

THE SCARSDALE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
CONCERT SERIES  
PRESENTS



THE POLARIS PIANO TRIO

Laura Kobayashi, violin  
Kenneth Law, cello  
Stephen Buck, piano

May 20, 2018  
5:00 p.m.  
with a Reception following

## PROGRAM

*D'un matin de Printemps for Piano Trio* (1917-18)

Lili Boulanger  
(1893-1918)

*Nocturne in E-Flat Major for Piano, Violin and Cello, D.897, Op.148* (pub.1846)

Franz Schubert  
(1797-1828)

*5 Negro Melodies for Piano Trio, Op.59, No.1* (n.d.)

Samuel Coleridge Taylor  
(1875-1912)

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child

I was way down a yonder

Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel

They will not lend me a child

My Lord delivered Daniel

## INTERMISSION

*Trio for Violin, Cello and Piano in e minor, Op.45* (1857)

Louise Farrenc  
(1804-1875)

Allegro deciso-Più moderato ed espressivo

Andante

Scherzo: Vivace

Finale: Presto

## Biographies

The members of the Polaris Piano Trio are friends whose collective musical collaboration spans more than 20 years. Individually they have performed in venues including The Kennedy Center, Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, the National Museum of Women in the Arts (Wash., D.C.), and Gindi Auditorium (Los Angeles) as well as overseas in the European Union, England, Russia, Panama and Puerto Rico. Combining their forces, the Polaris Piano Trio performs innovative programs that explore works by women and composers of African descent from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century through the present.

**Violinist Laura Kobayashi** leads a varied career as a performer and pedagogue. She has participated in numerous music festivals in the United States, Puerto Rico, Norway, Argentina, and Brazil and has appeared as a soloist with the Seattle, Spokane, and Grand Junction Symphonies, the Northwest Chamber Orchestra, the Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra, the Salta Chamber Orchestra in Salta, Argentina and the Chiang Rai Youth Orchestra in Chiang Rai, Thailand. With her duo partner/pianist, Susan Keith Gray, she has performed abroad in the countries of Thailand, South Africa, Norway, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, and Brazil, and on the islands of Trinidad and St. Lucia where the Duo presented guest artist master classes, workshops and clinics in all of those countries. In addition, the Duo actively performs throughout the United States. Dr. Kobayashi has also collaborated with Dr. Gray on several projects including the recording of two compact discs of music by women composers for the Albany Records label which have been broadcast on national public radio throughout North America as well as in Europe and have received rave reviews from *The Strad* magazine, *Strings* magazine and *Fanfare* magazine and has edited for publication a violin sonata by 19th Century French composer Marie Grandval for Hildegard Publishing Company.

In addition to performing with her duo partner/pianist, Dr. Kobayashi also performs as a member of the Main Street Chamber Players (Fairfax, VA) and is a founding member of the Main Street Music Studios in Fairfax, VA. She has been honored as a recipient of several awards in her career, including the 2012 VASTA (Virginia State Chapter of ASTA) Outstanding String Teacher Award and the “Excellence in Teaching” Award by the Division of Music and College of Creative Arts at West Virginia University. Her past teaching positions include serving on the faculties at West Virginia University, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, the University of Georgia and the University of Nebraska at Omaha, as well as performing as a member of the second violin section in the San Francisco Opera Orchestra.

Dr. Kobayashi studied violin with Dorothy DeLay, Paul Kantor, Andrew Jennings and Denes Zsigmondy and has performed in the master classes of Nathan Milstein, Arthur Grumiaux, Ruggiero Ricci and Gyorgy Pauk. Chamber music studies have been with members of the Juilliard, Tokyo and American String Quartets as well as with collaborative pianists, Robert McDonald and Samuel Sanders. Dr. Kobayashi earned degrees from The Juilliard School and Yale University and the Doctor of Musical Arts from The University of Michigan.

**Cellist, Kenneth Law**, enjoys a diverse career as performer, teacher and author. In addition to being a founding member of the Main Street Music Studios and Main Street Chamber Players in Fairfax, VA, he is also a member of the Ritz Chamber Players. He has performed internationally as soloist and recitalist, including appearances at the Arts Club of Washington (D.C.) and German Embassy, the Kennedy Center’s Terrace Theater, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Jazz at Lincoln Center Concert Series, and Alice Tully Hall in New York City. Mr. Law has also performed in England, France, Scotland, Panama and Puerto Rico as a member of the Converse Trio. He has collaborated with such artists as Earl Carlyss (Juilliard String Quartet), Michael Tree (Guarneri String Quartet), Ying String Quartet, Norman Carroll (Concertmaster Emeritus, Philadelphia Orchestra) and violinist Diane Monroe and has recorded orchestral and chamber music for Albany Records and the New Albion and Telarc labels.

(continued on next page)

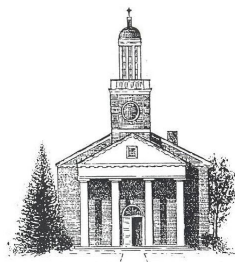
A recipient of the 2010 South Carolina ASTA Studio Teacher of the Year Award, Mr. Law's students have been accepted to the Eastman School of Music, Cleveland Institute of Music, Peabody and Oberlin Conservatories, Indiana University (Bloomington), Florida State University, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Catholic University, University of South Carolina, University of North Carolina School of the Arts and other respected Schools of Music throughout the Southeast.

Mr. Law's degrees and diplomas are from the Eastman School of Music, Cleveland Institute of Music, Peabody Conservatory and The Juilliard School. His summer faculty appointments have included the Summit Music Festival, Vienna (VA) Summer Strings, Five Seasons Chamber Music Festival and the Colour of Music Festival in Charleston, SC.

**Stephen Buck, pianist**, is in demand as a performer, chamber musician, pedagogue and musical entrepreneur. Dr. Buck made his Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall debut through Artists International in New York, and is currently serving as Coordinator of Academic Studies at the SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Music. Active throughout the United States and Europe, Dr. Buck received his doctoral degree from Yale University School of Music. Recent performance highlights have included a wide range of repertoire and venues, including three concertos in one evening with the Orquesta Juvenil de Caracas and pianist Vanessa Perez in Venezuela; a chamber opera by Huang Ruo at the Guggenheim Museum in New York; Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*, Stravinsky's *Concerto for Piano and Winds* and Laura Kaminsky's *Piano Concerto* at Purchase College; an appearance on Vanessa Perez' release for the Steinway label of works by Debussy and de Falla; and recordings for the Innova and Naxos labels of works by Huang Ruo; and performances with actor Bill Murray, cellist Jan Vogler, and violinist Mira Wang.

An avid chamber musician and collaborative pianist, Dr. Buck taught and performed for several summers at the Adriatic Chamber Music Festival in southern Italy. In 2006 he co-founded the AlpenKammerMusik Festival in Austria, an intensive 11-day course for musicians of all ages. His interest in new music led him to perform with F.I.R.E, a New-York based contemporary music ensemble, while his work with the Polaris Trio explores 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century repertoire. Dr. Buck moved back to New York City after teaching piano and music history at the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. Prior to moving to South Carolina, he completed a Teaching Fellowship at Yale University, where he earned his Master of Musical Arts in 2001 studying with Peter Frankl. While at Yale, he won the Woolsey Hall Concerto Competition, performing Ravel's *Concerto for the Left Hand*.

Dr. Buck received a Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan, studying with Anton Nel, where he won Second Prize at the 1998 Isabel Scionti Competition, the university's Concerto Competition with the Barber Piano Concerto, and received the Stockwell Memorial Scholarship. He also served on the faculty of the Orchard Lake School of Music. Dr. Buck graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Johns Hopkins University in 1995, where he studied with Ann Schein at Peabody Conservatory.



Scarsdale Congregational Church

*An Open and Affirming Church – Warmly Welcoming All of God's Children*

