

Guest Artist Recital
Eric Nowlin, Viola
Angela Draghicescu, Piano
March 6^h, 5:30 pm, 2024
Gore Recital Hall

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Marchenbilder, Opus 113

Nicht schnell

Lebhaft

Rasch

Langsam, mit melancholischem Ausdruck

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Sonata No 1 in F minor, *Opus 120*

Allegro appassionato

Andante un poco Adagio

Allegretto grazioso

Vivace

Violist Eric Nowlin has performed extensively throughout the United States as well as abroad. Nowlin's performance of Berlioz's *Harold in Italy* with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra was described by *Classical Source* as "outstanding...his distinctive timbre and sovereign musicianship at one with Slatkin's perfectly paced account...totally compelling."

Past accomplishments include receiving second prize in the prestigious Walter W. Naumburg Competition, first prize in the Irving Klein International String Competition; first prize in the Hellam Young Artists Competition; grand prize in the Naftzger Young Artists Competition; and winner of the Juilliard Viola Concerto Competition. Performances have included solo engagements with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Springfield Symphony in Missouri, the Santa Cruz Symphony, the Peninsula Symphony, and the Kumamoto Symphony in Japan, as well as recitals in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Toronto, and Mexico.

Nowlin is the violist of the Juno and Opus Award-winning New Orford String Quartet. Other chamber music activities have included participating in festivals such as the Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont and the Steans Institute for Young Artists at Ravinia. He was a regular member of the Jupiter Chamber Players in New York City and toured with *Musicians from Marlboro* and *Musicians from Ravinia's Steans Institute*. Nowlin was previously the Associate Principal Viola in the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and has served as Guest Principal Viola with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Metropolis Ensemble, and Cleveland's *Citymusic*, as well as substitute viola with the New York Philharmonic.

Nowlin is the Assistant Professor of Viola at Michigan State University and has previously been an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music as well as Instructor of Viola at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Ontario. He spends time during the summer months teaching and performing at numerous music festivals in the United States and Canada.

Nowlin received his bachelor's and master's degrees from The Juilliard School as a scholarship student of Samuel Rhodes. Nowlin plays on a 1757 J.B. Guadagnini viola on generous loan from the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, as well as a viola from 1910 made by Giovanni Pistucci and a viola made by Sam Zygmuntowicz made in 2019.

Praised by the New York Times as “elegant and spectacular” pianist Angela Draghicescu has established an international reputation as a sought-after pianist and chamber musician and educator. She has performed in major concert halls across North America and throughout Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Engagements have included performances at Carnegie Hall, Concertgebouw, Kaufmann Center, Konserthuset - Stockholm, Oslo Philharmonic, Rudolfinum in Prague, and the George Enescu Philharmonic.

Her collaborations include many of today's leading artists such as James Ehnes, Doc Severinsen, Frank Huang, Noah Bendix-Balgley and members of the Berlin Philharmonic, Canadian Brass, Chicago, New York, and London symphonies. She has appeared in concerts with Maxim Vengerov, René Fleming, Joyce di Donato, and Angela Gheorghiu and has enjoyed collaborations with many leading conductors including Zubin Mehta, Carl St.Claire, David Zinman, and Edwin Outwater.

Previous performances included esteemed guests such as the members of the Royal Families of Sweden, Norway, and England. In 2018 she was honored to receive the invitation of Romania's President Klaus Johannis to perform for the *Three Seas UN Summit* for five European Union state leaders. Her festival appearances include the Seattle Chamber Music Society, George Enescu International Festival, Rocky Ridge Music Festival, Interlochen Arts Academy and Si Piano in Switzerland. She has been broadcast live on Medici TV, BBC Radio 3, Classical King FM Seattle, NPR, WQXR New York, WFMT Chicago, Romanian National Radio, and Ruv Ras 1 Iceland.

Deeply committed to expanding chamber music repertoire, she has commissioned and premiered works by composers William Bolcom, Lera Auerbach and Jennifer Higdon. A huge promoter of the works of George Enescu, her research on the music of George Enescu has led to the rediscovery of George Enescu's first piano trio, a work lost for over 50 years. The trio received its U.S. premiere with James Ehnes and Ani Aznavoorian during the Seattle Chamber Music Festival 2019. Her tireless efforts have received the recent praise of the New York Times who credited her for being an authority on the Romanian composer.

Highlights of the 2022-2023 season includes new releases on Naxos and Centaur records with violist Elias Goldstein and members of the Berlin Philharmonic, and a tour of Norwegian Art Song bringing awareness to the under-represented female composers of Norway. Additional upcoming collaborations include recitals with the concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic Frank Huang, Queen Elizabeth top prize-winner cellist Marcel Kits, violist Ettore Causa, violinist Eugene Tzikindelean, and Canadian Brass and Takacz quartet members in Costa Rica, Mexico, Argentina, Romania, Germany, and the United States.

An activist, Angela has participated and curated numerous humanitarian and educational programs with organizations such as the Refugees International, the Bill Gates Foundation, and the Francis Walton Foundation bringing awareness to global crises and

social injustice. Angela is the co-artistic director of the newly founded concert series *Women Who Score* promoting works by female composers, in collaboration with Olympic Gymnast Nadia Comaneci.