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PREVIEW  
NOTES

**Alisa Weilerstein, cello and Inon Barnatan, piano**  
**Monday, December 13, 2010 • 8:00 PM • Perelman Theater**

**Background**

American cellist Alisa Weilerstein has attracted widespread attention for playing that combines a natural virtuosic command and technical precision with impassioned musicianship. At 27 years old, she is already a veteran on the classical music scene, having performed with the nation's top orchestras, given recitals in music capitals throughout the U.S. and Europe, and performed with her parents, Donald and Vivian Hornik Weilerstein, as the Weilerstein Trio. Pianist Inon Barnatan has established an international reputation as a musician of uncommon depth and maturity. Born in Tel Aviv, he won a 2009 Avery Fisher Career Grant and has earned acclaim in a variety of repertoire from Beethoven to Messiaen to Schubert.

**Program**

**Cello Sonata in G Minor, Op. 5, No. 2**

**Ludwig van Beethoven**

*Born: December 16, 1770 in Bonn, Germany*

*Died: March 26, 1827 in Vienna, Austria*

*Composed: 1796*

*Last PCMS performance: Miklós Perényi in 2007*

*Duration: 26 minutes*

Beethoven's final work for solo instrument and piano traverses the terrain covered by the composer in his late string quartets. Its overall construction reveals Beethoven's continuing quest to create a fluid "total sonata" that was more than a sum of its movements. With the exception of Bach's solo suites, it is regarded as the most technically and spiritually taxing major work for cello before the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Cello Sonata in C Major, Op.65**

**Benjamin Britten**

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

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

*Composed: 1961*

*Last PCMS performance: PCMS premiere*

*Duration: 21 minutes*

In these five short movements, Britten for the first time found an effective way to couple the venerable tradition of Classical form (the exploration of which he had seemingly abandoned after the 1930s) with his own naturally narrative voice; here, dramatic description and purely musical device reign hand in hand.

**Suite Italienne**

**Igor Stravinsky**

*Born: Jun. 17, 1882 in Orianenbaum, Russia*

*Died: Apr. 6, 1971 in New York, NY*

*Composed: 1934*

*Last PCMS performance: Tai Murray(violin) in 2009*

*Duration: 18 minutes*

Stravinsky's only work for cello and piano is an arrangement of several movements from his "Pergolesi" ballet *Pulcinella*. The charm of Pergolesi's melodies and the piquant flavor of Stravinsky's re-writing makes it one of his most enjoyable works.

**Cello Sonata in G Minor, Op. 19**

**Sergei Rachmaninov**

*Born: April 1, 1873 in Semyonovo, Russia*

*Died: March 28, 1943 in Beverly Hills, CA*

*Composed: 1901*

*Last PCMS performance: PCMS premiere*

*Duration: 35 minutes*

Rachmaninov's cello sonata is often referred to as a "piano sonata with cello accompaniment". While this assessment may be a slight exaggeration, there is little doubt that the piano is the dominant instrument in the work. It begins with a slow introduction in which the piano presents a six-note theme that at first appears insignificant, but in fact plays a key role throughout.