

# NICHOLAS ROERICH MUSEUM

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**Sunday, January 13, 2019**

**Byungchan Lee, violin Benjamin Hochman, piano**

## PROGRAM

**Sonata for Solo Violin no. 3 in D minor “Ballade”, Op. 27** Eugène Ysaÿe (1858-1931)

**Partita no. 3 in E major, BWV 1006** Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)  
*Gavotte en Rondeau*

## *Intermission*

**Caprice No. 11 in C major, Op. 1** Niccoló Paganini (1782-1840)

**Sonata for Violin and Piano in A major** Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

**“Grand Duo”, D. 574** Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

**Recitativo and Scherzo-Caprice, Op. 6** Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962)

**“Tzigane”** Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

A native of Vancouver, Canada, violinist **Byungchan Lee** made his concerto debut at age 12. Since then, he has garnered international recognition as a prizewinner at the Yuri Yankelevitch International Violin Competition, as one of CBC Music’s 30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians Under 30 and for performing alongside Stevie Wonder for the Songs in the Key of Life tour at the Bell Centre in Montreal. Previously, Lee was named one of CBC Radio’s “Next!” classical music stars and recorded two national broadcasts for CBC/Radio-Canada.

Lee has performed with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra as a concerto soloist and was featured with the McGill Symphony Orchestra as a soloist for winning the McGill concerto competition. He was re-invited as a guest soloist for the eighty-fifth anniversary gala for the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra as a two-time winner of the VYSO concerto competition at the Chan Center for the Performing Arts. He has performed a solo recital at the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre in Toronto, presented by the Canadian Opera Company, and has been invited to perform at the Montreal Museum of Fine Art’s Salle Bourgie (Arte Musica Foundation), Théâtre Maisonneuve (Fondation Place des Arts) and at Centre d’Arts Orford.

An avid chamber musician, Lee regularly appears as a guest artist at the Montreal Chamber Music Festival. Lee attended the McGill International String Quartet Academy and has worked with the most renowned string quartet musicians of our time, including Günter Pichler and Gerhard Schulz of the Alban Berg Quartet, and the late Michael Tree of the Guarneri Quartet. As a founding member of the Ansonia Quartet, Lee raised \$10,000 in nine days through a successful crowd-sourced fundraising campaign to carry out an international tour to Japan in 2017. The quartet has held residencies at Summer in JAPAN performing in Oita and Tokyo, as well as at the Lunenberg Academy of Music Performance working with the Dover Quartet. The quartet appeared in featured performances at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Alice Tully Hall with the Juilliard Chamber Orchestra, and premiered works at the Museum of Modern Art's Summergarden, New York City Ballet and Juilliard's 2018 Focus! Festival.

Lee served as concertmaster of the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games closing ceremony. He also served as concertmaster of the Juilliard Orchestra, McGill Symphony Orchestra, the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, the Roosevelt Island Orchestra, and as principal second violin of the Washington Heights Chamber Orchestra. During summer 2017 he was invited to participate in a Juilliard/Sibelius Academy joint-orchestra tour celebrating Finland's centenary culminating in performances at the Helsinki Music Centre, Berwaldhallen in Stockholm, and Alice Tully Hall in New York led by Esa-Pekka Salonen.

Lee received his Master of Music (2018) from The Juilliard School graduating with a Norman Benzaquen Career Advancement Grant. He received his Bachelor of Music (2015) and Artist Diploma (2016) from McGill University where he was a recipient of the Lloyd Carr-Harris Scholarship and the Golden Violin Award – one of the most prestigious music prizes in Canada. He was fellowship recipient at the Aspen Music Festival, Music Masters Course Japan, Toronto Summer Music Festival, and participated in the 2018 New York String Orchestra Seminar. He served as mentor/teaching fellow at Madeline Island Chamber Music in 2017.

Lee plays on a ca. 1869 Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume violin and Vuillaume model bow on loan from the Canada Council for the Arts Musical Instrument Bank. He acknowledges the support of the Sylva Gelber Music Foundation, British Columbia Arts Council and the Vancouver Korean-Canadian Scholarship Foundation. Recognizing him for his leadership in music, Lee has been invited to the Artist as Citizen Conference, served as a Gluck Fellow and holds a lifetime Sylff Fellowship.

The 2019 season includes performances in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Vermont, Los Angeles, Houston, North Carolina, Edmonton, Montreal and Vancouver.

Pianist **Benjamin Hochman's** eloquent and virtuosic performances blend colorful artistry with poetic interpretation exciting audiences and critics alike. He performs in major cities around the world as a respected orchestral soloist, recitalist and chamber musician, working with a celebrated array of renowned conductors and colleagues. An impassioned and intelligent exponent of diverse composers, from Bach and Mozart to Kurtág and Lieberson, he strives to express the essence of each composer's works, resulting in interpretations that the Vancouver Sun described as "stylish and lucid, with patrician authority and touches of elegant wit where context allows." Possessed of an intellectual and heartfelt musical inquisitiveness, Mr. Hochman frequently juxtaposes familiar works with the unfamiliar in his concert programs to help illuminate each work for the listener, a talent further illustrated by his thoughtful recorded repertoire.

Recent and forthcoming performance highlights include Bartok Concerto No. 3 with the

Whatcom Symphony, Mozart Concerto K. 414 with Santa Fe Pro Musica and the Orlando Philharmonic (play/conduct), and chamber music collaborations at Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Strings Music Festival in Steamboat Springs, and Merkin Concert Hall (with musicians of the New York Philharmonic). Solo projects include a traversal of the complete Mozart Piano Sonatas at Bard College Conservatory and Israel Conservatory (Tel Aviv) as well as recitals at Goucher College, Delaware, Seattle, Hanover NH and Chatham NY. This season he presents world premieres by Jesse Brault, Gilad Cohen and Max Grafe.

Winner of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2011, Mr. Hochman previously made his New York recital debut in 2006 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, proceeding to establish a vibrant and venerated musical presence in New York City through concerts with the New York Philharmonic and the American Symphony Orchestra, his Carnegie Hall debut with the Israel Philharmonic and a succession of prominent recital and chamber performances at 92nd Street Y. Following his debut with the Chicago Symphony in a Mozart Piano Concerto project with Pinchas Zukerman and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, he performed his Los Angeles Philharmonic debut at the Hollywood Bowl and was engaged for three subscription series with the Pittsburgh Symphony.

Mr. Hochman's admiration for the rich orchestral repertoire has led him in recent years to seriously pursue conducting studies. They resulted in Mr. Hochman's appointment as the musical assistant to Louis Langrée and guest conductors at the 2016 Mostly Mozart Festival, including Thierry Fischer, Paavo Järvi and Jeffrey Kahane. He has also served as assistant conductor to Leon Botstein for American Symphony Orchestra's concerts at Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium and Alice Tully Hall, and to Emmanuel Vuillaume at Juilliard. Guest conducting engagements include the Orlando Philharmonic and The Orchestra Now. A graduate of the prestigious Juilliard Conducting Program, his principal conducting teachers were Alan Gilbert and James Ross, and he has also received instruction from Fabio Luisi, David Zinman and James Gaffigan. In summer 2018 he participated in the Tanglewood Conducting Seminar. He is founder and music director of the Roosevelt Island Symphony, an ensemble consisting of New York's top orchestral and chamber musicians, presenting its third season in 2018-19.

In 2009, Mr. Hochman's debut solo recording of works by Bach, Berg and Webern was released by Artek. He recorded his second solo album, titled *Homage to Schubert*, for Avie records in 2013. It features Schubert's Sonata in A, D. 664, and Sonata in D, D. 850, alongside contemporary tributes to Schubert: Jörg Widmann's *Idyll und Abgrund: Six Schubert Reminiscences* and Kurtág's *Homage to Schubert*. In 2014, Mr. Hochman performed a program of Variations by contemporary composers Luciano Berio, Oliver Knussen, Frederic Rzewski and the world premiere of Tamar Muskal's *Frédéric Variations* presented by 92nd Street Y at SubCulture. Of this performance, Anthony Tommasini of *The New York Times* observed "... as I listened to the pianist Benjamin Hochman's sensitive, exciting renditions of four contemporary works that explore the form of theme and variation (including one premiere), I kept thinking that classical music doesn't get better than this." This performance was also recognized by Mr. Tommasini as one of his top ten classical music events of that year. In 2015, Mr. Hochman released *Variations* on the Avie Record label based on his recital of the same title. He has also recorded chamber music by Lawrence Dillon (with the Daedalus Quartet, Bridge Records) and by Lisa Bielawa (Innova Recordings).

Mr. Hochman has performed with the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics, Chicago, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Cincinnati, Houston, Seattle, Vancouver, New Jersey, American and

Portland Symphonies, the New York String Orchestra, IRIS Orchestra in Memphis, Prague Philharmonia, Istanbul State Orchestra, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Canada under eminent conductors such as David Robertson, Gianandrea Noseda, John Storgårds, Pinchas Zukerman, Jun Märkl, Leon Botstein, Bramwell Tovey, Jahja Ling, Kazuyoshi Akiyama, Kaspar Zehnder, Michael Stern, Jaime Laredo and Joshua Weilerstein. He has appeared in his native Israel with several orchestras including the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony and the Tel Aviv Soloists.

Past festival highlights include Marlboro, Ravinia, Caramoor, Santa Fe, Bard, Gilmore and Vail in North America, as well as international festivals such as Lucerne, Spoleto, Verbier, Ruhr, Israel Festival and Prussia Cove. Mr. Hochman has performed internationally at such major halls as the Vienna Konzerthaus, Berlin Konzerthaus, Concertgebouw, the Louvre, Liszt Academy in Budapest, Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Tivoli Theatre in Copenhagen, l'Auditori de Barcelona, Suntory Hall in Tokyo and Kumho Art Hall in Seoul. A masterful collaborator, Benjamin Hochman has worked with the Tokyo, Shanghai, Mendelssohn, Casals, Prazak, Daedalus, Escher and Borromeo Quartets, Zukerman ChamberPlayers, members of the Guarneri, Juilliard and Orion String Quartets, Jonathan Biss, Orion Weiss, Shai Wosner, Cho-Liang Lin and Ani Kavafian, Miklós Perényi and Ralph Kirshbaum.

A dedicated advocate for contemporary music, he has worked closely with composers Krzysztof Penderecki, Brett Dean, Philippe Hurel, Joan Tower, William Bolcom, Yehudy Wyner, Tamar Muskal, David Ludwig and Menachem Wiesenberg, among others.

Benjamin Hochman has been selected to participate in prestigious residencies around the world such as CMS Two at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Isaac Stern's International Chamber Music Encounters in Israel and Carnegie Hall's Professional Training Workshops with Osvaldo Golijov and Dawn Upshaw, as well as Boston Chamber Music Society. Mr. Hochman received the "Outstanding Pianist" citation at the Verbier Academy, the Festorazzi Award from the Curtis Institute of Music, second prize at the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition, the "Partosh Prize" awarded by the Israeli Minister of Culture for best performance of an Israeli work and first prize at the National Piano Competition of the Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem. His performances have been broadcast on National Public Radio's Young Artist Showcase and Performance Today, WNET's Sunday Arts, WQXR, CBC (Canada), ABC (Australia), Radio France and Israel's Voice of Music radio station, as well as on the European television network Mezzo.

Born in Jerusalem, Benjamin Hochman began his studies at the Conservatory of the Rubin Academy in Jerusalem, and is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and the Mannes College of Music where his principal teachers were Claude Frank and Richard Goode. His studies were supported by the America-Israel Cultural Foundation. He is currently on the piano faculty of Bard College Conservatory of Music. Benjamin Hochman is a Steinway Artist and lives in New York City. His website is [www.benjaminhochman.com](http://www.benjaminhochman.com).



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