

2022

LAUENEN CHAMBER CONCERTS

Saturday February 26th, 2022
6.15 pm



Dear Friends,

We are so happy that the Swiss authorities have relaxed rules so we can host this concert and party, it is the 19th edition following only one interruption in 2021 ! Welcome to this beautiful church of Lauenen and thank you for your presence !



*Andrienne and
Etienne d'Arenberg*

The world will never be the same after what we just went through and I would like to take this opportunity to express in our common name our sympathy for all that have had a particularly difficult time, lost relatives and friends and those thrown in difficult health and living conditions. In particular, young people and performing musicians. It is therefore akin to a miracle that our Artistic Director Joji Hattori managed to gather a panel of extraordinary musicians, some that have played in Lauenen for us before, such as Sarah McElravy and Joji of course, or friends that will play for the first time such as H  l  ne Mercier, Julian Rachlin and Boris Andrianov. We are very grateful to all of them for their presence and music: the programme attached will show you that this year is a particularly exceptional one!

I would like to thank all of you for your presence at this event in compliance with the necessary procedures. Such an evening does require an enormous amount of energy and is really a joint family project: my gratitude goes to my darling wife Andrienne, to my sister-in-law Isabel and brother Leopold, as well as in particular to our all our children for making this evening a symphony of youth, energy and beauty and to my assistant Tamara for making this an organized event!!

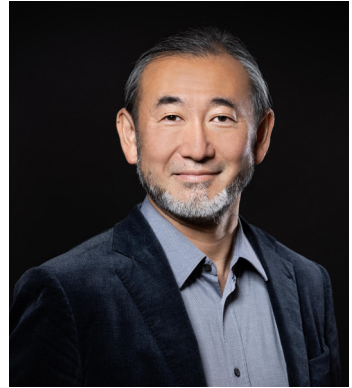
I am proud of what this yearly concert and musical concept has achieved since the launch of the idea in 2002: music for music, devoid of commercial or career-related objective, allowing musicians to rehearse in quiet surroundings together for several days surrounded by calmness, love and friendship. You all have supported this by your presence and enthusiasm and are an integral part of its success, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

And now to the music!

*Etienne d'Arenberg for the
Lauenen Chamber Concerts Association*

Dear Friends,

The last two years in which more than half of all classical concerts were cancelled world-wide, were indeed an enormously challenging period for us musicians, but we are still very thankful for all the multiple forms of support we have received, in material or immaterial form, the latter being almost more important. At the same time, we wish that the world will soon come into terms with the fact that there is a new illness, which we cannot eliminate, so that we can start paying more attention to other subjects again, including social justice, world peace, or spiritual food for people's health, of which music is one.



Joji Hattori

This year's programme has a special meaning to me, as a colleague of mine and an „old“ personal friend Julian Rachlin has co-curated it with me. I met Julian, also from Vienna, for the first time at the age of 16, when he was only 12 years old, and by coincidence we performed after each other at the same house concert. I already had to realise then that - only very rarely - there are violinists, who could be even more talented on the violin than myself.

Today more than ever, Julian is one of the few prominent violinists I truly admire, and we are delighted that we could win over his participation as well as that of three further wonderful artists Hélène Mercier, Sarah McElravy and Boris Andrianov.

I hope you will enjoy this programme which represents three different countries and periods of music history, and yet has a common spirit.

On behalf of all the musicians I would like to express as always my deep gratitude to the Arenberg family and further supporters who make this project possible each winter!

Yours ever,

Joji Hattori

Artistic Director

Lauenen Chamber Concerts

26th February 2022

PROGRAMME

Dmitri SHOSTAKOVICH 5 pieces for 2 violins and piano

1. *Prelude*
2. *Gavotte*
3. *Elegy*
4. *Waltz*
5. *Polka*

Julian Rachlin (*1st violin*) - **Joji Hattori** (*2nd violin*) - **Hélène Mercier** (*piano*)

Johann Sebastian BACH

Excerpts from the “Goldberg Variations”

(transcription for string trio by Dmitry Sitkovetsky)

Julian Rachlin (*violin*) - **Sarah McElravy** (*viola*) - **Boris Andrianov** (*cello*)

INTERMISSION



César FRANCK

Piano Quintet in F minor

1. Molto moderato quasi lento - Allegro
2. Lento con molto sentimento
3. Allegro non troppo ma con fuoco

Julian Rachlin (*1st violin*) - Joji Hattori (*2nd violin*) - Sarah McElravy (*viola*) -
Boris Andrianov (*cello*) - Hélène Mercier (*piano*)



PROGRAMME NOTES

by Joji Hattori

Dmitri SHOSTAKOVICH (1906–1975)

5 pieces for 2 violins and piano

These five pieces were collected and arranged for two violins and piano by Lev Atovmyan—a friend and assistant of Shostakovich—with the composer’s approval. The gorgeous, almost Brahmsian Prelude is taken from Shostakovich’s score to the film *The Gadfly* (1955), the Gavotte, Elegy and Polca come from his Ballet Suites. The Waltz is believed to derive from sketches for *The Tale of the Priest and of His Worker, Blockhead*, a Soviet animated film Shostakovich began to score, but was forced to abandon after his 1936 denunciation under Stalin. In these five violin pieces, we hear a less familiar Shostakovich: this music is beautiful and straightforward—joyful and sorrowful in turn, but uncut by the fear and anger evident in so many of his other works.

J. S. BACH (1685–1750)

Excerpts from the “Goldberg Variations”

(transcription for string trio by Dmitry Sitkovetsky, *1954)

J S Bach’s ‘Goldberg’ Variations is the last of a series of keyboard music works that the composer published under the title of *Clavierübung*. Many people consider this the most serious and challenging composition that has ever been written for harpsichord. Based on a single bass theme, the variations prove Bach’s profound understanding of many musical styles as well as his exceptional performing technique. This largest of all clavier pieces encapsulates the whole history of Baroque variation, as Beethoven’s *Diabelli Variations* later did for the Classical period.

Born in Baku, Azerbaijan, Dmitry Sitkovetsky grew up in Moscow, studying at the Moscow Conservatory. After emigrating in 1977, he studied at the Juilliard School in New York and now lives in London and enjoys an international career as violinist, conductor, arranger, chamber musician and festival director. He has transcribed more than 40 works mostly for string orchestra by Haydn, Beethoven, Brahms, Dohnányi, Bartók, Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich, Stravinsky and Schnittke. His original

transcription of The Goldberg Variations was written in 1984, inspired by the famous 1981 Glen Gould recording. A version for string orchestra is equally popular and these transcriptions have been played all over the world.

César FRANCK (1822-1890)
Piano Quintet in F minor

César Franck wasn't exactly a late bloomer, but he is mostly known for a series of pieces he composed over the last twenty of his sixty-seven years. The Piano Quintet in F minor also dates from this 'mature' period (as do the Symphony in D minor, Violin Sonata, and Symphonic Variations), written in 1879 after Franck hadn't composed any chamber music in over a quarter of a century.

The premiere of Franck's Quintet in January 1880 must rank as one of the strangest musical affairs of the 19th century. In the event, the pianist (and dedicatee) was the composer Camille Saint-Saëns, who sight-read his part, and liked what he was playing less and less as the performance wore on. At the end of the performance, as Franck came to the stage to congratulate the players and accept the audience's applause, Saint-Saëns angrily marched off, embarrassed to have been involved with the piece at all: officially, he took issue with the music's many modulations, though perhaps the score's unbridled sensuality – and Franck's none-too-subtle infatuation at the time with one of his students (who Saint-Saëns may or may not have shared feelings for) – was too much for him.

In spite of the less fortunate premiere event, this Quintet soon became one of the most popular piano quintets of all times, being a magnificent example of French romanticism, being a perfect combination of aesthetic musical form and emotional explosions.

BIOGRAPHIES

JULIAN RACHLIN

is one of the most renowned artistic personalities of our time. In his over thirty-year career, Mr. Rachlin's multifaceted interests have taken him across the globe as a conductor, soloist, recording artist, chamber musician, teacher, and artistic director. As a violinist, Rachlin has shared the stage with virtually every major orchestra and conductor. A frequent presence on the conductor's podium, his performances have thrilled audiences worldwide and his electrifying and sensitive interpretations have placed him at the forefront of classical music.

Rachlin's elegant and dynamic style has cemented his reputation as conductor. Known for his meticulous rehearsal methods and superb musicianship, he has conducted the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Konzerthausorchester Berlin, Russian National Orchestra, Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, China Philharmonic Orchestra, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, and the symphony orchestras of Vienna, City of Birmingham, RAI Torino as well as at the Grand Teton and Verbier festivals. Mr. Rachlin serves as Principal Guest Conductor of the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra, the Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra, and he is Principal Artistic Partner of the Royal Northern Sinfonia. A major presence in the performing arts since the age of thirteen, Mr. Rachlin has spent over three decades cementing his reputation as one of the world's

premiere classical violinists. Recent highlights as soloist or as conductor include appearances with the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra under Klaus Mäkelä, the Helsinki Philharmonic, the Sofia Philharmonic, the Warsaw Philharmonic, Prague Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestra Filarmonica della Scala under Andrés Orozco-Estrada, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Yuri Termirkanov and the Munich Symphony Orchestra.

Rachlin's renowned music festivals reflect his joie de vivre and passion for bringing great artists and international audiences together in a celebration of music and art. He frequently collaborates with longtime musical partners, Martha Argerich, Evgeny Kissin, Denis Matsuev, Janine Jansen, Vilde Frang and Mischa Maisky. His untiring work and dedication for his "Julian Rachlin & Friends" festival in Dubrovnik, Croatia that ran for over a decade, has been recognized worldwide, and Mr. Rachlin has recently been appointed the 2021



JULIAN RACHLIN

Artistic Director of the Herbstgold-Festival at the legendary Esterházy Palace in Eisenstadt, Austria.

Mr. Rachlin is the recipient of numerous awards recognizing his work in the field of classical music, including as an Accademia Musicale Chigiana Siena Prize laureate, World Economic Forum “Young Global Leader”, and a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Children’s Fund. In 2013, Mr. Rachlin performed alongside Zubin Mehta and the Bavarian State Orchestra at the historic “Peace for Kashmir” concert at the Mughal-era Shalimar Gardens in Srinagar, Kashmir, the first ever performance by a Western orchestra in that region.

Born in Lithuania, Rachlin emigrated to Vienna with his family at the age of three, where he studied violin under the renowned Boris Kuschner at the Musik und Kunst Privatuniversität der Stadt Wien and received private lessons from Pinchas Zukerman in New York City. Mr. Rachlin also completed conducting studies with Maestro Mariss Jansons, Sophie Rachlin and was mentored by Maestro Daniele Gatti.

Mr. Rachlin plays the 1704 “ex Liebig” Stradivari and a 1785 Lorenzo Storioni viola, on loan to him courtesy of the Dkfm. Angelika Prokopp Privatstiftung. His strings are kindly sponsored by Thomastik- Infeld. Mr. Rachlin’s critically acclaimed recordings can be heard on Deutsche Grammophon, Sony Classical, and Warner Class.

JOJI HATTORI

is one of the leading Japanese musicians of his generation and has enjoyed a very varied career as a musician, firstly as a concert violinist, an activity which has developed into directing chamber orchestras, conducting symphony orchestras and finally operas.

He is currently the Principal Guest Conductor of the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, which he has been conducting regularly since 2004, at the Vienna Konzerthaus as well as on numerous tours within Europe, to Asia and South America. Since 2009 Joji Hattori is also the Music Director of the Open-Air Summer Festival in Schloss Kittsee. As violinist he performs every year at the Lauenen Chamber Concerts (Switzerland) of which he is the Artistic Director.

From 2007 to 2008 Joji Hattori served as Principal Resident Conductor of the Opera House in Erfurt and from 2014 to 2018 he was Principal Guest Conductor

and Co-Artistic Director of the Balearic Symphony Orchestra in Palma de Mallorca.

As guest conductor he has worked repeatedly with many distinguished orchestras such as the Philharmonia Orchestra London, Slovakian Philharmonic, Wiener Symphoniker, the Düsseldorfer Symphoniker or many major symphony orchestras in Japan. In 2009 he made his debut at the Vienna State Opera with three performances of The Magic Flute, conducting in fact the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra in the pit. He has also conducted at the New National Theatre Tokyo which is Japan's leading opera house.

He was born in Japan and spent his childhood in Vienna where regularly attending the opera house and concert halls formed his musical development. Influenced by both cultures, Hattori is today one of the very few musicians of Asian heritage who is respected internationally for his interpretation of the Viennese Classics. He started playing the violin at the age of five and studied with Rainer Küchl at the Vienna Academy of Music, followed by further studies with Yehudi Menuhin and Vladimir Spivakov. In 1989 he won the International



JOJI HATTORI

Yehudi Menuhin Violin Competition in England. After a decade of international activities as a violin soloist, he participated at the inaugural Lorin Maazel Conducting Competition in New York in 2002, where he was given a major award and the opportunity to study conducting techniques with the late Lorin Maazel for the following 2 years.

Apart from his performing activities, Joji Hattori is President and Member of the Jury of the International Yehudi Menuhin Violin Competition and in 2003 he was made Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music, London. Having studied social anthropology at Oxford University (St. Antony College), he also continues to research the questions around the national identity of human beings. Since 2015 he is the owner of Shiki, a Japanese Fine Dining restaurant in Vienna.



SARAH McELRAVY

Equally respected as a violinist and violist, **SARAH McELRAVY** is enjoying a diverse international career of concerto, recital, and chamber music performances. Highlights of the 2021/22 season include performances with the Helsinki Philharmonic, Prague Philharmonia, Warsaw Philharmonic and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic.

Highly regarded in Europe, North America and Asia, recent highlights include appearances as soloist with the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra, Dortmunder Philharmoniker, Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Moscow Philharmonic, Bayerischer Rundfunk Chamber Orchestra, Innsbruck Philharmonic, Kristiansand Symphony, Naples Philharmonic, and Sofia Philharmonic. She performed the UK premiere of the Penderecki Double Concerto for Violin and Viola with Julian Rachlin and the Royal Northern Sinfonia conducted by Alexander Joel, and Strauss' Don Quixote with Boris Andrianov and the Russian National Orchestra under the baton of Dmitri Jurowski. She has also performed with the Moscow Soloists conducted by Yuri Bashmet, as well as the Slovenian Philharmonic, Nice Philharmonic, Turku Philharmonic and Moscow Virtuosi. Ms. McElravy also made her Japan debut with the Royal Northern Sinfonia at the "La Folle Journée" Festival.

In chamber music, 2021 highlights include performances in Xian, China with Martha Argerich, a Beethoven Quartet collaboration at Schloss Esterházy in Eisenstadt for the Herbstgold Festival, and a special Bach "Goldberg Variations" project that will be toured throughout Europe. She has performed at the Vienna Musikverein, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Suntory Hall, Prague Spring Festival, Sion Festival, Lauenen Chamber Music Festival, Julian Rachlin & Friends Festival in Palma de Mallorca, Kronberg Academy, Schloss Elmau, Ottawa Chamber Music Festival and the Janine Jansen International Chamber Music Festival. Ms. McElravy's chamber music partners include, among others, Julian Rachlin, Janine Jansen, Vilde Frang, Denis Kozhukhin, Itamar Golan, Andreas Ottensamer, Mischa Maisky, Nicolas Altstaedt, Boris Andrianov, and Daniel Müller-Schott.

A founding member of the award-winning Linden String Quartet, hailed as "polished, radiant and incisive" by The Strad Magazine, she has toured extensively throughout North America and Europe. The ensemble served as Fellowship Quartet-in-residence at Yale University, Apprentice Quartet at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and gave teaching residencies at the University of Iowa, University of Idaho, Caramoor Festival, and Detroit Chamber Music Society amongst others. The quartet gave frequent masterclasses, lectures,

and educational outreach performances across the United States and Canada. The Linden Quartet received Gold medal and Grand prize at the 2009 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, 2009 Coleman National Chamber Ensemble Competition, the 2010 Hugo Kauder Competition, the ProQuartet Prize at the 9th Borciani String Quartet Competition, and a prestigious New York Concert Artists Guild management contract.

In 2014, Ms. McElravy founded the Chamber Music Society México, an organization dedicated to presenting world-class chamber music in México City. As the Artistic Director, she brought leading North American artists to perform and provide educational programs for talented young Mexican musicians.

Ms. McElravy received her Bachelor and Master of Music at the Cleveland Institute of Music under the tutelage of Paul Kantor and Stephen Rose. She subsequently completed a two-year graduate string-quartet-in-residence program at Yale University's School of Music, mentored by the Tokyo String Quartet.

Ms. McElravy plays on a 1791 Ferdinando Gagliano violin and a 1785 Lorenzo Storioni viola on loan to her courtesy of the Dkfm. Angelika Prokopp Privatstiftung in Vienna, Austria.

BORIS ANDRIANOV, a renowned Russian cellist, performs in the world's top venues and at most prestigious festivals. While having an extensive touring schedule, the artist is also keen on performing in Russia, whether in big cities, small towns or remote villages that had never seen any concerts at all. He has also participated in many international and national projects aimed at expanding the country's musical landscapes, especially in Russian provinces. Invariably enjoying great success with the public, those projects bring together internationally renowned performers along with Boris Andrianov himself.

Boris Andrianov was born in Moscow in 1976. He studied at the Gnessin Moscow Special School of Music (class of Vera Birina), Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory (class of Professor Natalia Shakhovskaya) and Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin (class of Professor David Geringas).

He was the winner of Antonio Janigro International Cello Competition in Zagreb as well as competitions in Johannesburg, Hanover (Classica Nova – In Memoriam Dmitri Shostakovich, as part of a duo with Alexey Goribol), Paris (Concours de violoncelle Rostropovitch), and South Korea (Isang Yun Competition). He was also a prize-winner at the 11th International Tchaikovsky Competition and the Triumph Youth Award, and was titled Honored Artist of Russia in 2016.

Boris Andrianov has performed with the world's leading orchestras and conductors, including Valery Gergiev, Vladimir Fedoseev, Yury Simonov, Pavel Kogan, Krzysztof Penderecki, Alexander Vedernikov, Gianandrea Noseda, Dmitry Liss, Roman Kofman, Vasily Petrenko, Stefan Vladar, Dmitri Jurowski, and Alexander Sladkovsky. In chamber performances, he has played alongside Yury Bashmet, Menahem Pressler, Akiko Suwanai, Janine Jansen, Julian Rachlin, Itamar Golan, Denis Matsuev, Sergey Nakaryakov, Vadim Repin, Maxim Vengerov, Alexey Lyubimov, Tatiana Grindenko, to name a few. The musician has participated in the Royal Swedish Festival, as well as festivals



BORIS ANDRIANOV

in Ludwigsburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Edinburgh, Dubrovnik, Colmar, Davos, Irkutsk (Stars on Baikal), Trans-Siberian Art Festival and others. He is also a regular guest of the Homecoming Chamber Music Festival in Moscow.

Boris Andrianov heads The Generation of Stars, a nation-wide project that has been awarded the Prize for culture of the Government of Russia (2009). He also initiated Vivacello and Vivarte international festivals in Moscow and has been artistic director for both. In addition, he is the artistic director of Musical Expedition festival, that was founded in the Vladimir region and has been expanding every year. In 2021, the festival covered six Russian regions, including Udmurtia, Vologda and Novosibirsk regions, Crimea and Kamchatka.

Widely collaborating with contemporary composers, Boris Andrianov has repeatedly presented premieres of new works, including those by Giya Kancheli, Krzysztof Penderecki, Efrem Podgaits, Michael Berkeley, Richard Dubugnon, Alexander Rosenblatt, Giovanni Sollima, Vangelis, Alexey Rybnikov, Pavel Karmanov, Samuel Strouk, Alexey Shor and others.

The artist's discography includes a joint recording with guitarist Dmitry Illarionov, released by Delos (in 2003 the record was included in the long list of Grammy nominees in Chamber Ensemble category); Sonatas by Shostakovich and Rachmaninoff with pianist Rem Urasin (named the best chamber disc of the month by Gramophone in September 2007), and sonatas for viola da gamba and harpsichord by J. S. Bach transcribed for cello and button accordion, recorded with Yuri Medianik (released by Melodiya, 2015). In 2020-2021 he recorded Variations on Rococo Theme by Tchaikovsky with the State Orchestra of the Republic of Tatarstan under Alexander Sladkovsky (Sony Classics), Gabriel Prokofiev's Cello Concerto with the Ural Philharmonic Orchestra under Alexey Bogorad (world premiere of the recording) as well as the Jazz Reflections of Bach Suites with Leonid and Nick Vintskevich, as well as all cello suites by J.S. Bach (the release is scheduled for 2022).

Since 2009 Boris Andrianov has been teaching at the Moscow Conservatory. The artist plays a cello made by Carlo Bergonzi from the State Collection of Unique Musical Instruments.

Born in Montreal, **HÉLÈNE MERCIER** began her piano studies at the age of six and quickly won first honours at the Quebec and Canadian Music Competitions as well as an award at the Prague International Chamber Music Competition. She entered Dieter Weber's class at the Akademie für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien at the age of fifteen, and later studied at the Juilliard School in New York with Sascha Gorodnitzki, in Paris with Pierre Sancan, and subsequently with Maria Curcio and Stanislav Neuhaus. She took chamber music classes from Henryk Szeryng and Gidon Kremer.

Hélène Mercier has participated at prestigious festivals in Europe and North America and appeared in renowned concert and recital venues throughout Europe. In Paris, she has performed as soloist under Kurt Masur, with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under Zubin Mehta, and alongside Natalia Gutman and Salvatore Accardo with the Orchestre de Paris under Semyon Bychkov. She has also played with the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Russia under Vladimir Spivakov, the symphony orchestras of Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal under Charles Dutoit and Trevor Pinnock, and the New Japan Philharmonic under Seiji Ozawa.

As a chamber musician, she has performed with Mstislav Rostropovich, Vladimir Spivakov, the Moscow Virtuosi, Renaud Capuçon, Gautier Capuçon, Ivry Gitlis, Laurent Korcia, Truls Mørk, and Henri Demarquette. She enjoys a flourishing career as duo piano partner with Boris Berezovsky, Frank Braley, Brigitte Engerer, Cyprien Katsaris, and Louis Lortie, among others. With Louis Lortie on Chandos she has previously released critically acclaimed recordings of works by Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Saint-Saëns, Poulenc, Rachmaninoff, and Ravel, and her discography also includes a recording with Vladimir Spivakov of works by Chausson. Hélène Mercier is a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.



HÉLÈNE MERCIER

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Artistic director: Joji Hattori

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