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Roger Myers, Violist



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Biography

Roger Myers enjoys an impressive record of performing and teaching both here and abroad and has traveled widely presenting critically acclaimed concerts and master classes in countries on four continents including Austria, Norway, Scotland, China, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Mexico as well as the U.S.A. At the University of Texas at Austin he is Professor and Head of The String Division and was the recipient in 2007 of the School of Music Teaching Excellence Award.

He has been associated with some of the nation's most prestigious summer festivals including the Bowdoin Summer Music Festival in Maine and the International Festival Institute at Round Top, Texas. In June of 1997 he served as the youngest ever Artistic Director and Host Chairman of the XXV Silver Anniversary Viola congress, an event praised by the "Strad" magazine as a "joyful and instructive week ... a mixture of edification and entertainment". He served seven summers on the faculty of the Idyllwild Arts Summer Music Program in California and has taught at the Beijing International Music Festival and Academy and the International School for Musical Arts in Canada. He regularly performs at the Festival de Musique on the French West Indian island of St. Barts and is an artist at the Sunflower Festival in Topeka Kansas and the Buzzards Bay Musicfest in Marion Massachusetts. He is the founder and Artistic Director of the Blanton Chamber Music Series at the Blanton Museum in Austin. In 2009 he held a Visiting Professorship teaching at the University of Southern California.

Roger Myers was born in Sydney, Australia where he played with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra while still a student. He has lived in the United States since 1987 when his Sydney Conservatorium String Quartet was invited to become the international quartet in residence at Michigan State University. Later he studied on scholarships with Donald McInnes at the University of Southern California and on completion of his Masters degree the string faculty named him its most outstanding graduate of the year.

Presenting solo and chamber performances hailed internationally, the Toronto Star described his playing as "Spirited" and the New Zealand Evening Post proclaimed him a "Fine violist" whose playing was "various and entertaining". Roger Myers has given chamber music performances with such artists as Lynn Harrell, Jean Barr, Martin Canin, Steve Doane, Sidney Harth, Suren Bagratuni, Yehonatan Berick, Norman Fischer, Jorja Fleezanis, Daniel Heifetz, Mark O'Connor, Ronald Leonard, Martin Lovett, Donald McInnes, Felicia Moye, Kurt Nikkanen, James Parker, Tsuoshi Tsutsumi, Kathleen Winkler, Zvi Zeitlin, the Brentano, Cavani and Miro String Quartets and the Dorian Wind Quintet. He has performed with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, as principal violist with the Santa Fe Pro Musica and had the honor of being asked to play with the New West Symphony Orchestra in Los Angeles as principal viola on tour with Andrea Bocelli. Chamber performances include concerts with the Camerata Pacifica chamber music organization in California and at the Niagara International Chamber Music Festival in Canada. In 2004 Roger had the honor of performing as a featured soloist on the 100th birthday tribute concert to the great violist William Primrose at the XXXII International Viola Congress in Minneapolis and in 2005 enjoyed a successful Carnegie Hall debut with his newly formed Texas Piano Quartet. Roger has performed some recent important World Premiere's including in 2006 the Piano Quintet by Kevin Puts with the Texas Piano Quartet and most recently in 2008 the World Premiere of Michael McLean's Suite for Viola and Orchestra. In the summer of 2009 he played in the Mid-West Premiere of violinist Mark O'Connor's Third String Quartet with the composer.

His students have achieved success as symphony musicians and teachers in major institutions and his graduates are regularly found in the most prestigious conservatories, universities and summer festivals.

Repertoire

Viola Solo Repertoire With Orchestra

Baroque:

Telemann Concerto
Telemann Double Concerto
Bach Brandenburg Concerto no. 6(both parts)
Bach Eflat concerto

Classical:

JCF Bach Concerto for Viola and Keyboard in EFlat
Mozart Sinfonia Concertante
Stamitz D Maj Concerto
Hoffmeister D Maj Concerto
Hummel Fantasie

Romantic:

Berlioz Harold in Italy
Bruch Romance
Bruch Double Concerto for Clarinet(Violin) & Viola
Schumann Marchenbilder(Orchestrated)

20th Century:

Bartok Concerto
Britten Lachrymae
Britten Double Concerto for Violin and Viola
Hindemith Trauermusik
Shostakovich Sonata Op. 147(Orchestrated)

21st Century:

Michael McLean Suite for Viola and Orchestra(2008)

Viola Solo Recital Repertoire

Baroque:

CPE Bach Sonata in g minor W88
JS Bach Gamba Sonatas (3)
JS Bach Solo Cello Suites no. 1&5
WF Bach Sonata in c minor
Biber Passacaglia for Solo Viola
Corrette Sonata in B Flat
Flackton Sontata in G Major
Handel Sonata in C Major
Telemann Sonatas in B Flat and D Major.

Classical:

Beethoven Notturmo Op. 42 in D Major for Viola and Piano
Beethoven Seven Variations on a theme of Mozart
Beethoven Duet in E flat major "mit zwei obligaten Augengläsern" for Viola and Cello
Haydn arr. Piatagorski, Divertimento in D
Hummel Sonata in E Flat Major Op.5 no. 3
Hummel Fantasie
Mozart Violin and Viola Duos in G & B Flat Major

Romantic:

Cassado Requiebros
Faure Après un Rêve
Brahms Sonatas for Viola and Piano
In f minor and E Flat Major Op.120
Brahms Zwei Gesänge Op.91
Bruch Romance Op. 85
Halversen Passacaglia for Violin and Viola
Paul Juon Sonata in D Major Op.15
Liszt Romance Oubliée
Mendelssohn Sonata in c minor
Sibelius Rondo for Viola and Piano
Schubert Litany for All Souls Day
Schumann Adagio and Allegro Op.70
Schumann Marchenbilder Op.113
Schumann Romances Op. 94
Vieuxtemps Capriccio for Solo Viola

Viola Solo Recital Repertoire (cont.)

20th Century:

Arthur Benjamin Jamaican Rumba
and From San Domingo
Bloch Meditation and Processional
Bloch Suite Hebraïque
Britten Lachrymae Op.48
Rebecca Clarke Sonata
Hindemith Trauermusik
Hindemith Sonata Op.11 no.4
Hindemith Sonata (1939)
Martinu Madrigals for Violin and Viola
Persichetti Parable for Solo Viola
Ravel Pièce en Forme de Habanera
Shostakovich Sonata Op.147

21st Century:

Michael McLean Suite for Viola and Piano (2008)