

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
MUSIC DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS

JUNIOR RECITAL

EMILY AIDA ABSHERE, OBOE

WITH

ASTA VAIČEKONIS, PIANO

NICKERSON STUDIOS
FRIDAY MARCH 8, 2024 | 7:30 P.M.

PROGRAM

Lamento

Luciano Correa

Violin Sonata in g minor, HWV 364

George Frideric Handel

I. *Larghetto*

(1685-1759)

II. *Allegro*

Asta Vaicekonis, piano

Birdland

Joe Zawinul (1932-2007)

arr. Zdenko Ivanovic

Alejandra Castaneda, soprano sax

Derek Easterday, alto saxophone

Madi Porter, tenor saxophone

Kendall Farra, baritone saxophone

Souvenir de Madrid

Pedro Soler (1810-1850)

Asta Vaicekonis, piano

-Please join us for a reception in the lobby following the recital-

BIOGRAPHIES

Emily Aida Abshire is a senior at Seattle Pacific University pursuing a Bachelors of Music in Teaching and Learning and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Composition. Emily began her music learning experience on oboe in middle school in Ramstein, Germany. From then on, Emily always had music present in her life. She moved to San Antonio, Texas for the beginning of high school where she found her truest passion in marching band. She loved the thrill of making music competitively and at a high level. She brought this love to Stanwood, Washington where she learned about making music as a part of a team and what it meant to be a part of a band family. Emily had the great honor to serve as Drum Major for her junior and senior years of high school which ultimately influenced her decision to study music education in college. To prepare for music school, Emily studied oboe with Mandy Whitaker on Camano Island. Under Mandy's guidance and preparation, Emily was able to study music at Seattle Pacific University. Emily currently studies with Linnea Wentworth. During her studies at SPU, Emily has been able to work with inspiring educators like Linnea that have encouraged her to pursue a career that combines her love of education, composition, oboe, and marching band. Emily's other passion includes baking, exclusively chocolate chip cookies. Emily hopes to pursue a career as a music educator where she can write music and teach marching band.

Emily performs tonight in partial fulfillment of a BM in Teaching and Learning

Asta Vaičekonis holds her MM in Piano Performance from the University of Washington and her Bachelor's degrees from the Lithuanian Academy of Music. Asta was granted a diploma for best accompaniment in the International Competition of Chamber Music in Kaliningrad (Königsberg), Russia (1992). She was a soloist with the Port Angeles Symphony Orchestra (2002), performed in the University of Washington Summer Arts Festival (2001, 2003), the Bach Fest (2001, 2002) in Lake Chelan, Washington, accompanist for the Ladies Musical Club of Seattle's Awards Tours (2000, 2004, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2018). And the Bumbershoot Festival (1999) in Seattle. Asta served as an accompanist and coach in the Summer Chamber Music Seminars in Berlin, Germany (1992, 1993), and has performed with the Chamber Dance Company. She has played many recitals and chamber music programs in various cities of the United States, Lithuania, Latvia, Germany, Russia, and Israel, and made several recordings for the Lithuanian Radio and Television (1993). She was the first solo pianist to play in Seattle's own Benaroya Hall. Asta has been on the faculty at Music Works Northwest and staff accompanist at Western Washington University, and is currently on the faculty at Seattle Pacific University, while maintaining a private piano studio.

ABOUT THE COMPOSERS

Luciano Correa is Brazilian composer who earned his Masters in Music Composition at Louisiana State University. As a composer, he stated that he draws inspiration from art like dance, writing, visual arts, and other musicians. This can be seen in his work on *Lamento*. Correa stated that he was inspired to write this piece based on Debussy's *Syrinx*. He combines Debussy's lack of metrics with Brazilian harmony to create the blend of tonalities that expresses the deep sorrow of *Lamento*. Correa stated that in the Portuguese dictionary, a "lamento" is an expression of regret, sorrow in the face of misfortune.

George Friederic Handel was an English composer born in Germany. His baroque compositional style represents Northern Germany where he grew up and Italian influence from his many travels to Italy. Handel is a great choral composer as well and he is said to compose in a vocal style even in instrumental music. He had great success in the Italian opera scene as well as church music.

Pedro Soler had a short lived career as a composer but he was one of the only people to write pieces for the Boehm oboe. The Boehm oboe is a rare type of oboe that was designed to solve many of the complicated oboe fingering challenges. Soler was also the first person to play a Boehm oboe in an orchestra setting. He only wrote a few pieces in his time but his thoughtful approach to oboe composition is well recognized and appreciated by oboists.

A message from Emily:

I would like to offer my deepest gratitude to my family and friends who are here today, for without you, I would surely not be. Thank you for the insistent love and relentless support. Thank you to my teachers that have always believed in me. Finally, I would like to thank Zaid Fackenthall, my harshest critic and my biggest supporter. Thank you for all of your love. I would like to dedicate this program to Zaid, in his memory.