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School of Music and Dance

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Angella Ahn, violin Maria Ahn, cello Lucia Ahn, piano

Oct. 22, 2017 3:00 p.m. Beall Concert Hall



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### PROGRAM for THE AHN TRIO

Trio for Violin, Violoncello & Piano Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) Adagio non troppo - Più mosso - Allegro vivace Tempo di marcia Largo - Allegro vivo et molto ritmico

Eric Funk (b. 1949)+ Les Soeurs, Op 142 Pat Metheny (b.1954)\*\* Yu Ryung Little Wing

#### Jimi Hendrix (1942-1970) D.D. Jackson (b. 1967)\*\*

#### **INTERMISSION**

Skylife	David Balakrishnan (b. 1954) Kenji Bunch (b. 1973)**
Lullaby for Leo	Hyung-ki Joo (b.1973)**
Nuvole Bianche	Ludovico Einaudi (b.1955)*
Space Oddity	David Bowie (1947-2016) Kenji Bunch***
Purple Rain	//Prince (1958-2016) Kenji Bunch**

+written for Ahn Trio, northwest premiere \*arranged by Ahn Trio \*\*from Blue album, written/arranged for Ahn Trio \*\*\* from Maria Ahn's Je T'aime Bowie album, arranged for Ahn Trio

> Joanne Rile Artists Management 93 York Road, Suite 1, #518, Jenkintown, PA 19046 215-885-6400 | joanner@rilearts.com | rilearts.com



LES DÉLICES SUN., Nov. 12, 2017 | 3PM



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Anne Klein and the Body Shop, among others. They have been named three of People Magazine's 50 Most Beautiful People and most recently made a one-page appearance in Glamour Magazine.

Dedicated to educating and inspiring the next generation of musicians, the Ahns are passionate about sharing their knowledge. Angella is a Professor of Violin and Viola at Montana State University, in Bozeman, MT. Maria teaches cello and is the head of the String Department at the Harlem School of the Arts in NYC. Lucia has a growing private studio. They hold master classes and workshops across the United States and around the world and are often resident artists at various festivals such as the Laguna Beach Music Festival. Whether they are performing at the Kennedy Center, in Vienna's Musikverein, Buenos Aires' Teatro Colon, New York's Lincoln Center, Leipzig's Gewandhaus, Beijing's Concert Hall, or Istanbul's Aya Irini in Topkapi Palace, they share their innovative spirit and ever-evolving vision of music.

#### Here is what their favorite composers say about them:

PAT METHENY "Their willingness to play new music at such a high level is an inspiring and exciting quality that will continue to define the unique spot that they are carving for themselves in the music world."

MICHAEL NYMAN "My all-time favorite piano trio with a rare passion for new music."

MAURICE JARRE "Their choice and their taste make the repertoire of trio more interesting."

NIKOLAI KAPUSTIN "I became somewhat tired of 19th century music, preferable are either Sebastian Bach or Ahn Trio."

#### Trio for Violin, Violoncello & Piano

Pianist-conductor Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) composed his piano trio in 1937 while studying under the renowned Walter Piston at Harvard University. The piano trio received its premiere that same year at the hands of the Madison Trio: Mildred Spiegel, Dorothy Rosenberg, and Sarah Kruskall. Much of what would come to define Bernstein's rhythmic-harmonic language is evident in this short, three-movement work. Poignant tone clusters and syncopations abound, anticipating one of Bernstein's famous West Side Story of 1957.

#### Les Soeurs, Op 142

"Les Soeurs, Op 142" for The Ahn Trio was commissioned by the James Sewell Ballet Company. I composed the piece with the idea that the trio would be on stage with the dancers as part of the choreography AND as a free-standing work. Since so many ballets are performed as concert works, often as suites from the ballet, I felt that I would love to have this work fashioned in a manner that it can stand alone. Most of the ballet music I've composed is sensitive to being deliberately in counterpoint with movers, acting like a trough that carries the pattern development without overshadowing the choreography. In this instance, the music is much more forward and in more of a 50/50 relationship to the modern dance/ballet combination.

"Les Soeurs" is my attempt to capture the dynamics of three sisters, Angella, Lucia, and Maria, from their early childhood (little girls) through their school years and into their relational dynamics as women who are sisters but also a professional performance ensemble on tour. I tried to represent the expected range of behaviors from cooperative play to territoriality to argument to joy and total silliness. In the background, for me, is their mother, who was also as a little girl who became an older girl and then a woman with three girls. I used the fact the Lucia and Maria are twins and Angella is the "odd one out". These are dynamic, sophisticated, highly intelligent women and musicians, regardless of their ages as time passes. The music seeks to capture the emotional range of how those aspects of character interact. The piece closes with what I'd guess is the most 'happy' coda I've ever composed. I hear it as the Ahn sisters laughing hysterically and simply having fun. I composed this piece well-aware of the technical prowess of each individual and the tight maturity of their ensemble sound.

Submited by Eric Funk

#### Yu Ryung

"Yu Ryung" was composed by American jazz guitarist and composer, Pat Metheny (b. 1954). Metheny is legendary, having been named a 2018 NEA Jazz Master Recipient. As the only artist ever to win Grammy Awards in ten different categories, Metheny has reinvigorated and reimagined the depth and breadth of the sound of jazz guitar.

#### Little Wing

Jimi Hendrix (1942-1970) recorded his now iconic song "Little Wing" in 1967 with the Jimi Hendrix experience on Axis: Bold as Love. It is one of only two songs from Axis that the band played regularly in concert. The text of "Little Wing" is characteristically enigmatic for Hendrix, encoding into poetry many layers of possible interpretive meaning. The second stanza of the song goes "When I'm sad, she comes to me, With a thousand smiles she gives to me free. It's alright, she says it's alright, Take anything you want from me, Anything. Fly on little wing."

#### Skylife

Turtle Island String Quartet founder David Balakrishnan (b. 1954) graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in composition and violin. After moving to San Francisco in 1976, Balakrishnan became known as a fabulous improviser, and appeared as a guest performer with Stephane Grappelli and the David Grisman Quartet. Balakrishnan's In two decades of touring, the Trio has performed in all 50 states and in over 30 countries, and has recorded six albums. The first, a recording of Ravel and Villa-Lobos trios brought rave reviews, with Audio Magazine praising "this is one of Ravel's best and never better played". The next EMI recording of trios by Dvorak, Suk, and Shostakovich, won Germany's prestigious ECHO Award. An MTV appearance on Bryan Adams' "Unplugged" inspired the trio to make "Ahn-Plugged" (EMI), and "Groovebox" (EMI) soon followed. The Trio recently formed LAMP (Lucia Angella Maria Productions), producing "Lullaby For My Favorite Insomniac". This album led to a fruitful relationship with Sony. Meanwhile, the sisters made a joint album "Smetana" (Warner) with the Czech Grammy-winning rock group Tata Bojs.

Maria, Lucia and Angella thrive on dissolving the barriers between art forms. They have fused their work with a range of artists and musical genres, from dancers and lighting designers to DJ's. The Trio enjoyed their successful collaboration with the David Parsons Dance Company, touring extensively to critical acclaim. More recently, they performed in the Czech Republic with the Tata Bojs to sold-out shows. The Trio is thrilled to add "March of the Gypsy Fiddler", a Triple Concerto written for them by Mark O'Connor, to their repertoire. They are also excited to continue to collaborate with the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company. The Ahns frequently enjoy having guest artists join them on stage. Recent favorites include the Kin, a two-brother rock band from Australia, as well as electronic music artist Juno a.k.a Superdrive from Berlin. It is precisely this vitality and commitment to innovation that has the Ahn Trio continually drawing new audiences to classical music.

Possessing an enviable combination of talent and style, they have long been natural subjects for the press. The Ahns made their magazine debut early on, in Time Magazine's cover story 'Asian American Whiz Kids'. They have since gone on to frequent fashion pages of the likes of Vogue and GQ, photographed by such photographers as Arthur Elgort, Ellen von Unwerth, and Patrick Demarchelier. They have been featured in ad campaigns for GAP,



Hailed as "exacting and exciting musicians" by the LA Times, the three sisters of the Ahn Trio (Lucia on the piano, Angella on the violin, and Maria on the cello) have earned a distinguished reputation for embracing 21st century classical music with their unique style and innovative collaborations.

In 2011, President Obama invited the Ahn Trio to perform at the White House for a State Dinner honoring South Korea.

The Ahn sisters were born in Seoul, Korea, and educated at the Juilliard School in New York City. Reflecting the two cultures they grew up in, the Trio brings a new energy and excitement to the chamber music world. Such luminary composers as Michael Nyman, Maurice Jarre, Pat Metheny, Paul Schoenfield, Mark O' Connor, Kenji Bunch, Nikolai Kapustin, and Paul Chihara have written works for them. The trio's latest CD, "Lullaby for My Favorite Insomniac" (released by Sony) is a showcase of their fearless creativity, which made No. 8 on the Billboard Charts for 26 weeks in the Classical album category. "Skylife" reflects his rich performance history and blends the pentatonicism of bluegrass with the chromaticism of jazz delivered through a powerful and seductive motor rhythm articulated through pizzicato and chops.

#### Lullaby for Leo

Hyung-ki Joo's initial wish to become a musician was born out of a desire to compose. Today, musicians and orchestras that include the New York Philharmonic, London Philharmonic, Vienna Symphony and Chicago Symphony perform his compositions and arrangements worldwide, often with Joo as soloist or conductor. Joo has collaborated with Academy®Award-winning composer, Vangelis, and was chosen by Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, Billy Joel, to arrange and record Joel's solo piano works on his last album to date, Fantasies and Delusions. He also regularly cowrites with his Igudesman & Joo duo partner, Aleksey Igudesman, and together they have been commissioned to write works for orchestras such as the Pittsburgh Symphony, Dusseldorf Symphony, New York Philharmonic, and Zurich Tonhalle. His music is published by Universal Edition and Modern Works.

#### **Nuvole Bianche**

Luminous, emotive, effortlessly lyrical and always supremely refined the music and performance of Ludovico Einaudi have attracted an ever-growing audience whose diversity and devotion are without parallel. With a unique musical alchemy that draws on elements of classical, rock, electronica and world musics, he has rendered traditional ideas of genre and audience divide obsolete and become not only one of the best-known composers in the world today but almost certainly the best loved too.

Ludovico was born in Turin, Italy and trained as a classical composer and pianist at the Milan Conservatorio before continuing his studies with Luciano Berio, one of the most important composers of the twentieth century avant-garde. His career began with a series of prestigious commissions for institutions such as the USA's Tanglewood Festival, Paris' IRCAM and recently the National Center of Performing Arts of Beijing, but he turned away from what seemed a glittering classical career to forge his own musical path, giving him the freedom to reconcile his wider-ranging influences.

#### Space Oddity

David Bowie was born in South London's Brixton neighborhood on January 8, 1947. His first hit was the song "Space Oddity" in 1969. The original pop chameleon, Bowie became a fantastical sci-fi character for his breakout Ziggy Stardust album. He later co-wrote "Fame" with Carlos Alomar and John Lennon, which became his first American No. 1 single in 1975. An accomplished actor, Bowie starred in The Man Who Fell to Earth in 1976. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1996. Shortly after releasing his final album, Bowie died from cancer on January 10, 2016.

#### **Purple Rain**

American singer, songwriter, and recording artist Prince Rogers Nelson (best known as Prince) took the recording industry by storm with his sixth studio album entitled Purple Rain. Critics have called the album and its title track Prince's greatest recording, and one of the finest in American pop. Having sold over 25 million copies, it is one of the best-selling soundtracks of all time. The lyrics communicate loss, angst, and yearning: "I never meant to cause you any sorrow / I never meant to cause you any pain / I only wanted to one time to see you laughing / I only wanted to see you / Laughing in the purple rain." The Ahn Trio will perform a version of "Purple Rain" arranged for them by Kenji Bunch.

#### Kenji Bunch

Composer/performer Kenji Bunch has received acclaim from audiences, performers, and critics alike for his work combining

vernacular American influences with techniques from his classical training to create a unique vocabulary of New American music. His compositions have been performed by over fifty American orchestras, and in premiere venues on six continents. Recordings of his music are regularly broadcast on radio worldwide and are available on 18 different record labels.

Mr. Bunch maintains an active performing career, and is recognized for his own groundbreaking works for viola. Deeply committed to exploring connections with musicians from other backgrounds as well as artists of other disciplines, Mr. Bunch has collaborated with choreographers, film directors, actors, and prominent rock, jazz, folk, and experimental musicians.

A graduate of the Juilliard School and a 20-year veteran of the New York City musical world, he returned in 2013 to his native Portland, Oregon, where he lives with his wife, concert pianist Monica Ohuchi, their two children, and their dog, Coffee.

Mr. Bunch has served as Artistic Director of Fear No Music since 2014, and teaches viola and composition at Reed College and Portland State University, and is the head music theory teacher for the Portland Youth Philharmonic.