

LOON LAKE LIVE

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES



2019

About the composer:

Florence Price (1887-1953) is recognized as the first African-American woman to have a composition played by a major American orchestra - her Symphony in E minor, premiered by the Chicago Symphony in 1933. In addition to this distinction and to her work as a symphonist, Price was a composer of smaller scale works for solo piano and organ, vocal ensembles, and instrumental chamber music. Originally from Arkansas, she studied piano, organ, and composition in Boston at New England Conservatory, and later lived and worked in Atlanta before ultimately settling and becoming successful in Chicago. Price's compositional style is a mixture of her European traditional training and her own folk influences from the American south. She deftly intertwines these and creates a sound that resonates with the listener as if it's the thousandth hearing instead of the first.

About the piece:

String Quartet in G major was composed in 1929 when Price was 47 years old. It is a 2 movement work. The second movement Andante Moderato performed here is an A-B-A form with the outer A sections deeply rooted in a spiritual type sound, and the middle B section contrasting in a playful improvisatory sound. This recording is from a performance in July of 2018 at Church of the Assumption, Redford, NY and features Annie Trépanier and Aaron Packard on violins, Catherine Beeson on viola, and Melissa Westgate on cello. Enjoy this archived recording with images curated by Mel Aman.

About the performers:

Violinist **Annie Trépanier** has performed throughout Canada, the United States, Europe and South America, and has been heard regularly in national broadcasts on Radio-Canada, CBC and NPR. She is a founding member of Avery Ensemble and a co-director of Cuatro Puntos, a collective of chamber musicians dedicated to global cooperation and peace through the performance and teaching of music worldwide.

Aaron Packard is a founding member of Cuatro Puntos, a chamber music ensemble whose mission is to bridge cultural gaps through performance and teaching worldwide. Aaron is currently a faculty member at the Groton School in Massachusetts. He can be heard on The Rosegarden of Light, a Toccata Classics release.

Catherine Beeson is Assistant Principal Viola with the Colorado Symphony, and has performed with Friends of Chamber Music - Denver, Lenape Chamber Ensemble (PA), Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, Santa Fe Pro Music Chamber Orchestra, and Loon Lake Live. Catherine also curates community based performances with Ensemble Fauchoux.

Cellist **Melissa Westgate** maintains a busy freelance career in CT and NYC performing many different styles of music. She performs with orchestras and chamber groups throughout the northeastern region including the Albany, New Haven and Springfield Symphonies. She is a substitute cellist with the Radio City Christmas Spectacular Orchestra and has added her talent to numerous recordings including music for daytime TV's 'One Life to Live' and 'A Rockin' Midsummer Night's Dream' by the 12.14 Foundation.



2020