

Upcoming Events of the Seventy-Sixth Season of The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lamot Belin Concerts

Unless otherwise noted, all programs take place in the West Building, West Garden Court.

Heinavanker Ensemble
Featuring ancient Estonian songs and folk hymns
Celebrating *Michel Sittow: Estonian Painter at the Courts of Renaissance Europe*
April 8, 3:30

Tamagawa University Taiko
Drummers and Dancers
April 13, 12:10
East Building Atrium

Fretwork
Featuring music by Alexander Goehr and J. S. Bach
April 15, 3:30

Inscape Chamber Orchestra
Featuring Saint-Saëns's *Carnival of the Animals*, with new verses by Marc Bamuthi Joseph, and Mahler's Symphony no. 4, chamber version
April 22, 3:30

The Westerlies
The Songs We Sang: American Vocal Music of the 20th Century
In celebration of International Jazz Day, the Westerlies premiere a quartet of pieces by Duke Ellington adapted for brass quartet.
April 29, 3:30

Julia Bullock, soprano
John Arida, piano
Music by Schubert, Barber, Fauré, and more
May 6, 3:30

Ranky Tanky
Celebrating *Outliers and American Vanguard Art*
May 13, 3:30

Christina and Michelle Naughton
Piano music by Mozart, Schubert, Bolcom, Bach / Kurtág, Debussy, Chopin, and Lutosławski
May 20, 3:30

Admission to the National Gallery of Art and all of its programs is free of charge, except as noted.

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that all portable electronic devices are turned off.

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Cover Arthur L. Flory, *Blossoms* (detail), 1962, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Rosenwald Collection

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76TH SEASON OF CONCERTS

APRIL 1, 2018 / NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART





Richard Stoltzman and Mika Stoltzman. Photo by Lisa Marie Mazzucco

Program

Richard Stoltzman, clarinet
Mika Stoltzman, marimba

Duo Cantando

APRIL 1, 2018 / 3:30
WEST BUILDING, WEST GARDEN COURT

Bill Douglas (b. 1944)
Irish Spirit

Bill Douglas
Diamond Dance
Waltz Cantando

William Thomas McKinley (1938–2015)
Selections from *Mostly Blues*

Toru Takemitsu (1930–1996)
Air

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
Chromatic Fantasy
Arr. Richard Stoltzman
Richard Stoltzman, clarinet

Richard Stoltzman, clarinet

Toru Takemitsu
Wings
arr. Bob Becker

John Zorn (b. 1953)
The Nymphs
Mika Stoltzman, marimba

John Zorn
Palimpsest

Chick Corea (b. 1941)
Sea Journey Impressions
Arr. Tim Garland

Maurice Ravel (1875–1937)
Pavane pour une infante défunte
Arr. Mika Stoltzman and
Richard Stoltzman

Intermission

Igor Stravinsky (1882–1971)
Three Pieces for Solo Clarinet
Richard Stoltzman, clarinet

Program subject to change.

The Musicians

RICHARD STOLTZMAN

Richard Stoltzman's musicianship and personal magnetism have made him one of today's most sought-after concert artists. As a soloist, he has performed with more than one hundred orchestras; he is a two-time Grammy winner, an innovative jazz artist, and a prolific recording artist, known to dazzle critics and audiences with his virtuosity in many musical genres.

A graduate of Ohio State University, with a double major in music and mathematics, Richard earned his master of music degree at Yale University, studying with Keith Wilson. Later he worked toward a doctorate degree with Kalmen Opperman at Columbia University. As a ten-year participant in the Marlboro Music Festival, Richard gained extensive chamber music experience and subsequently became a founding member of the noted ensemble TASHI, which made its debut in 1973.

Richard gave the first solo clarinet recitals for the Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall, and he became the first wind player to win the Avery Fisher Prize. He was featured in the International Emmy-winning series *Concerto!*, with Dudley Moore and Michael Tilson Thomas, and was given the prestigious Sanford Medal by the Yale School of Music. As both a jazz and classical artist, Richard has performed or recorded with such jazz and pop greats as Gary Burton, the Canadian Brass, Chick Corea, Judy Collins, Steve Gadd, Eddie Gomez, Keith Jarrett, the King's Singers, Mike Manieri, George Shearing, Wayne Shorter, Mel Tormé, Kazumi Watanabe, and Jeremy Wall, the founder of Spyro Gyra.

Richard's commitment to new music has resulted in the commissioning and premiere of numerous new works for the clarinet, including *Fantasma/Cantos*, by Toru Takemitsu; *Landscapes with Blues*, by Stephen Hartke; a concerto by Einojuhani Rautavaara; *TRIO 2009*, written by Yehudi Wyner for Richard, cellist Lynn Harrell, and pianist Robert Levin; and *Marika Groove*, written by Chick Corea for Richard and his wife, marimbist Mika Stoltzman. The piece premiered with Eddie Gomez and Steve Gadd at Carnegie Hall.

Richard's discography includes more than eighty releases on BMG/RCA, SONY Classical, MMC, BIS, Albany, and other labels, including a Grammy-winning recording of the Brahms Sonatas with Richard Goode. In 2017, Richard released *Duo Cantando* with Mika Stoltzman on marimba (Savoy/Denon).

MIKA STOLTZMAN

Originally from Amakusa Island in southern Japan, Mika Stoltzman was born into a family steeped in music and culture. Her grandparents played the biwa and shamisen—traditional Japanese instruments—and her aunt taught piano. At age three, Mika began piano studies and later joined her school brass bands. It was there that her fascination with drums began. Later, while attending a local music college, she discovered the marimba and it seemed a perfect combination of her earlier training on piano and the drums. A lifelong love for the instrument began.

Following graduation, Mika studied with the Canadian percussion ensemble NEXUS and attended a music performance program at the University of Toronto. She launched her career with debuts in Tokyo and New York and produced her first music festival in her hometown in 2005. An ardent admirer of clarinetist Richard Stoltzman, she invited him to perform at her 2008 festival. Over the succeeding years, their continued collaboration resulted in performances throughout the world, as well as their marriage in 2012. In 2017, they released the album *Duo Cantando*, produced by Stephen Epstein and featuring guest artist Chick Corea and the Boston Modern Orchestra.

Described as a “high-wire jazz marimbist...an amazing, energetic performer” (*LA Times*), Mika has performed at numerous prestigious venues: seven times at Carnegie Hall; the 2005 and 2007 Percussive Arts Society International Conventions; the Cairo Jazz Festival; and several appearances at the Blue Note in Tokyo and Nagoya. In Japan, she premiered works with the Kyushu Symphony and the Kumamoto Symphony Orchestras and has been a guest soloist with the Krakow Philharmonic (Poland), the Szombathely Symphony Orchestra (Hungary), and the Xalapa Symphony Orchestra (Mexico). Under the name Mikarimba, she performed before a sold-out audience at the 2015 Rockport Jazz Festival in Massachusetts, with legendary drummer Steve Gadd.

Mika released her first album titled *Mitsue* in 1998, followed by *Marimba Phase* in 2003. She recorded a live DVD, *Marimba Madness*, in 2010, with Steve Gadd, bassist Eddie Gomez, and pianist Peter John Stoltzman. Gadd subsequently produced her two albums *Mikarimba* (Video Art Music, Japan), which again featured Gomez, and *If You Believe* (TeeGa Music, Japan). Her arrangement and performance of *Tokyo/Vermont Counterpoint* is included on Steve Reich's album *Triple Quartet* (Nonesuch). She has also performed on Richard Stoltzman's album *Goldberg Variations* (BMG Japan) and Jo Hisaishi's *Asian XTC* (Universal Japan).

Program Notes

The program's title—*Duo Cantando*—means “singing duo” and is taken from the musicians' affinity for the composition *Waltz Cantando*, featured today. When asked exactly what singing means to instrumentalists, Richard Stoltzman says, “It is joy and sorrow. Also a delight in innocent sounds.” Mika Stoltzman adds, “I often tell Richard we want to play like singing. It's hard to play marimba, a percussion instrument, like singing. It is an eternal challenge, a vision also. Richard is an expert in that style—I'm learning day by day.”

Richard's close association with composer Bill Douglas reaches back to their college days. “Bill was in my class at Yale School of Music, a bassoon player, and we used to play together a lot as a duo. I understand jazz chord progressions, but I learned how to improvise and use modal jazz from him. I owe him for being able to create works transcending the traditional genre. He also could make invaluable and challenging suggestions like ‘let's make it more poignant,’” Richard recalls. Featured today are three works by Douglas: *Irish Spirit*, *Diamond Dance*, and *Waltz Cantando*. According to Mika, Douglas wrote his first commission for the duo in 2000, and “he would always offer us a new piece he was happy with, as our best friend. This [*Diamond Dance*] was music he freshly wrote.”

Mostly Blues was composed by William Thomas McKinley—also a Yale classmate of Richard's and a close composer friend. “When I asked him to write a short piece for Mika and me, he sent me this *Mostly Blues* after one month, consisting of twenty-two movements! The pieces seem simple, but each one is cleverly connected to the basic blues scale with its flat third and follows Mika's request to have a groove!” says Richard.

Throughout the years, the Stoltzman duo has maintained a deep friendship with legendary composer and pianist Chick Corea. In a 2013 Carnegie Hall performance, they paid tribute to his legacy by featuring six of Corea's compositions—including one world premiere—on the program. This mutual collaboration resulted in the inclusion of Corea's *Sea Journey Improvisation*—improvisations based on his original work *Sea Journey*—on the *Duo Cantando* album that was performed with the duo and the composer. Tim Garland, in his arrangement of *Sea Journey Impressions* for marimba and clarinet duo, is also centered on this original piece by Corea.

John Zorn, a remarkable composer and saxophonist in the contemporary music world, wrote *The Nymphs* at Mika's request in 2012. “He sent me this score in three months. Then I came to New York and he gave me two fantastic coachings!” recalls Mika. Written in two parts, the mysterious character of the first half features circular sounds, with the second half full of excitement, acceleration, and brilliance. The Stoltzmans premiered one of Zorn's newest compositions for the duo, *Palimpsest*, at Carnegie Hall in 2017.

Throughout his career, Richard's cross-genre musical activities have been credited with breaking through the wall that existed between classical and popular music until the 1980s. It may be more accurate to say he “built a bridge,” especially through his fresh, novel take on classical masterworks, as evidenced in J.S. Bach's *Chromatic Fantasy* for solo clarinet to collaborations with Mika in Ravel's *Pavane pour une infante défunte*, on today's program.

Program notes adapted from liner notes by Yo Nakagawa for the Stoltzmans' *Duo Cantando* album, 2017.