

FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

School of Music

presents the guest artist recital of

Amadi Azikiwe, *viola*

with

Jeremiah Padilla, *piano*
Diane Phoenix-Neal, *viola*
Wanchi Huang, *violin*

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

7 pm

Recital Hall



Program

Suite no. 5 in C minor, BWV 1011

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Prelude
Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Gavotte I
Gavotte II
Gigue

Sonata op.25, no. 4

Paul Hindemith
(1895-1963)

Sehr lebhaft. Markiert und kraftvoll
Sehr langsame Viertel
Finale. Lebhaftes Viertel

Sonata for violin and piano

Irene Britton Smith
(1907-1999)

Allegro Cantabile
Andante
Vivace

Lament for Two Violas

Frank Bridge
(1879-1941)

Duo No. 2 for Violin and Viola no. 2, K. 424

Wolfgang A. Mozart
(1756-1791)

Adagio-Allegro
Andante Cantabile
Andante grazioso con variazione

Biographies

Amadi Azikiwe violist, violinist, and conductor, has been heard in recital in major cities throughout the United States, such as New York, Boston, Cleveland, Chicago, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Houston, Baltimore, and Washington, DC, including an appearance at the US Supreme Court. Mr. Azikiwe has also been a guest of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center at the Alice Tully Hall and the Kennedy Center. Abroad, he has performed throughout Israel, Canada, South America, Central America, Nigeria, India, Japan, and Hong Kong. Azikiwe has won prizes and awards from the New York Philharmonic, Concert Artists Guild, North Carolina Symphony, the National Society of Arts and Letters, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America where he maintains a strong artistic and mentoring association.

As a soloist, Mr. Azikiwe has appeared with the Prince George's Philharmonic, Delaware Symphony, Virginia Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, Fort Collins Symphony, Virginia Beach Symphony, Roanoke Symphony, Winston-Salem Symphony, Western Piedmont Symphony, Salisbury Symphony, the Gateways Music Festival Orchestra, the City Island Baroque Ensemble of New York, the National Symphony of Ecuador, and at the Costa Rica International Music Festival.

Currently, Mr. Azikiwe is Music Director of the Harlem Symphony Orchestra. He is also Community Engagement Director of the Harlem Chamber Players and a member of the Pressenda Chamber Players.

A native of New York City, Mr. Azikiwe first studied music with his mother, after which he began training at the North Carolina School of the Arts as a student of Sally Peck. His studies continued at the New England Conservatory with Marcus Thompson and at Indiana University as a student of Atar Arad.

Filipino pianist **Jeremiah Padilla** is a doctoral candidate at James Madison University studying with Dr. Gabriel Dobner. Jeremiah received both his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Memphis under the tutelage of Dr. Victor Asuncion and Dr. Cathal Breslin. He also serves as an adjunct faculty both at JMU and Eastern Mennonite University.

As a soloist, Jeremiah won the concerto/aria competition at JMU in 2019 and played the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto with the JMU Symphony Orchestra. He has also played concerti with the University of Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Memphis Repertory Orchestra, and Awit Pilipinas Youth Orchestra. He also won first prize in two categories in the Beethoven Club of Memphis Young Artist Competition. As a collaborator, he won the Outstanding Collaborative Lieder Pianist Award at AIMS in Graz, Austria in the summer of 2019. Jeremiah frequently enjoys making music with his friends and colleagues.

Biographies - *continued*

Violist **Diane Phoenix-Neal** enjoys a vibrant teaching and performing career. She performs nationally and internationally as a collaborative chamber musician and as a soloist, and her performances have taken her to concert venues and music festivals throughout the world to four continents. In France, she served as both the principal solo violist of Orchestre de Picardie and as violist of Quatuor Joachim. Her sound is described as “rich and sumptuous,” and “priceless as it was memorable” (Cultural Voice of North Carolina), and she is a longstanding principal performer and soloist with the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival as well as a collaborative performing artist and faculty member with the Eastern Music Festival since 1998.

Originally from North Carolina, she received her training from the Juilliard School as a student of William Lincer and the Juilliard Quartet, from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, and received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, after a ten-year career as a performer and teacher in Portugal and France. She is a 2022 Laureate of the James Madison University Compass Award for Leadership, and serves as Associate Professor of Viola in the School of Music.

Wanchi Huang studied both piano and violin in her native Taiwan. Though she had won several youth piano competitions as a child, she eventually opted to concentrate on the violin "because I could take the violin anywhere I wanted." She chose well. At age 14, she made her solo debut with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Catherine Comet. Wanchi Huang is the Full Professor of Violin at James Madison University School of Music and serves as concertmaster of the Waynesboro Symphony. Her recordings of the complete Sonata of Eugène Ysaÿe, Partitas and Sonatas of J.S. Bach for unaccompanied violin, and music by William Walton and Benjamin Britten in a collaboration with longtime friend and pianist Robert Koenig, all on the Centaur Records label, have been excellently reviewed. She joined the Heifetz Institute faculty in the summer of 2023 and has been a strings adjudicator for various international and national competitions. As an educator, she presented numerous times at ASTA National Conferences and has given many violin masterclasses internationally. Her degrees are from The Curtis Institute of Music, The Juilliard School, and Indiana University (Bloomington). She plays a modern American violin made in 2003 by Feng Jiang of Ann Arbor, Michigan.