

MESA DUO

NASH RYDER, VIOLIN
SEAN BOTKIN, PIANO

PROGRAM

- Fantasy in C Major for Violin and Piano, D. 934 Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)
- Romance in A Minor for Violin and Piano Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873-1943)
- Morceaux de salon*, op. 6 Rachmaninoff
1. Romance
 2. Danse hongroise

INTERMISSION

- Onekha'shòn:a, Ya'kòn:kwe* (The Waters, The Women) (2020) Dawn Avery
(b. 1961)
- I.
 - II.
 - III.
- Sonata for Piano and Violin in D Minor, op. 108 Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)
- I. Allegro
 - II. Adagio
 - III. Un poco presto e con sentimento
 - IV. Presto agitato

ABOUT OUR FACULTY ARTISTS

Hailed by violinist James Ehnes as “mesmerizing,” **Dr. Nash Ryder** began playing violin at the age of seven. He went on to study with world-renowned artists and pedagogues Donald Weilerstein, Anait Arutunian, Ronald Copes, Frank Huang, Scott Flavin, Jan Mark Sloman and Robin Scott.

He earned his B.M. and M.M. in violin performance from the Juilliard School and was the first student in the institution’s history to receive both undergraduate honors and an accelerated graduate degree. He later received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Eastman School of Music.

Featured on the highly acclaimed NPR radio show ‘From the Top’ in his youth, Nash has since performed in a wide variety of venues internationally and nationally, performing in festivals such as the Conservatoire Américain de Fontainebleau in France, the Lake District Music Festival in England, the Sarasota Music Festival, the Bowdoin International Music Festival, Meadowmount School of Music and the Colorado College Summer Music Festival.

He has been a featured soloist with the Bangor Symphony Orchestra, Ars Flores Symphony Orchestra, the New England String Ensemble, White Mountain Bach Festival Orchestra, the Frost Symphony Orchestra, I Solisti di Miami, and the Colorado College SMF Orchestra.

Nash has shared the stage with artists such as Josh Groban, Linda Eder, Joshua Bell, Itzhak Perlman, Joseph Silverstein, Ilya Kaler, Jeffrey Zeigler, and members of the Ying Quartet, among other artists. He has played under the batons of conductors Gerard Schwarz, Jeanette Sorrell, Gemma New, Michael Tilson Thomas, Joseph Colaneri, Pablo Heras-Casado, Alan Gilbert, Gianandrea Noseda, Thomas Adès, David Robertson, Matthias Pintscher, Jeffery Kahane and Scott Yoo.

Additionally, he has worked closely with composers Michael Finnissy and Peter Maxwell-Davies on several of their pieces. His audiences have included Former President George H.W. Bush, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, and Senator Susan Collins.

Former rotating concertmaster and teaching artist of the New World Symphony, Dr. Ryder is currently assistant professor of instruction in violin at the University of Northern Iowa and the concertmaster of the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra. He has also regularly performed with the Florida Orchestra, the Portland Symphony Orchestra, the Venice Symphony, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony and Orchestra Iowa. In 2024, Dr. Ryder formed the Mesa Duo with internationally-renowned pianist and UNI professor Sean Botkin. He is also a faculty member at NEMC at the Snow Pond Center for the Arts and SummerKeys, both in Maine. Dr. Ryder will release an album of French works for unaccompanied violin through the Sheva Collection in 2024.

Pianist **Sean Botkin** began studying the piano at age five with his mother, making his first orchestral appearance four years later with the Honolulu Symphony. He went on to study privately with Neal O'Doan at the University of Washington and, under his direction, performed with the Seattle Symphony, Spokane Symphony, and Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra. Sean has garnered prizes in an impressive list of international piano competitions and has performed extensively in the United States, Europe, Central and South America, Asia, and Russia. Concerto and recital performances include Kazan and St. Petersburg, Russia; Tbilisi and Kutaisi, Georgia; Salzburg Festival, Ravenna Festival, Stresa Festival, Ruhr Klavier Festival, Gilmore Festival, London, Cagliari, Rome, Florence, Bologna, Palermo, Lisbon, Tokyo, Seoul, Bogotá, and San José (Costa Rica). He made his New York debut at Alice Tully Hall in 1993 performing Bartók's Concerto No. 2 with the Juilliard Symphony, conducted by Carl St. Clair. In 2009, he made a CD recording of Rachmaninoff's Piano Sonata No. 1 in D minor and performed a series of concerts in Europe sponsored by Alexander Rachmaninoff and the Rachmaninoff Foundation. In 2012, also sponsored by the Rachmaninoff Foundation, he performed Rachmaninoff's 4th Piano Concerto with the Chicago Symphony at Ravinia, conducted by Gianandrea Noseda, and in 2013 with the Orchestra of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia and guest conductor, Alexander Sladkovsky. Sean recently performed in a Rachmaninoff marathon concert as part of the Toradze International Music Festival in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Equally active in chamber music, Sean performs frequently with violinist Nash Ryder as part of the Mesa Duo. Reactions to Sean's performances typically are expressed with phrases such as "multidimensional talents," "superb musicianship," and "beautiful and rare musical experience."

A graduate of Stanford University, the Juilliard School, and Indiana University at South Bend, Sean has studied with eminent artists Adolph Baller, Martin Canin, and Alexander Toradze.

Sean is currently Associate Professor of Piano at the University of Northern Iowa.