Marie Murphy. Their extensive touring across Canada includes performances from Yukon to PEI, along with residencies at Mount Royal University, Western University, the Isabel Bader Centre, and Toronto Summer Music.

Marlboro Music's summer concerts in Vermont take place from mid-July through mid-August on the Potash Hill campus in Marlboro, VT. You can receive live concert recordings and program information when you sign up for Marlboro's monthly e-newsletter at marlboromusic.org.

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