



Sunday, November 12, 2023

2:00 PM — Masterclass

5:00 PM — Concert

Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

The Donna Weng Friedman '80 Masterclass Series

Masterclass

Miranda Cuckson, violin

About the Department of Music:

The Department of Music at Princeton University provides its undergraduates—whether they major or minor in Music—the opportunity to learn from a world-renowned faculty of scholars and composers. Performance opportunities include student-led and departmental ensembles like symphony orchestras, multi-genre choruses, jazz, contemporary music, African music, steel band, laptop orchestra, and much more, and students have access to private instrumental and voice lessons from eminent performing artists. The graduate program offers two distinct and prestigious Ph.D. programs in composition or musicology; graduate students receive fully-funded, immersive experiences conducting research, advancing their craft, and collaborating with faculty within Princeton University's inspiring, interdisciplinary campus.

For more information about the Department of Music and other upcoming events, and to sign-up for our mailing list, please visit music.princeton.edu.

MASTERCLASS

Violin Sonata No. 2

Maurice Ravel

**Performed by Abigail Stafford '26
Nancy Wilson, Violin Faculty at Princeton**

Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64

Felix Mendelssohn

1. Allegro molto appassionato

**Performed by Elinor Detmer '26
Sunghae Anna Lim, Violin Faculty at Princeton**

Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 35

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

**Performed by Shannon Ma '27
Li Lin, Violin Faculty at Juilliard**

CONCERT

Sāniyā (2019)

I. free, light, dreamy, like the spring breeze

Aida Shirazi

Intermezzo, yearning

II. with an urge to express something but sounding unsure and stammering

Intermezzo, bolder than before, moving forward, becoming more extrovert

III. restless, dark, shadowy

Intermezzo, free and light-weight like the beginning but a little darker

IV. meditative, still, ebbs and flows, gradually sounding more fragile

Solo - a Suite for Solo Violin (2022)

Stewart Goodyear

I. Waltz

II. Chant

III. Prelude

IV. Dance

V. Elegy

Secret Machine No. 7 (2023)

Scott Wollschleger

The use of photographic, video, or audio equipment is strictly prohibited. Please turn off or mute electronic devices for the duration of the performance.

ABOUT

Miranda Cuckson, Violinist — Miranda Cuckson has delighted audiences with her playing of a wide range of music and styles, from older eras to the newest creations. A distinctive and acclaimed soloist and collaborator, she performs at venues large and small, from casual spaces to concert halls. These have included the Berlin Philharmonie, Suntory Hall, Casa da Musica Porto, Teatro Colón, Cleveland Museum, Art Institute of Chicago, Strathmore, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra's Liquid Music series, 92nd St Y, National Sawdust, and the Ojai, Bard, Marlboro, Portland, Music Mountain, West Cork, Grafenegg, Wien Modern, and LeGuessWho festivals. Miranda made her Carnegie Hall debut playing Piston's Concerto No. 1 with the American Symphony Orchestra. She recently premiered Georg Friedrich Haas' Violin Concerto No. 2 with four orchestras in Japan and Europe, and the Violin Concerto by Marcela Rodriguez with the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de México. Upcoming concerts include recitals at San Francisco Performances and on tour in Germany, and the Haas concerto at the Vienna Musikverein.

Reflecting her deeply felt perspective as a multiethnic American, Miranda works with an array of artists from many backgrounds. She has given innumerable premieres, had many substantial works written for her, and works with promising young artists and the most renowned composers of our era. She is a member of interdisciplinary collective AMOC* and founder/director of non-profit Nunc. She has guest curated at National Sawdust and done programming of chamber concerts at the Contempo series in Chicago and Miller Theater in New York, among others.

Miranda's many lauded albums include Világ featuring the Bartok Solo Sonata along with new works; a live recording of the Ligeti Violin Concerto; the Korngold and Ponce concertos; several albums of music by major American composers; Bartók, Schnittke and Lutoslawski on ECM; Melting the Darkness, an album of microtonal and electronic music; and Nono's La lontananza nostalgica utopica futura, which was named a Best Recording of the Year by the New York Times.

Miranda is an alumna of The Juilliard School, having studied there from Pre-College through her doctorate, and she was awarded the school's Presser Award. She teaches at the Mannes School of Music at New School University.

Donna Weng Friedman — Award winning pianist Donna Weng Friedman enjoys a varied career as a soloist, chamber musician, educator, curator, producer and app developer. Her album *Heritage and Harmony: Silver Linings*, featuring exclusively AAPI/BIPOC artists, was intended as a response to the wave of violence against Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) individuals, and aims to promote understanding and tolerance among people of all backgrounds. Recorded and released during the pandemic, the album was presented with two Silver Medals at the 2022 Global Music Awards.

In collaboration with WQXR, Donna created and produced *Heritage and Harmony*, a virtual concert series in celebration of Asian Pacific Heritage Month. Her story was featured on Asian Americans of New York & New Jersey | WLIW21, a segment of which has been aired on PBS numerous times.

Donna was awarded a 2022 New York Women Composer's grant. She is the co-creator and co-host of HER/MUSIC;HER/STORY with soprano Allison Charney, a mini-series on WQXR as well as a concert series that shines a light on women composers, past and present. She was the guest speaker on TEDx Santa Barbara's series Making Waves: Conversations with Influencers and Disruptors. Donna is the Artistic Advisor of Ariel Rivka Dance, an all-female dance company.

Donna was the featured guest artist on the National Women's History Museum's series NWHM Presents: Sundays@Home, honoring women whose activism and talents serve to inspire others. On March 8th, 2022, she launched a virtual education program in collaboration with the National Women's History Museum called Heritage and Harmony: Her Art, Her Voice, featuring leading female BIPOC role models in the arts who share their stories of heritage, their challenges and their triumphs, as they seek to inspire and empower future generations of groundbreaking young women.

Donna has performed in concert halls worldwide, and appeared as soloist with major symphony orchestras, including the Atlanta, Philadelphia and Shanghai Symphony Orchestras. She has collaborated with world-class artists including Carter Brey, Anthony McGill, Elizabeth Mann, Ani Kavafian, David Shifrin, St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble, Paul Neubauer, and Kelly Hall-Tompkins.

The curator of the **Donna Weng Friedman '80 Master Class Series** at Princeton University, she is also a member of Princeton University Music Department's Advisory Council. Donna is currently serving as Vice Chair to the Friends of Thirteen Advocacy Board/WNET. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Princeton University where she was a University Scholar and a Master's of Music Degree from the Juilliard School where she was a winner of the highly coveted Gina Bachauer Piano Competition as well as the William Petschek full scholarship award. Donna had the honor and privilege of studying with the great pedagogue Nadia Boulanger and the inimitable pianist Radu Lupu.
