

Rylan Virnig is a senior at Gonzaga University, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music with a Performance concentration and a degree in Economics, including minors in both General Business and Conducting. Rylan began playing the violin at age three, and has been passionate about classical music ever since. As a Portland native, Rylan grew up performing with the Metropolitan Youth Symphony, as well as various chamber groups. He currently serves as Concertmaster of the Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra, and regularly substitutes as a first violin for the Columbia Symphony Orchestra in his hometown of Portland. He has long term aspirations for music, including eventually pursuing a Master's degree in orchestral conducting.

Special thanks to:

Dr. Jason Moody
Dr. Collen Hunter
Marnie Rorholm
Gonzaga Music Dept.
My friends and family



Department
Presents:

Rylan Virnig

Senior Violin Recital

From the Violin Studio of
Dr. Jason Moody

Accompanied by
Dr. Colleen Hunter

Sunday, March 29th, 2019
6:00 pm

Myrtle Woldson PAC, Recital Hall

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music, Performance Concentration

PROGRAM

- Sonata No. 3 Op. 108 Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
- I. Allegro
 - II. Adagio
 - III. Un poco presto e con sentimento
 - IV. Presto agitato

Intermission

- Violin Concerto Op. 14 Samuel Barber (1910-1981)
- I. Allegro
 - II. Andante
 - III. Presto in moto perpetuo

- Theme from “Schindler’s List” John Williams (1932-Present)

Johannes Brahms was a romantic era conductor, pianist and composer born in Hamburg, Germany. Brahms had his first composition at the age of twelve, which ironically was greeted with skepticism by his parents who thought he had a much brighter career in performance. Though Brahms enjoyed a successful career in performance, he became known universally for his compositions.¹ The melodies in the *Allegro* movement are sustained, passionate and wonderfully in the style of the romantic era. The *Adagio* is rich and flowing, featuring extended passages of *sul G*, all while highlighting Brahms’ unique intense phrasing. Though the shortest movement, the third movement is charming and sneaky and serves as a preface to the fireworks that occur in the final *presto agitato* movement.

Samuel Barber was one of the great American composers. Known best for the *Barber Adagio*, which was commissioned for the funeral of late President John F. Kennedy. Barber rose to fame with his hyper romantic works. The *Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, Op. 14* was a commissioned piece for Russian violinist Iso Briselli. Barber had written the first two movements first, and delivered them to Briselli, only to be greeted with Briselli’s request to Barber to have the final movement show off more of the violins ‘virtuosic ability’.² Barber wrote his final movement, noted *presto in moto perpetuo*, and delivered it to Briselli. The legend was such that Barbers’ composition was too complex for the violinist, so he never premiered the piece. While it has later been written that the explanation for the delayed premier was due to Briselli’s belief that the three movements did not fit together, Barbers violin concerto has been a gem since its conception. The piece utilizes lush melodies, as well as percussive rhythmic qualities and seldom used intervals. The piece builds up to the final movement, which is a four and a half minute cacophony of virtuosic eighth notes in an unusual pattern.

John Williams Is an American born composer who is the most Oscar nominated musician of all time.³ He rose to fame with the brilliant movie scores to films such as *Star Wars* and *Harry Potter*. One of the most intense scores he wrote was for the movie *Schindler’s List*, which is a film outlining a Nazi party member’s journey in saving the life of thousands of Jewish people during World War II. Williams dedicated his passionate and heart-wrenching theme to violinist Itzhak Perlman, who is of Jewish Descent.

¹ Brahms, Johannes, et al. *Johannes Brahms: Life and Letters*. Oxford University Press, 2004.

²“Violin Concerto, Op. 14: Details.” *AllMusic*, www.allmusic.com/composition/violin-concerto-op-14-mc0002357663.

³Fernandez, Alexia, and Alexia Fernandez. “John Williams Breaks Own Record with 52nd Oscar Nomination for Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker.” *PEOPLE.com*, 13 Jan. 2020, people.com/movies/john-williams-earns-52nd-academy-award-nomination/.