

# PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

PREVIEW  
NOTES

**Sphinx Virtuosi w/ Michelle Cann, *piano***  
Rubén Rengel, *violin* & Thomas Mesa, *cello*  
**Thursday, February 18 – 6 PM**  
*American Philosophical Society*

## PROGRAM

### **SEVEN for Solo Cello**

**Andrea Casarrubios**

*Born: 1988 in San Esteban del Valle, Spain*

*Composed: 2020*

*Duration: 9 minutes*

Commissioned by Astral Artists and Thomas Mesa for his project *Songs of Isolation*, *SEVEN* is a tribute to the essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to those who lost lives and are still suffering from the crisis. The piece ends with seven bell-like sounds, alluding to New York's daily 7 PM tribute during the lockdown—the moment when New Yorkers clapped from their windows, connecting with each other and expressing appreciation for those on the front lines.

### **Rhapsody No. 2 for Solo Violin**

**Jessie Montgomery**

*Born: 1981, New York, NY*

*Composed: 2020*

*Duration: 5 minutes*

Written for violinist Michi Wiancko, Rhapsody No. 2 had its premiere appears on Wiancko's album *Planetary Candidate*.

### **Cello Sonata**

**Claude Debussy**

*Born: August 22, 1862, Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France*

*Died: March 25, 1918, Paris, France*

*Composed: 1915*

*Duration: 12 minutes*

In a letter to Jacques Durand, Debussy wrote, "I like [the Cello Sonata's] proportions and form, which are almost classical in the best sense of the word." He infused this concise and colorful work with an adventurous, 20th century harmonic language that often ventures into exotic modes and the

dreamy, time-altering magic of the pentatonic and whole tone scales—yet beneath the surface lies a nostalgic classicism.

### **Violin Rhapsody No. 1**

**Béla Bartók**

*Born: March 25, 1881, Sânnicolau Mare, Romania*

*Died: September 26, 1945, New York, NY*

*Composed: 1928*

*Duration: 10 minutes*

Bartók cast this work in two sections called Prima Parte, marked Moderato, and Seconda Parte (Allegretto moderato). Its themes derive from folk dances, and just one hearing divulges the mostly ethnic Romanian flavors permeating the fabric of the two movements. The Rhapsody is full of the sounds of folk fiddling: improvisatory-sounding variations in the melodies and multiple stops of the sort that would be natural for a player creating his own harmonies as he goes along.

### **Piano Trio in E Minor, Op. 67**

**Dmitri Shostakovich**

*Born: September 25, 1906, Saint Petersburg, Russia*

*Died: August 9, 1975, Moscow, Russia*

*Composed: 1944*

*Duration: 25 minutes*

Shostakovich's Piano Trio in E Minor, Op. 67 is a lamentation for both the composer's close friend, musicologist Ivan Sollertinsky, and the victims of the Holocaust, the news of which horror did not reach the U.S.S.R. until the liberation of the camps began. It is his first work to employ a "Jewish theme," a musical tribute that used the scales and rhythms of Jewish folk music as Shostakovich knew it. The result is a haunting, universal lament, emerging amid the horrific suffering of the time.