

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

PREVIEW
NOTES

Francesca dePasquale, *violin*

Reiko Uchida, *piano*

Wednesday, May 5 – 7:30 PM

American Philosophical Society

On the blue shore of silence

On the blue shore of silence is a multimedia commissioning project that draws inspiration from Pablo Neruda's collection of twelve poems "On the Blue Shore of Silence/Poems of the Sea". Composers Gity Razaz, Gloria Justen, and Sayo Kosugi will each take four poems from the collection and create response works for solo violin, electronics, and piano, totaling twelve movements to create a large-scale suite. Additionally, artist Johanna Andruhovici will create twelve original pieces of visual art to correspond with each poem and its respective music, which will be projected during the performance.

On the blue shore of silence is the heart of a recital program that will also include additional works that take inspiration from water: Mozart's Variations for violin and piano K. 360 (based on the French ariette "Au bord d'une fontaine" by Albanèse); Szymanowski's "Mythes" Op. 30 for violin and piano; and Fauré's "Au bord de l'eau" arranged for violin and piano.

Water is one of the principal forces and elements in life, one which has long been a source of depth, inspiration, and beauty to artists for centuries. Though poetry has traditionally been set to song, the abstract nature and sound-world of violin, piano, and electronics will allow the composers to freely draw on Neruda's evocative use of color, texture, and emotion in the text. The musical languages of Gity Razaz, Sayo Kosugi, and Gloria Justen beautifully complement and contrast one another, building cohesion and variety into the suite. Each of these musical voices brings an element of nuanced yet powerful expression that, combined with visuals created by Johanna Andruhovici, will resonate deeply with Neruda's poetry.

As water becomes an increasingly precious resource, celebrating the depth of its power as a creative and literal life force feels incredibly relevant to the contemporary world. *On the Blue Shore of Silence* seeks to do so by weaving together disciplines of poetry, visual art, and music.