

An Evening of Beethoven Sonatas

Lachezar Kostov, cello
Viktor Valkov, piano

Livestream from Watson Chamber Music Hall
Saturday, April 17, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

Presented by

UNC School of the Arts
Brian Cole, Chancellor

School of Music
Saxton Rose, Interim Dean



uncsa.edu/performances

An Evening of Beethoven Sonatas

Complete Piano and Cello Sonatas

Sonata No. 1 in F Major, Op. 5, No. 1 (1796)Ludwig van Beethoven
Adagio sostenuto - Allegro (1770 - 1827)
Rondo: Allegro vivace

Sonata No. 4 in C Major, Op. 102, No. 1 (1815)
Andante - Allegro vivace
Adagio - Tempo d'andante - Allegro vivace

PAUSE

(10 minutes)

Sonata No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 5, No. 2 (1796)
Adagio sostenuto e espressivo - Allegro molto, più tosto presto
Rondo: Allegro

Sonata No. 5 in D Major, Op. 102, No. 2 (1815)
Allegro con brio
Adagio con molto sentimento d'affetto
Allegro - Allegro fugato

PAUSE

(7 minutes)

Sonata No. 3 in A Major, Op. 69 (1808)
Allegro ma non tanto
Scherzo: Allegro molto
Adagio cantabile - Allegro vivace

BIOGRAPHIES

Associate principal cellist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, **LACHEZAR KOSTOV** has appeared as a soloist in some of the world's leading concert venues such as Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Gewandhaus in Leipzig and Oji Hall in Tokyo. He was the National Winner at the 2006 MTNA Young Artists Competition and has won numerous prizes, including the Cello Award at the Kingsville Competition in 2005, the Grand Prix at the International Music and Earth Competition in Bulgaria, and the concerto competitions at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and Rice University. In October 2011, Kostov and pianist Viktor Valkov won the first prize and all the special prizes at the Third International Liszt-Garrison Piano and Duo Competition in Baltimore, MD.

Kostov has appeared as a guest soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States, Japan, Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom and Bulgaria. He is represented as a member of the Kostov-Valkov Duo by Pro-Piano Management. Hailed by European and American critics for “the awesome purity of his playing” and described as a “prodigiously skilled protagonist,” he made his official debut at Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall in 2009. During the event, Kostov performed rarely heard works for cello and piano by Ellen Zwilich, Nikolay Roslavets and Dimitri Kabalevsky. In 2012, following his participation at the Texas Music Festival, he performed Camille Saint-Saëns’ second cello concerto under the baton of Carl St. Clair. In 2013, he performed Dvořák’s famed cello concerto in the legendary Gewandhaus in Leipzig, accompanied by the Academic Symphony Orchestra and conducted by Horst Forster. Kostov’s first commercial CD was released by NAXOS in 2011 and was immediately featured in “The Strad Magazine” and “American Record Guide.” In 2016 he released a second CD containing award-winning transcriptions by the Kostov-Valkov Duo of works by Franz Liszt and virtuoso arrangements from the operas “Carmen” and “The Barber of Seville.”

Kostov has appeared as a guest artist at the Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival, La Jolla Summer Fest, Cactus Pear Music Festival and is also a

guest faculty at the Texas Music Festival in Houston. He has performed alongside musicians such as Jon Kimura Parker, the Tokyo String Quartet, Martin Chalifour, Cho-Liang Lin, Stephanie Sant'Ambrogio, Lucy Robert, Aloysia Friedmann, James Dunham and Desmond Hoebig. Kostov plays on a modern cello made by his friend, luthier Sam Matthews, in Houston. Prior to his appointment with the Baltimore Symphony, he was a tenured member of the San Antonio Symphony and regularly performed with the Houston Symphony. His major teachers include Bogomil Karakonov, Aldo Parisot, Norman Fischer, David Grigorian and Zvi Plessner, and he has appeared in master classes with Yo-Yo Ma, Steven Isserlis and Bernard Greenhouse. Currently, Kostov teaches at the Catholic University in Washington, DC, and the Baltimore School for the Arts.

Kostov is an avid single-malt Scotch whisky collector, an aspiring runner, conductor and pianist. He has flown as a co-pilot to General William "Bill" Anders (Astronaut Bill Anders from Apollo 8) on Anders' private plane. A passionate Pickleball player, he has garnered two gold medals in Pickleball tournaments in the Baltimore area.

Winner of the 2015 Astral Artists National Auditions and gold medalist at the 2012 New Orleans International Piano Competition, **VIKTOR VALKOV** has been highly acclaimed by critics as "lion of the keyboard" and "sensational." Among numerous chamber music and solo appearances, during the last few concert seasons, Valkov also performed with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra, Acadiana Symphony Orchestra and West Virginia Symphony Orchestra.

Since 2002, Valkov has given several recitals in the USA, Japan, China, England, Germany, Italy, Greece, Bulgaria and Macedonia. Prestigious concert venues include Zankel and Weill Halls at Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, Wigmore Hall in London, Sakura Hall in Tokyo and Alte Aula in Heidelberg. A Japanese tour in 2002 took him to Tokyo, Toyama, Yokohama and Okinawa. In Bulgaria, Valkov appeared in performances with most of the major orchestras and at most of the important music festivals. In 2003, he received an invitation from the New Symphony Orchestra and conductor Rossen Milanov to perform

Dimitar Nenov's Grande Piano Concerto, becoming the fifth pianist to perform that concerto and the only one to do the entire version. Valkov made his debut with the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra in 2007.

Valkov's concert activities reflect a vast interest in the chamber music repertoire and lesser-known piano music. He frequently performs with the Bulgarian cellist Lachezar Kostov as part of a cello and piano duo. Both being deeply interested in broadening the repertoire for that medium, they often include in their programs composers like Kabalevsky, Roslavetz, Schnittke, Saint-Saëns (the second cello sonata) and others. Their close friendship and professional collaboration began in 2000. In 2009, the Kostov-Valkov Duo gave their Carnegie Hall debut at Zankel Hall. In 2011, they won the Liszt-Garrison International Competition, where they were awarded first prize, the overall Liszt prize, and all the special prizes in the collaborative artists' category.

As a solo performer, one of Valkov's latest projects featured Busoni's Fantasia Contrappuntistica as the focal point of his concert programs. During the 2011-2012 season, he presented a program of music from the 1600s, including composers like Froberger, Louis Couperin, Frescobaldi, Buxtehude and selections from the Fitzwilliam Virginal Book.

Valkov has made several recordings for the Bulgarian National Radio archive, many of which have been broadcast. He has also recorded for Bulgarian National Television and Macedonian Radio and Television. In 2008, he recorded the entire music for cello and piano by Nikolay Roslavets in collaboration with cellist Lachezar Kostov, and in 2013, he recorded the piano music of Dimitar Nenov. NAXOS released both CDs. A new CD released by Navona Records in 2015, also recorded with Kostov, features the duo's transcriptions of virtuosic piano pieces by Franz Liszt.

Valkov is an assistant professor of piano at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

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Artists enrich our culture, enlighten our society, lift our spirits, and feed our souls.

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UNC School of the Arts nurtures the talent, hones the craft, and develops the unique voices of emerging artists. We realize the full potential of exceptionally creative and passionate students to do their best work and become their best selves.

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UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

UNCSA Student String Chamber Ensembles

Monday, April 19, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

Livestream from Watson Chamber Recital Hall

Student chamber ensembles coached by UNCSA faculty-artists are featured in this concert performance.

UNCSA Spring Percussion Ensembles

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

Available to stream on-demand

Student percussion ensembles coached by UNCSA faculty-artists are featured in this concert performance.

World Premiere of "Waiting in the Wings": A New Dance Work by Larry Keigwin

Friday, April 23, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

Available to stream on-demand

The School of Dance presents the world premiere of a new contemporary dance work by award-winning choreographer Larry Keigwin, commissioned for seniors in the contemporary dance program.

Celebrated for creating acclaimed virtual works in the COVID-19 world of online dancemaking, Keigwin sets his electrifying and refreshing vision to new music by New York-based composer and sound designer Curtis Macdonald. The film follows 17 dancers as they move between backstage and onstage, capturing the anticipation and anxiety of stepping into the spotlight. Driven by their explosive athleticism and electric performances, "Waiting in the Wings" reflects the current apprehension and hope as people await a return to normalcy post-pandemic.

UNCSA Student String Chamber Ensembles

Monday, April 26, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

Livestream from Watson Chamber Recital Hall

Student chamber ensembles coached by UNCSA faculty-artists are featured in this concert performance.

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