

**AN EVENING OF DUOS & TRIOS  
FOR VIOLIN, VIOLA, & PIANO****Faculty Recital**

Lin He, *violin*  
Kimberly Sparr, *viola*  
Willis Delony, *piano*

Friday, March 4, 2022

7:30 PM in the Recital Hall

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CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH THE ARTS

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PROGRAM

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Duo for Violin and Viola in B-Flat Major, K. 424 (22') W. A. Mozart  
I. Adagio – Allegro (1756-1791)  
II. Andante Cantabile  
III. Thema (con variazioni): Andante grazioso

Without Skill But With Strength (10') Alice Hong  
(b. 1992)

INTERMISSION

Dumka: Duo Concertante Rebecca Clarke  
for Violin, Viola, and Piano (11') (1886-1979)

*Danzas Latinoamericanas* (12') José Luis Elizondo  
I. Otoño en Buenos Aires (b. 1972)  
II. Pan de Azúcar  
III. Atardecer Tapatio



Recently interviewed by the Louisiana Public Broadcasting, Violinist **LIN HE** made his Carnegie Hall solo debut in November 2014, after a performance there earlier that year with principal players from the Metropolitan Opera, New York Philharmonic and Philadelphia Orchestra in orchestral setting. Over the past seasons, he performed the Bruch Scottish Fantasy with the Sonoma County Philharmonic, Korngold Concerto with the Rapides Symphony Orchestra, Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with the Shippensburg Symphony and the Sibelius Concerto with the Lake Charles Symphony.

Inspired by the Complete Sonatas by Beethoven, Brahms, Faure, Mozart and Schubert for Violin and Piano in the past several seasons, 2020-2021 season of concerts include Magnard Sonata for Violin and Piano in multiple venues; chamber recitals as the violinist of Caladium Piano Trio; violin soloist of the Vivaldi/Piazzola Four Seasons and Mark O'Connor Surrender the Sword with the Rapides Symphony and Telemann Concerto for Four Violins with the Baton Rouge Symphony; violinist with principal players of major orchestras for the Concert of Solidarity for the Rohingya Refugees at Carnegie Hall; solo recitals and masterclasses at Indiana State University, Texas Tech University, Baylor University, University of Southern Mississippi, University of Oklahoma and Northern Illinois University; and series of concerts and masterclasses in mainland China and Taiwan.

He has presented recitals at universities across the United States and China. Recently, he shared stage with Shanghai String Quartet and violinist Charles Castleman; performed solo recitals and gave master classes at Arizona State University, Florida State University, Longy School of Music, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, University of Houston, University of Las Vegas, University of North Texas, and University Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. As an orchestral player, Mr. He has performed with the Shanghai Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic and New World Symphony. He is a regular addition to the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra.

Summer festival appearances have taken Mr. He to venues such as the Music Academy of the West, the Tanglewood Music Center and the Aspen Music Festival. Lin He has been a laureate of the Padesta Solo Competition and the ASTA competition.

Mr. He is now serving as the Associate Professor of Violin at the Louisiana State University School of Music and the Associate Concertmaster of the Baton Rouge Symphony. During the summer, he teaches at the Summit Music Festival and Institute, Sewanee Summer Music Festival, InterHarmony International Summer Music Festival, Montecito International Music Festival and BayView Music Festival. Born in Shanghai, China, Mr. He began his musical training at the age of five. Mr. He received his doctorate from the Eastman School of Music, where he studied under the tutelage of Zvi Zeitlin. Other major influences include Steven Stryk, Sylvia Rosenberg, Kyung Sun Lee and Paul Kantor. His CD release from Centaur Records of French Sonatas for Violin and Piano with pianist Gregory Sioles received favorable reviews. Upcoming releases will include the Caladium Piano Trio on Centaur Records and compositions by Mark Prince Lee.

His website is [www.linheviolin.com](http://www.linheviolin.com).



Equally skilled as a soloist, chamber and orchestral violist, **KIMBERLY SPARR** has garnered praise for her versatility and virtuosity across the United States and beyond. She has performed with numerous orchestras and festivals on three continents, and currently serves as the assistant principal viola of the Colorado Music Festival Orchestra and is a member of the festival's Chamber Players. In the summer, Dr. Sparr is on faculty at the Summer Strings Academy for Girls and the Renova Music Festival.

"Sparr's warm viola sound was so sublime that it was difficult to face what was going on in the real world," the Boulder Daily Camera said. Now Sparr, associate professor of viola at LSU, is leading an effort to expand the repertoire of the instrument itself. Volt, for example, a piece she commissioned by composer Ned McGowan, features her improvisation in counterpoint with pre-recorded computer sounds. In a multi-media presentation of Rusty Banks' Liquid Fire, Sparr's electric viola responds to pulsating rhythms and sounds as images of molten lava play out on a video screen behind her. Other recent solo viola commissions include works by Molly Joyce and Caroline Mallonee. Sparr also recently spearheaded a major project with the Atlantic Chamber Ensemble, of which she is a founding member: Project Beck, which included collaborating with 20 composers.

In the meantime, her chamber music collaborations include performance with Lara St. John, Boris Allakhverdyan and Simone Dinnerstein; as well as for organizations including New Music Raleigh, Festival Mozaic, the Lake George Music Festival and Washington Musica Viva. She has also held artist residencies at the Avaloch Farm Music Institute where she has worked as both a soloist and with her partner in the Amistella Duo, cellist Natasha Farny. Sparr recently collaborated with European artists through "Expressions for Justice" in the Netherlands.

The Aspen Music School honored Sparr with a three-year New Horizon Fellowship where she studied with Heidi Castleman and Victoria Chiang. She has also won fellowships at the Tanglewood Music Center of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Sarasota Music Festival.

As an orchestral violist, Sparr was the assistant principal violist of Virginia's Richmond Symphony; and has performed with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Washington National Opera and the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in California, among others. Her festival participation includes New Hampshire Music Festival in Plymouth, N.H.; the Verbier Festival Orchestra in Switzerland; the Festival Mozaic and the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in California; Florida's Sarasota Music Festival; and the Lake George Music Festival in New York. She has also toured Europe and Asia with both the Verbier and National Symphony Orchestras.

Sparr has also soloed with the Amarillo Virtuosi, the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra, the Texas Tech University Symphony Orchestra, and the Lubbock Symphony.

During her graduate studies, she was named a Piatigorsky Foundation Artist and received the Gunther Schuller Award from New England Conservatory.

She plays with the band Scabaret ("three bad mamas and a microphone"), an eclectic mix of songs for voice, keyboard and viola.



In a performing career spanning over four decades, pianist **WILLIS DELONY** has won acclaim as one of the nation's leading classical/jazz crossover artists. His innovative concert explorations of the two musical worlds are showcased in a series of solo piano recordings on the Centaur label. *A New World A' Comin'* – Classical and Jazz Connections was released in 2001. *Double Dance* – Classical and Jazz Connections II was released in 2008. *Out of Character* – Classical and Jazz Connections III, was released in October 2014. His most recent recording is an independent release entitled *Butterfly Room* – Connections for Solo

Piano. Previous album credits include a recording of sonatas by Samuel Barber and Sergei Prokofiev, also on the Centaur label, and a jazz album entitled *Civilized Conversations*, featuring Delony and bassist Bill Grimes. He collaborated with bassoonist William Ludwig on the Mark Records release, *Rhapsody in Bassoon*, which features the world premiere recording of André Previn's *Sonata for Bassoon and Piano*. His most recent recorded collaboration is with LSU colleague, oboist Johanna Cox Pennington, on her new album *Orion Nocturne*, released by Albany Records.

Delony has appeared as piano soloist, guest pianist/arranger or conductor with orchestras throughout the United States as well as orchestras in Canada, the former Soviet Union and China. As a solo and collaborative recitalist, he has performed classical and jazz concerts throughout the U.S. – including a solo recital at Carnegie Hall (October, 2014) – as well as France, Germany, the former Soviet Union, Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil and Argentina. He has performed with many of the nation's leading jazz artists and is co-host/pianist for Louisiana State University's popular concert series *Hot Summer Nights – Cool Jazz*. His pops orchestra arrangements have been performed throughout the U.S. and Canada, including over 50 scores written for the Minneapolis-based jazz vocal quintet *Five By Design*, with whom he has recorded two albums. He has worked for many years with Baton Rouge producer/sound engineer Joey Decker of Disk Productions, co-creating dozens of award-winning commercial soundtracks for clients nationwide. He collaborates regularly with leading contemporary composers, having recently premiered the *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra* by Stephen Dankner with the LSU Symphony Orchestra. He has recorded and performed solo piano works by Paris-based American composer Joseph Makhholm, as well as solo piano works by jazz composer Les Hooper. In January 2017, he premiered Greg Yasinitzky's *Jazz Concerto for Piano and Orchestra* with the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra. In part due to the strength of this performance, the work was awarded The American Prize in composition. In October of 2017, Delony was the featured performer and clinician for the North Carolina Music Teachers Association annual convention, and recently returned from Paris where he presented a lecture/recital on the music of Bill Evans at the IMEP Paris College of Music as well as a solo recital at the Bill Evans Piano Academy.

Delony is the Boyd Professor of Piano and Jazz Studies in the School of Music at Louisiana State University, where he has been a member of the music faculty since 2000. From 1986-2000 he served on the music faculty at Southeastern Louisiana University and is a former member of the music faculty at Delta State University. He is a past recipient of an Artist Fellowship awarded by the Louisiana Division of the Arts, as well as the Edith Kirkpatrick Arts Leadership Award given by the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra. He is also a recent recipient of the LSU Distinguished Faculty Award. Delony was a longtime student of the late Jack Guerry at Louisiana State University, and also studied with pianist Ann Schein at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, MD.

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