

Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center
Davis Hall
March 21, 2024
6:00 pm

Alexander Pershounin, double bass
With
Sean Botkin, piano

Program

Раздумье (*Meditation*).....Modest Petrovich Mussorgsky
(1839-1881)

Suite a Violoncello Solo Senza Basso no. 1, BWV 1007.....J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Prelude
Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Minuet I & 2
Gigue

Prelude, op. 2, no.1.....Sergey Rachmaninoff
(1873-1943)

Sonata in E minor, op. 38.....Johannes Brahms
Allegro non troppo (1833-1897)
Allegretto quasi menuetto

Песня индийского гостя (*Chanson indoue*).....Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov
(1844-1908)

About the artists

Dr. Alexander Pershounin has performed extensively throughout Europe and United States in both classical and jazz settings and has been featured as a performer and composer on such internationally recognized music events as Montreaux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, Pori Jazz Festival in Finland, Europe's Jazz Contest in Belgium, and New Orleans Jazz Fest, among many others. His performing credits include collaboration projects and appearances with world-class artists ranging from Bob Berg, Mulgrew Miller, Conrad Herwig, and Benny Golson to Itzhac Perlman, Yo Yo Ma, and Ray Charles, to name just a few. He also has recorded several commercially released compact disc albums and music to four full-length motion pictures. He holds DMA and MFA degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi and MFA and BM degrees from Russia's most prestigious music institution: Gnessins' State Academy of Music in Moscow. Before arriving to UNI as a bass studio and liberal arts core instructor Dr. Pershounin had taught at Columbus State University, Minnesota State University Moorhead, Westfield State College, University of Southern Mississippi, and various music institutions in Russia. His students won national and international competitions, were accepted in most prestigious music institutions, and successfully developed their own professional music careers.

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: William Kapell International Piano Competition, Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition, Busoni International Piano Competition, Cleveland International Piano Competition, World Piano Competition in Cincinnati, Dong-A International Music Competition of Korea, International Music Competition of Japan and the Washington D.C. International Competition. 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 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. In May 2015, Sean performed in Tbilisi, Georgia as part of the Easter to Ascension Festival. Equally active in chamber music, reactions to Sean's performances typically are expressed with phrases such as "multidimensional talents", "superb musicianship", and "beautiful and rare musical experience". Other recent performances include Rachmaninoff's *Trio élégiaque No. 1 in G minor* on the New York Philharmonic Ensembles concert at Merkin Hall and a solo recital at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York. Upcoming performing performances include a solo recital at McPherson College in Kansas. He is currently Associate Professor of Piano at the University of Northern Iowa.