

LOON LAKE LIVE

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

About the composer:

Paul Chihara (1938-) is an American composer and violinist/violist with a storied career straddling two very different worlds: Hollywood and mid/late 20th century avant garde. He studied with Nadia Boulanger in Paris, Ernst Pepping in Berlin, and Gunther Schuller at Tanglewood. He has been composer in residence at Marlboro Music Festival, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and San Francisco Ballet. Mr. Chihara's concert works continue to be performed internationally, and he has enjoyed commissions and awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, Fulbright Fellowship, Aaron Copland Fund, NEA, and the major symphony orchestras of Boston, London, LA, and Cleveland among others. Additionally Mr. Chihara has composed film and television scores for over 90 projects, including "Prince of the City", "The Morning After", "Crossing Delancey", "China Beach", "Brave New World", and "100 Centre Street". He has also served as music consultant and arranger for musical theater productions Duke Ellington's *Sophisticated Ladies* and James Clavell's *Shogun*, the Musical. His love for music and for "show business", and his playful curious nature shines through in his compositions no matter the genre. We are lucky to have him showcased on our 2020 Online Season. Happy July Birthday, Paul!!

About the piece:

Concerto Piccolo is a set of 4 small ("piccolo") showy pieces for four violas, written independently over a period of years specifically for teachers and their students. As with his other pieces, Mr. Chihara incorporates quotes from his own previous work and even builds an entire movement around the popular and sentimental Japanese song Aka Tombo (Red Dragonfly). This recording was made by Timothy MacDuff playing all four parts during June 2020. Having an already inherently homogenous composition performed by the same person and instrument in a layered fashion creates an interesting other worldly smooth texture that can't be easily replicated in a live concert. *Concerto Piccolo* is a wonderful collection of melancholy, witty charming, and sweet music for viola. Enjoy this spirited performance, Mr. Chihara's interview, and Tim's introduction.

About the performer:

Timothy MacDuff picked up the viola guided by the teachers in his public school music program where he grew up in upstate New York. After being exposed to the string quartets of Johannes Brahms and Antonin Dvorak at New England Music Camp in Maine, he decided to become a professional musician. Early chamber music experiences include attending the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival in Burlington, Vermont and performing with Loon Lake Live. During his Doctoral studies at the University of Maryland, he and other graduate students formed the Anacostia String Quartet which served as the ensemble in residence of the District New Music Coalition in 2018. In octet form, he has collaborated with the award-winning Omer Quartet and performed on the Washington Performing Arts Series with the Left Bank Quartet. Through the National Orchestral Institute, he worked with the Adelphi Quartet on community engagement projects in schools and retirement communities in Prince George's County, Maryland. In 2019, Tim joined the Quapaw Quartet of the Arkansas Symphony. His cat and overlord, Wenceslas, approves this message.

