

 Herberger College
of Fine Arts

School of Music

FACULTY ARTIST RECITAL SERIES

DANWEN JIANG

VIOLIN

ROBERT HAMILTON

PIANO

KATZIN CONCERT HALL
Saturday, October 30, 2004 • 7:30 p.m.

 **ASU** ARIZONA STATE
UNIVERSITY

Internationally respected pianist and recording artist **Robert Hamilton** has had the unusual distinction of being enthusiastically reviewed by two chief music critics for *The New York Times*. Harold C. Schonberg (who also authored *The Great Pianists*) wrote: "He is a very fine artist. All of Hamilton's playing has color and sensitivity...one of the best of the million or so around." And Donal J. Henahan reported: "It was an enthralling listening experience. We must hear this major talent again, and soon!"

Mr. Hamilton's performance career beginnings were comparatively modest, but varied. Fluent as a high school student on three instruments – piano, clarinet and bassoon – he performed five standard concerti representing his three solo areas. He studied at Indiana University with the first winner of the coveted Levintritt award, Sidney Foster, and graduated summa cum laude. A move to New York City brought studies with Dora Zaslavsky of the Manhattan School, additional coaching from legendary pianist Vladimir Horowitz, and a host of monetary awards from the Rockefeller Fund and U.S. State Department, launching a strong career here and abroad. Five prizes in major international competitions added more concerts and opportunities.

Hamilton has made countless concert tours of four continents, appearing in the major halls of most music capitals. His orchestral engagements have included the Chicago Symphony, National Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Milwaukee Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, Grant Park Symphony, Chautauqua Symphony and S.O.D.R.E. An appearance at the great hall of the Moscow Conservatory brought a ten-minute standing ovation, and he made an appearance in St. Petersburg that was televised across Russia. Mr. Hamilton has been heard over numerous radio networks including NPR, ABC, BBC London, Voice of America, Armed Forces Network, DRS Zurich and Radio Warsaw. He has recorded for Phillips, Orion and Summit Records. A recent 2004 Summit release brought this comment from *Audiophile Audition*: "Hamilton has a blazingly brilliant approach to this repertory, delivering very powerful and often breathtaking interpretations. Exposure to these performances will make any future hearing of the works seem pallid." *The American Record Guide* added this: "Hamilton's playing is full of integrity, rare brilliance and grandeur. This is a pianist I would like to have studied with."

Professor Hamilton's students have also won many prizes and awards, appearing with orchestras around the world that include the Indianapolis Symphony, Wichita Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, South Bend Symphony, London Westminster Philharmonic, Orchestre Philharmonie d'Avignon (France), Kammerorchester Dusseldorf (Germany), Pazardjik National Orchestra of Bulgaria, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Nagoya Gakuen Philharmonic (Japan), Korea Symphony Orchestra (Seoul), etc. Frequent solo appearances have occurred in major cities, such as New York, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Madrid, Paris, Munich, Prague, London, Sofia, Tokyo, London and Glasgow. Many of Professor Hamilton's students have found positions at important music schools in the U.S., Europe and Asia. Others have chosen related fields, such as music criticism with newspapers of the caliber of the *Kansas City Star*.

Hamilton currently has an exciting class of international students at ASU, and has given master classes throughout the world. Featured in the book *The Most Wanted Piano Teachers in the USA*, Mr. Hamilton also served as Artistic Director of the London Piano Festival during the 1990s. Since the year 2000, he has joined with Vladimir Feltsman and a distinguished group of prominent international pianists each July for PianoSummer in New York. Robert Hamilton is an official Steinway Artist.

PROGRAM

Sonata for Violin and Piano

Leoš Janáček
(1854-1928)

- I. Con moto
- II. Ballada: Con moto
- III. Allegretto
- IV. Adagio – poco piu mosso

Sonata in A major for Piano and Violin, Op. 47 "Kreutzer"

L.V. Beethoven
(1770-1827)

- I. Adagio sostenuto — Presto
- II. Andante con Variazioni
- III. Presto

There will be a 10-minute intermission

Sonata in E-flat Major for Violin and Piano, Op. 18

Richard Strauss
(1864-1949)

- I. Allegro ma non troppo
- II. Improvisation: Andante cantabile
- III. Finale: Andante — Allegro

In respect for the performers and those audience members around you, please turn all beepers, cell phones, watches to their silent mode. Thank you.

An active soloist and chamber musician, violinist **Danwen Jiang** began her performing career at the tender age of thirteen when she became a winner at China's National Violin Competition, performed Lalo's *Symphonie Espagnole* with the Central Radio Philharmonic Orchestra in Beijing, and recorded for the China Record Corporation. Since moving to the United States in 1987, she has won First Prize in the St. Louis Symphony Young Artist Scholarship Competition, the Mid-America Violin Competition and the St. Louis International Artist Presentation Society Competition, and performed over two dozen concertos with symphony and chamber orchestras across North America including the Victoria and Kingston Symphonies in Canada, the Olympia and Everett Symphonies in Washington, D.C., the Prairie Ensemble in Illinois, the Riverside Symphonia and Rutgers' Summerfest Orchestra in New Jersey, Manchester Music Festival Orchestra in Vermont and many others. Her performances are repeatedly welcomed by audiences and critics alike.

Called by *The Boston Globe* "an intelligent, agile and breathtaking violinist" and by the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* "a violinist that will wind up in the spotlight," Ms. Jiang has concertized throughout France, Italy, China, Canada and the United States, and has performed in some of the world's famous concert halls, including Carnegie Hall in New York City, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., the Great Hall and Beijing Concert Hall in China, and Salle Gaveau in Paris. She has been heard through radio networks across the country such as NPR (Washington, D.C.), WQXR (New York City), KFOU (Missouri), WILL (Illinois), KING (Washington), KBAQ (Arizona) and CNR (China National Radio). Her recent recordings released under the Eroica and MMF labels include her live performances of Samuel Barber's *Violin Concerto*, Antonio Vivaldi's "Four Seasons", Maurice Ravel's "Trigane" - *Rapsodie de Concert* and Ludwig Van Beethoven's *Piano Trio Op. 97 "Archduke"* from the Manchester Music Festival (where she has been an artist/faculty member since 1996).

As a featured guest artist, Ms. Jiang has appeared at the Sanibel Chamber Music Festival, Yale Chamber Music Series and Rutgers Summerfest in the United States, the Festival Du Quercy Blanc and Festival Dan Le Gard in France, the Gioventù Musicale D'Italia in Italy, and the Victoria International Music Festival in Canada, among others. She has collaborated in chamber music performances with distinguished musicians, including pianists André-Michel Sehub and Lillian Kallir, and members of the Guarneri, Juilliard, Tokyo, Emerson and Shanghai String Quartets, as well as with ensembles, such as the Soloists of the Pacific Rim, the Boston Players and the American Chamber Players. In a recent review of her performance of Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* with Arnold Steinhardt (on the viola), the *New Jersey Star-Ledger* wrote "Jiang and Steinhardt achieved a magical moment of heart-stopping poetry. Their sensibilities were identical, phrasing a perfectly blissfully, serene spell. This is chamber music's Holy Grail, a single musical vision from multiple voices... What a treat!"

Currently violin professor at Arizona State University, Ms. Jiang has taught at Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and has presented master classes and recitals at Cornell University, Florida State University, and the Universities of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, New Mexico, Maryland, and Michigan, among others. She was the founding first violinist of the Quartetto Vita, the concertmaster of the Riverside Symphonia and the lead violinist for the Riverside Chamber Players in New Jersey from 1996 to 2002. Ms. Jiang owes much of her success to her former violin teachers Arnold Steinhardt, Oscar Shumsky, Taras Gabora, Weijian Zhao and her father Xiong-Da Jiang, as well as many other legendary musicians, namely Josef Gingold, Alexander Schneider, Felix Galimir, Jaime Laredo, Michael Tree and Zara Nelsova, with whom she studied chamber music. She holds degrees from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, St. Louis Conservatory of Music, Oberlin College and Rutgers State University of New Jersey.

THE KATHERINE K. HERBERGER

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

School of Music

PO Box 870405, Tempe, AZ 85287-0405

<http://music.asu.edu>

Events Information: 480-965-TUNE (8863)