

# UNCSA

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## **PIANO FRIDAYS WITH CAHILL SMITH**

"A CONVERSATION BETWEEN FRIENDS": MUSIC OF  
SERGEI RACHMANINOFF AND NIKOLAI MEDTNER

**Apr. 5 at 7:30 p.m.**

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WATSON HALL

PRESENTED BY  
**UNCSA**

**Brian Cole**  
CHANCELLOR

**Saxton Rose**  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC, DEAN

# PIANO FRIDAYS WITH CAHILL SMITH

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943): selections from *Morceaux de fantaisie*, Op.3 (1893), *Preludes*, Op. 23 (1904), and *Etudes Tableaux*, Op. 33 (1914)

Nikolai Medtner (1880-1951): selections from *8 Stimmungsbilder*, Op.1 (1903), *Forgotten Melodies*, Book I, Op. 38 (1922), and *Forgotten Melodies*, Book II, Op. 39 (1922)

Melody in E (Adagio sostenuto), Op. 3, No. 3..... Rachmaninoff

Meditazione in C-sharp Minor (Meditamente), Op. 39, No. 1 ..... Medtner

Prelude in F-sharp Minor (Largo), Op. 23, No. 1..... Rachmaninoff

Danza graziosa in A (Allegretto grazioso), Op. 38, No. 3..... Medtner

Danza festiva in D (Presto), Op. 38, No. 3 ..... Medtner

Prelude in D (Andante cantabile), Op. 23, No. 4 ..... Rachmaninoff

Primavera in B-flat (Vivace), Op. 39, No. 3 ..... Medtner

Prelude in B-flat (Maestoso), Op. 23, No. 2 ..... Rachmaninoff

INTERMISSION

# PIANO FRIDAYS WITH CAHILL SMITH

Prologue ("The Angel") in E (Andante cantabile), Op. 1, No. 1..... Medtner

Prelude in D Minor (Tempo di minuetto), Op. 23, No. 3 ..... Rachmaninoff

Canzona matinata in G (Allegretto cantando), Op. 39, No. 4..... Medtner

Prelude in G Minor (Alla marcia), Op. 23, No. 5..... Rachmaninoff

Prelude in E-flat (Andante), Op. 23, No. 6..... Rachmaninoff

Etude Tableaux in E-flat (Allegro con fuoco), Op. 33, No. 7 ..... Rachmaninoff

Canzona serenata in F Minor (Moderato), Op. 38, No. 6..... Medtner

Danza silvestra in F-sharp Minor (Allegro), Op. 38, No. 7..... Medtner

Alla Reminiscenza in A (Quasi coda), Op. 38, No. 8 ..... Medtner

# BIOGRAPHY

## CAHILL SMITH

Pianist Cahill Smith has performed in major venues in the United States and abroad, including four programs at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in New York, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum's Calderwood Hall in Boston, Cleveland Museum of Art, the Royal Dublin Society's Concert Hall, Buffalo's Kleinhans Music Hall and Birmingham's Alys Stephens Center. In Asia, Smith has performed in eleven cities in China (Beijing, Shanghai, Guanzhou, Chongqing, Zhuhai, Wuhan, Donying, Qingdao, Xiamen, Hohhot and Lanzhou), three cities in Taiwan (Taipei, Taichung and Taitung), Kiev in the Ukraine, as well as London and Dublin. He has been featured as a concerto soloist with the National Ukrainian Symphony Orchestra in Kiev, the Mongolian Symphony Orchestra in Hohhot, China, the Eastman Philharmonia, the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, the Chattanooga Symphony, the Butler Symphony Orchestra, the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra and others. His live and studio recordings have been broadcast on WQXR, New York's Classical Music Radio Station, WCRB, Classical Radio Boston and WSMC, Chattanooga Public Radio.

Smith gave his first recital at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in 2013 with a program dedicated entirely to works of Nikolai Medtner. Two years later, in a review of his 2015 solo recital in the same venue, New York Concert Review wrote, "The entire second half was devoted to a special "cause" of Mr. Smith: the piano music of Nikolai Medtner [...]. Here, Mr. Smith was in his element, revealing every twist and turn, every poignant repeat of the cyclic themes, with beautiful shimmering colors I haven't heard since Gilels played the Sonata reminiscenza in Carnegie Hall in 1980." Smith has given recitals and lectures on Medtner's music at Yale University, the International Medtner Festival in London and others. In January of 2019, his debut album "Medtner: Forgotten Melodies" was featured as Classical Radio Boston's "CD of the Week" for its "irresistible lyricism" and "a palpable sense of love – a real affinity for the directness and honesty in Medtner's music, which goes straight to the heart." Marc-André Hamelin, who reviewed the CD, also wrote: "It gives me great pleasure to endorse Cahill Smith as a sensitive, dedicated, and perceptive interpreter of the music of Nikolai Medtner. Unlike Rachmaninoff for instance (to whom he is often compared), Medtner rarely makes a strong first impression in careless hands, so he requires someone who will bring out the lyricism of the music to the fore, which necessitates a great deal of insight and care. Upon listening to Cahill's disc, I found myself thinking repeatedly that his would be the kind of recording that offers the best chance for listeners to be taken into Medtner's fascinating world from the very first hearing. It's a remarkable accomplishment!"

Smith regularly presents public masterclasses and conference presentations, and he serves as an adjudicator for competitions. He serves as the director of graduate studies in music at Utah State University (USU), artistic director of the Wassermann Piano Series, and programming chair of the Chamber Music Society of Logan. Smith serves as faculty advisor for USU's nationally-recognized Youth Conservatory (YC), a lab school designed to give piano majors hands-on professional training in individual and group lessons to around 150 pre-college students ages 4-18. He also serves as an advisor for the MTNA Collegiate Chapter at USU, which won the "National Collegiate Chapter of the Year" from MTNA in 2022.

## BIOGRAPHY

Smith completed his Doctorate of Musical Arts at the Eastman School of Music, where he served as the teaching assistant to Natalya Antonova. At Eastman, Smith was the inaugural recipient of the Douglas Lowry award for excellence in degree recital performance, won the Eastman Concerto Competition, received honors in chamber music and was awarded the Prize for Excellence in Teaching. Smith completed his Master's at the University of Michigan with Arthur Greene, and his Bachelor's at the University of Alabama at Birmingham with Yakov Kasman. Smith previously served as keyboard area coordinator and artistic director of the International Piano Festival and Competition at Lee University. He joined the faculty of Utah State University in 2019, where he was awarded "Teacher of the Year" (2023) "Undergraduate Mentor of the Year" (2022) and "Graduate Mentor of the Year" (2022). At USU, Smith teaches piano performance, pedagogy, keyboard skills and special topics courses in piano.

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## DEAN'S CIRCLES

The Dean's Circles support each of the five arts schools at UNCSA — Dance, Design & Production, Drama, Filmmaking and Music. Dean's Circle members support the school of their choosing with an annual gift of \$5,000 or more in support of discretionary funds, scholarships or other fundraising priorities. Members enjoy special events and opportunities to interact with the school's dean, faculty and students. If you are interested in joining one or more UNCSA Dean's Circles, please contact Shannon Wright, Director of Development for Leadership Annual & Family Giving, at [wrights@uncsa.edu](mailto:wrights@uncsa.edu) or 336-770-1427.

### DEAN'S CIRCLE FOR THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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## UNCSA DAYS OF GIVING 2024

Support UNCSA students on April 10-11th and make an impact on our arts community. There are dozens of areas to support including scholarships, student projects, academics and many more. Scan the QR code or visit [give.uncsa.edu](http://give.uncsa.edu) to give early now and be entered in our Early Giving Challenge for a chance to win an extra \$500 for your chosen area of support!





## **UNCSA MISSION**

The University of North Carolina School of the Arts provides gifted emerging artists with the experience, knowledge, and skills needed to excel in their disciplines and in their lives, and it serves and enriches the cultural and economic prosperity of the people of North Carolina and the nation. UNCSA is the state's unique professional school for the performing, visual, and moving image arts, training students at the high school, undergraduate, and master's levels for professional careers in the arts. (Approved by the UNC Board of Governors 2/2014)



## **THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

The School of Music gives talented young artists the opportunity to perfect their musical talent and prepare for life as professional musicians. Our training includes both private instruction and public performance experience, including more than 150 recitals and concerts presented each year. This performance experience, combined with career development opportunities and studies in music theory, literature and style, provides the ultimate training to help young musicians grow as both artists and professionals.



## **THE ASSOCIATES**

The Associates, UNCSA's volunteer organization, invites you to join them. For more information about the organization and volunteer opportunities, visit [www.uncsa.edu/associates](http://www.uncsa.edu/associates) or email them at [UNCSAassociatesportal@uncsa.edu](mailto:UNCSAassociatesportal@uncsa.edu).

# UNCSA

## **UNCSA Wind Ensemble and Chamber Winds: Centennial Celebration**

**Apr. 11 at 7:30 p.m.**

WATSON HALL

Violinist and String Department Chair Kevin Lawrence performs Kurt Weill's Concerto for violin and wind orchestra, Op. 12, on its 100th anniversary. Composed in 1925, Weill's violin concerto was one of his most important works, but he is perhaps best known for his work in musical theater and opera.

## **Emerging Artist Chamber Music Showcase**

**Apr. 20 at 7:30 p.m.**

WATSON HALL

Experience dynamic performances by UNCSA's finest student groups in strings, piano, and mixed chamber ensembles during the spring Emerging Artist Chamber Music Showcase. Enjoy a blend of timeless classics and innovative contemporary compositions performed at the highest level.

## **Reynolda Quartet**

**Apr. 28 at 2:30 p.m.**

REYNOLDA HOUSE MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

The Reynolda Quartet is set to ignite the stage this spring at Reynolda House, presenting a captivating program spotlighting the brilliance of Dvořák and Beethoven at critical junctures in their careers. The Reynolda Quartet, comprising esteemed faculty artists from the School of Music, was established in 2019 through a collaboration between two of Winston-Salem's cultural pillars: Reynolda House Museum of American Art and UNCSA.