

# Robert Strauss

## Junior Recital



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Featuring works by:

Robert Strauss, J. S. Bach, Gary Schocker,  
Ofar Ben-Amots, Henri Dutilleux

May 4, 2024, 5:30pm – Gore Recital Hall

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Robert Strauss, flute

Mark Livshits, piano

May 4, 2024, 5:30pm – Gore Recital Hall

Sonata for Flute and Piano\* (2024).....Robert Strauss  
(b. 2002)

*Wonder (Palindrome)\**

Partita in A Minor, BWV 1013 .....J. S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

*Allemande*

*Corrente*

*Sarabande*

*Bourrée Angloise*

Sonata No. 9 (2018) ..... Gary Schocker  
(b. 1959)

*Affettuoso*

*Arioso*

*Marziale*

*Ondeggiando*

-----Intermission-----

Avis Urbanus (1990)..... Ofer Ben-Amots  
(b. 1955)

Sonatine pour Flûte et Piano (1943) ..... Henri Dutilleux  
(1916-2013)



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\* - Premiere

## Program Notes

### Sonata for Flute and Piano – Robert Strauss

Written for this recital, this first movement in my Sonata for Flute and Piano is all about the natural world and the miraculous symmetry within. However, much of this symmetry, when viewed with enough scrutiny, proves to not be symmetrical at all. Such is the case with this movement.

### Partita in A Minor, BWV 1013 – J. S. Bach

The partita in A Minor is J.S. Bach's only known piece for solo flute. Despite this, it remains an absolute standard in the flute repertoire, being performed by about every flutist at some point in their career. A partita is a baroque dance suite written for a single instrument. It normally consists of an Allemande, Corrente, Sarabande, and a Gigue (In this case a Bourrée Anglaise).

- Robert Strauss

### Sonata No. 9 for Flute and Piano – Gary Schocker

Gary Schocker's 9<sup>th</sup> Sonata, composed in memory of his brother David, is one that takes on a different character from the rest of his music. Each movement seems to invoke a different stage of grief. The fourth movement in particular is tragically beautiful, with the missing downbeats and expansive melodic line.

- Robert Strauss

More of Schocker's Music can be found on [presser.com](http://presser.com).

## Avis Urbanus – Ofer Ben-Amots

*Avis Urbanus* for amplified flute was written in March, 1990. The Latin title of the piece, which means “City Bird” in its literal translation, is a play on words with several meanings – Avis: 1) bird 2) singing 3) a bird of omen or an omen in general. The flautist enters and leaves the stage like the brief visit of a bird. The duality in musical atmosphere throughout the piece is created by juxtaposing two contrasting singing gestures: on the one hand, short rapid figures played in the upper registers, reminiscent of a bird’s song; and on the other hand, a combination of humming and playing techniques mostly in the low register. These two extremes reflect a mystical conflict between *avibus bonis* – a good omen – and the *avi mala* – a bad omen of an unknown or undefined fate.

- Ofer Ben-Amots

More of Ben-Amots’ music can be found at [oferbenamots.com](http://oferbenamots.com)

## Sonatine pour Flûte et Piano - Henri Dutilleux

Another staple of the flute Repertoire, the Dutilleux Sonatine is a wonderfully flashy piece that once I heard, I knew I needed to go on my program. The piece was written as one of four exam pieces for the Paris Conservatory in 1943. Dutilleux was later critical of this work, but I think we’re all too hard on ourselves as composers sometimes. The piece consists of three sections, Allegretto, Andante, and Animé.

- Robert Strauss