



Bekah Walker, flute  
Dr. Michael Bukhman, piano

September 25, 2020

7:00 p.m.

PepsiCo Recital Hall

Program

**Czardas (1904)**

Vittorio Monti (1868-1922)

**Caprice No. 24 (1807)**

Niccolò Paganini (1782-1840)

**D'un Matin De Printemps (1917)**

Lili Boulanger (1893-1918)

**Sonata in A minor for Flute Solo (1747)**

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (1714-1788)

- I. Poco adagio
- II. Allegro
- III. Allegro

**Carmen Fantasy (1979)**

Ransom Wilson (b.1951)

## **Czardas (1904)**

### **Vittorio Monti (1868-1922)**

Vittorio Monti was an Italian composer, violinist, mandolinist, and conductor. He was born in Naples, Italy where he studied violin and composition at the Conservatorio di San Pietro a Majella, which is located in Naples. He was the conductor for the Lamoureux Orchestra in Paris for a time where he composed several operettas and ballets. He wrote a method study for mandolin with his own compositions as well as others. Czardas is his most known composition.

Based on a traditional Hungarian csárdás (a dance). The name is derived from csarda - an old Hungarian term for a roadside tavern and restaurant. This style of music or particular rhythms originated in Hungary but was popularized by the neighboring lands of Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Transylvania, and Moravia. Composed in 1904, this rhapsodical piece was originally composed for violin, mandolin, or piano. The score has been transcribed for a number of solo instruments with orchestral accompaniment and piano as well.

I was introduced to this piece by a friend, and I knew I had to play it. The famous flutist, Jasmine Choi arranged this violin solo for flute which I have found is the best arrangement. This piece is fun and exciting and not common in the flute repertoire, but I hope in sharing it, this will help it to become more well known.

## **Caprice No. 24 (1807)**

### **Niccolò Paganini (1782-1840)**

Niccolò Paganini was an Italian composer and violin virtuoso of the 19th century. He was an incredible and flamboyant performer and revolutionized violin technique at the time. He was an inspiration for what a Romantic composer and performer should be. In 1827, he was even made a knight of the Golden Spur by Pope Leo XII. Paganini is considered perhaps the greatest violinist that ever lived and his compositions, including *24 Caprices*, for violin alone are some of the most complex pieces ever composed for the instrument.

This piece is the final caprice of Paganini's 24 Caprices, it is a very famous work for solo violin having several rearrangements, tributes, and variations written over the centuries. The caprice consists of a theme, 11 variations and a finale. His 24 Caprices were thought to have been composed in 1807, while he was in the service of the Boaciocchi court. It is widely considered one of the most difficult pieces ever written for the solo violin.

## **D'un Matin De Printemps (1917)**

### **Lili Boulanger (1893-1918)**

Lili Boulanger was a French composer, and the first female winner of the Prix de Rome composition prize. Her older sister was the noted composer and composition teacher Nadia Boulanger. Lili came from a long line of successful and talented musicians and began her studies early in life with Gabriel Faure as well as at the Paris Conservatory. She suffered from illness from a young age which would trouble her most of her short life. At age of 19 she competed in the Prix de Rome to win the composition prize for her cantata, *Faust et Hélène*, becoming the first woman to win the prize. She died of tuberculosis at age 24 only spending a short time sharing her gift with the world. After her death, Nadia would continue to promote and perform Lili's music to keep her legacy alive. She also started the Lili Boulanger Memorial Fund to financially support talented musicians.

*D'un Matin Du Printemps* was originally composed as a duet for violin and piano in the spring of 1917, then later adapted into a trio version for violin, cello, and piano, and finally as a duet for flute and piano that same year. In January of 1918, Boulanger wrote an orchestral version. This Impressionistic piece is full of playful twists and turns, as well as exhibiting a fine art for both storytelling and complex musical cohesion. This was the last work she composed before her death in 1918.

## **Sonata in A minor for Flute Solo (1747)**

### **Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (1714-1788)**

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach was a German Classical period musician and composer. He was the fifth child and second surviving son of Johann Sebastian Bach. His second name was given in honor of his god father, Georg Philipp Telemann, a close friend of J.S. Bach. He was an influential composer, working through the transition between his father's Baroque style and the more modern Classical style. He had a much more sensitive style and added ideas of rhetoric and drama to his compositions.

This solo sonata is considered along with Telemann's Fantasias for Solo Flute and J.S. Bach's Partita in A minor, one of the most significant works for unaccompanied flute before the 20th century. This piece is the sole flute work written by Bach that was printed and published during his time although no manuscript of it has ever been discovered. This piece is said to have been written in Berlin around 1747 while Bach worked as a chamber harpsichordist of Frederick the Great. The king, also a flutist, had many flute compositions written for him by various composers. It is speculated that this sonata was intended for the king, since Bach was in his service at the time. This is despite the fact that pieces written for the king were not permitted to be published and made public. Possibly, it could have been done so without the king's knowledge given its publication date of 1763 almost 2 decades after it was composed.

## **Carmen Fantasy (1979)**

### **Ransom Wilson (b. 1951)**

Georges Bizet's opera *Carmen* is without a doubt, one of the most popular well-known operas ever composed. Although controversial during its time, Bizet's acclaimed opera combines its brilliant melodies, harmonies, atmosphere, and orchestration to bring a beautiful and convention-breaking story to life.

Bizet was born in 1838 to a very musical family. He entered the Paris Conservatory by the age of 9 and proved himself already to be a promising student. He was an incredible pianist and had a talent for sight reading orchestral scores like no other. After leaving the Conservatory, he would travel to Italy and become exposed to the great comic operas composed by the likes of Rossini and Mozart. Once he returned to Paris, he would go on to commission operas for the Theatre Lyrique like *The Pearl Fishers* as well as *L'Arlesienne* which were received well. His success earned him the opportunity with the Opera-Comique, to bring Prosper Merimee's short story of *Carmen* into the full operatic light. The piece premiered March 3, 1875 and seemed controversial to an audience that appeared indifferent. The opera was only in its 33<sup>rd</sup> performance when Bizet died suddenly a few months later at the age of 36. Although Bizet never knew his opera would achieve such high international acclaim in the years to come, the impact his story and music left behind continues to amaze and shock audiences across the world and will continue to stand the test of time for generations to come.

Ransom Wilson is an American flutist and conductor studying with the likes of Julius Baker, his close friend, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Alain Marion, Severino Gazzelloni, Christian Larde, Philip Dunigan, and Arthur Lora. He has performed and hosted master classes all over the world. He has appeared as a guest conductor and performer for numerous orchestras and festivals and continues to further his career as a conductor. He is the current Professor of Flute at the Yale University School of Music.

During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, composers took to the popular classical form of writing opera fantasies – pieces written of one or more instruments using themes from well-known operas as a basis for brilliant variations and virtuosic expansions. Francis Borne, of the Bordeaux Symphony in particular, wrote the *Fantasie sur "Carmen"* which is now classified as a staple in romantic concertos for flute. Mr. Wilson based his version of Carmen Fantasy on Francis Borne's original flute concerto as well as Bizet's original orchestrations creating a unique take on the dramatic well-known opera and flute concerto.