



PCMS  
CONCERTS.ORG

PREVIEW  
NOTES

**Peter Stumpf, cello**  
**Sunday, February 27 • 3:00 PM — Settlement Music School**

**Background**

After serving 12 years as Associate Principal Cello of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Peter Stumpf became the Principal Cello of the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the start of the 2002-03 Season. At the age of 16 he began his professional career, playing in the Hartford Symphony. He received a Bachelor's degree from the Curtis Institute of Music and an Artist Diploma from the New England Conservatory. A dedicated chamber music musician, he is a member of the Johannes String Quartet and has appeared on chamber music series throughout the world.

**Program**

**Sonata for Solo Cello**

**György Ligeti**

*Born: May 28, 1923 in Discöszentmáton Transylvania*

*Died: June 12, 2006 in Vienna, Austria*

*Composed: 1948-53*

*Last PCMS performance: Clancy Newman in 2007*

*Duration: 9 minutes*

The first of its two movements achieves the effect of a dialogue by having the cello alternate passages in different playing styles and registers. In style, it is closer to the more conservative music of Kodály and was written in 1948. The second movement was composed in 1953 and resembles the style of the late Bartók.

**Suite for Solo Cello No. 1, Op. 72**

**Benjamin Britten**

*Born: Nov. 22, 1913, in Suffolk, England*

*Died: Dec. 4, 1976, in Aldeburgh, England*

*Composed: 1964*

*Last PCMS performance: PCMS premiere*

*Duration: 22 minutes*

The *Cello Suites* by Benjamin Britten are a series of three compositions for solo cello, dedicated to Mstislav Rostropovich. The suites were the first original solo instrumental music that Britten wrote for and dedicated to Rostropovich, but Britten had earlier composed a cadenza for Joseph Haydn's Cello Concerto in C major, for Rostropovich, in 1964. Rostropovich gave the first performances of each work.

**Trois Strophes sur le nom de Sacher**

**Henri Dutilleux**

*Born: Jan. 22, 1916 in Angers, France*

*Composed: 1976-82*

*Last PCMS performance: PCMS premiere*

*Duration: 9 minutes*

In 1976 Dutilleux was among 12 musicians asked to write a composition for solo cello to commemorate the 70th birthday of the Swiss conductor and impresario Paul Sacher. Dutilleux's use of instrumental coloring is masterful and shows consummate understanding of the cello's expressive and technical potential.

**Sonata for Solo Cello**

**Zoltán Kodály**

*Born: Dec. 16, 1882 in Kecskemét, Hungary*

*Died: Mar. 6, 1967 in Budapest, Hungary*

*Composed: 1915*

*Last PCMS performance: PCMS premiere*

*Duration: 31 minutes*

Perhaps the first major work for unaccompanied cello after Bach's six great suites of almost 200 years earlier, this sonata in three movements synthesizes many of the musical interests Kodály was exploring at this early time in his career. Perhaps the most ambitious of the early string works, it exhibits Kodály's interest in the music of Claude Debussy, which he had encountered while studying in Paris a couple of years before. Hints of the style of Béla Bartók, Kodály's good friend.