

# NICHOLAS ROERICH MUSEUM

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**Sunday, February 5, 2017, at 5 p.m.**

**Laura Bontrager, *cello***

**Elke Velazquez, *piano***

## PROGRAM

Sonata No. 3 in A Major, Op. 69 (27 min.)

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

*Allegro ma non tanto*

*Scherzo: Allegro molto*

*Adagio cantabile – Allegro vivace*

Sonata in D Minor (17 min.)

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

*Prologue*

*Serenade*

*Finale*

## INTERMISSION

Sonata for Cello and Piano, Op. 119 (22 min.)

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

*Andante grave – Moderato animato – Moderato – Andante dolce*

*Allegro ma non troppo*

Polonaise Brillante, Op. 3 (8 min.)

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

**Laura Bontrager** came to New York City in 1986 to attend The Juilliard School, where she received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees. As a William Randolph Hearst Foundation and Leonard Rose Memorial scholar, she studied with Lorne Munroe and Joel Krosnick. Her commitment to contemporary music began with her well-received North American premiere of Richard Barrett's *Ne songe plus à fuir* for solo cello at Juilliard's Focus! Festival and continued in featured performances of works by Roger Sessions and John Tavener with the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble. Ms. Bontrager has appeared with a wide variety of orchestras and chamber music ensembles, in jazz and popular settings, on Broadway, and frequently in solo recital. She has performed with Leonard Bernstein, Michael Tilson Thomas, Leonard Slatkin, Bernadette Peters, Elvis Costello, and she has recorded on the RCA Victor and Sony Classical labels, among others.

Most recently, she recorded David Wolfson's *Sonata for Cello and Piano* on the Albany Records album 17 Windows. Ms. Bontrager is a longtime member of the cello quartet CELLO, the Aurasuono Trio, and regularly plays with the Springfield, Massachusetts Symphony, and American Modern Ensemble. She is a certified Suzuki Teacher and is a faculty member at the Diller-Quaile School of Music and The Chapin School in Manhattan.

**Elke Velazquez** received her B.M. from Oberlin College, where she studied with Sanford Margolis. Other teachers have included Paul Schenly, Anne Epperson, Sheila Keats and Susan Fischhoff. She is currently a member of the piano faculty at The Diller-Quaile School of Music and The School for Strings, where she received her Suzuki Teaching Certificate. She has been a piano teacher, chamber music coach and accompanist for many summer institutes and festivals, including Berkshire Summer Music and The Hartt Suzuki Institute. Elke performs as a chamber musician and accompanist throughout the New York area.