

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
MUSIC DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS

SENIOR RECITAL

CHRISTINA VALDEZ, PIANO

WITH

TREY LEVIJOKI, VIOLIN
HANNAH VENABLE, VIOLIN
KARENA QIAN, VIOLA
MARINA LAWSON, CELLO
SARAH KUANG, PIANO

APRIL 30TH, 2026, 7:30 PM

NICKERSON STUDIOS

PROGRAM

Concerto for Harpsichord and Strings in G minor Wilhelmine von Bayreuth
I. Allegro 1709—1758

With Trey Levijoki, violinist; Hannah Venable, violinist; Karena Qian, violist; and Marina Lamson, cellist

Piano Sonata in F Minor, Op. 5 No. 3 Helene de Montgeroult
I. Allegro spiritoso 1764—1836
II. Adagio non troppo
III. Presto

Intermission

Mazurka No. 5 in G Major Clara Schumann
1819—1906

Op. 6, No. 1: Andante espressivo Fanny Mendelssohn
1805—1847

Op. 34: Un reve en mer Teresa Carreño
1853—1917

Rondo in E Minor Lucrecia Kasilag
1918—2008

Three Fantastic Variations on Lilliburlero Madeleine Dring
I. Allegro 1923—1977
II. Andante
III. Allegro brightly

With Sarah Kuang, pianist

About the Program: The pieces you will hear tonight are a tiny selection of the vast library of works by female composers throughout classical history. Many of these artists, though recognized for their talent in their time, have had their legacies overshadowed by their contemporaries. Their compositions tell stories rooted in creativity and a love of music unbounded by society. I tried to represent a variety of musical styles and inspirations, but there are so many others I wish I could share with you. Thank you for listening!

ABOUT THE MUSICIANS

Christina Valdez is a senior pursuing degrees in Physiology and Honors Liberal Arts, with a chemistry minor. She has studied piano since elementary school from teachers including Heidi Faulk, Benjamin Fowler, Jamie Namkung, and Leslie Martin. She currently studies under Dr. Dainius Vaicekonis. She has participated in masterclasses, performed in several student recitals, and she earned 3rd place in the SPU Solo Competition in 2024. After graduation, Christina plans to apply to medical school with the goal of becoming a physician.

Trey Levijoki is a first year Nursing major who has been playing the violin for 8 years and taking private lessons for 5. He has participated in various groups, such as the LCRMEA Honor Orchestra for 3 years, 2 years at the Kennedy Violins Summer camp, and participated in the VSO Youth Virtuosi. He loves playing chamber music and making new friends through music.

Hannah Venable is a senior majoring in business administration and honors liberal arts with a minor in sociology. She plays violin and has since the age of 6 when she started lessons. Hannah has always loved music and especially enjoys playing Christmas music with her family every year!

Karena Qian is a 2024 SPU alumna and an M.S. AI student at UT Austin. She has studied piano for 17 years and violin for 15, and also plays viola, saxophone, and organ. Her mentors include Ilkka Talvi, Leslie Martin, and Dr. Dainius Vaicekonis. She has participated in numerous festivals and competitions, earning 1st place in piano and 2nd in violin at SPU's 2022–23 Music Competition. Karena has held leadership roles in ensembles such as SYSO and SPU's string orchestra. She continues piano studies with Dr. Vaicekonis and serves as a pianist and violinist/violist on her church's worship team.

Marina Lawson is a post-baccalaureate student at SPU. She has always gravitated towards music, starting on the piano at age seven and later transitioning to the highland bagpipe. Competing in both solo and band categories, Marina has won awards in Oregon, Washington, California, and British Columbia. In 2001 Marina earned the opportunity to compete at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, Scotland. Marina has found her musical home in the cello, which she has been playing for six years.

Sarah Kuang is a second year here at SPU and is majoring in Accounting. She has been playing piano for over 10 years and enjoys music. Outside of school and piano, she enjoys baking and arts and crafts.

ABOUT THE COMPOSERS

Wilhelmine von Bayreuth was a princess of Prussia who composed pieces for harpsichord, flute and opera. She lived in the same time period as J.S. Bach.

Helene de Montgeroult has been described as a bridge between Mozart and Chopin, as her compositions incorporate elements used by both composers in the late Classical/early Romantic period. She was the first female piano professor hired at the Paris Conservatory of Music, and her greatest work, 114 Etudes Progressives, was an inspiration for many composers after her.

Clara Schumann was recognized as a brilliant pianist and helped set the cultural standard of performing solo pieces from memory. She was also a prolific composer, creating over 60 works for piano and/or orchestra during her life.

Fanny Mendelssohn is said to have composed over 450 works, some of which are still being discovered or were misattributed to her brother, Felix (SPU alum Lisa Kuang performed her recently-uncovered “Easter Sonata” in 2023!). She is known for her talent in writing emotion into her compositions.

Teresa Carreño was an internationally renowned pianist/opera singer and was called the “Valkyrie of the Piano” by her audiences. She grew up in Venezuela before emigrating to the US in 1952. She performed across Europe, the US, and in Venezuela (among other places), known for her masterful technique and spirited playing. She composed about 75 works during her lifetime.

Lucrecia Kasilag was a Filipino composer and pianist known for incorporating elements of folklore into her work. She has written folk, opera, and orchestral music, and she founded the Bayanihan Folk Arts Center in the Philippines.

Madeleine Dring was an English composer, singer, and actress. She is the only composer in this set to have written specifically for radio and television! She composed for a variety of instruments, including piano, voice, and oboe.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Special thanks to the Nickerson House and Tech Team

