



THE KREEGER MUSEUM

The Skride Quartet



David and Carmen Kreeger were avid supporters and leaders of the visual and musical arts in Washington. Isaac Stern once said, “David Lloyd Kreeger almost single-handedly transformed Washington, DC, into a major cultural center.” Their remarkable generosity is acknowledged by dedications that include the Kreeger Theatre at Arena Stage, the Kreeger Music Building at American University, the Kreeger Auditorium at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington in Rockville, MD, and the endowment of the Kreeger Concertmaster Chair of the National Symphony Orchestra. A tireless promoter of education, Mr. Kreeger was on the boards of American University, the Peabody Institute of Music, and Georgetown University. He also served as President and Chairman of the Board of the Corcoran Gallery of Art and President of the Washington Opera and National Symphony Orchestra. A recipient of numerous awards, he was most proud of the Medal of Arts Award presented to him at the White House by George H. W. Bush in 1990.

The Kreegers loved to share their world of art and music with friends, family, and guests from around the globe.

-The Trustees of The Kreeger Museum

Thursday, February 2nd, 2023
8:00pm

Pictured on cover:
The Skride Quartet photographed by Keith Saunders

The Skride Quartet

Baiba Skride, violin
Lise Berthaud, viola
Harriet Krijgh, cello
Lauma Skride, piano

Phantasy for Piano Quartet, H. 94

Frank Bridge

Piano Quartet in D minor, Op. 25

Dora Pejačević

- INTERMISSION -

Piano Quartet No. 2 in A major, Op. 26

Johannes Brahms

Program Notes

Phantasy for Piano Quartet, H. 94

Frank Bridge

Frank Bridge was born in 1879 in Brighton, England, the tenth of twelve children. He received his first violin lessons from his father. He played in his father's theatre orchestra where he had the opportunity to conduct and orchestrate. At the age of seventeen he received a grant to study violin, piano, and composition at the Royal College of Music. He played the viola with well-known string quartets and developed into a highly respected conductor. In 1906 he premiered the *String Quartet* by Claude Debussy with the English String Quartet; in 1913 he played viola at the first English performance of Ravel's *Introduction et Allegro* with Ravel as conductor. In 1914 he performed the *Piano Quartet* by Fauré with Ravel at the piano.

During the first ten years of his compositional activities, he wrote mostly chamber music and songs; important works of this period are the *First String Quartet*, a *Suite for Strings*, and the *Phantasy* for piano quartet. The style of these early works refers to Brahms and Stanford, albeit with Bridge's own touch of impressionism.

Frank Bridge wrote his *Phantasy in F-sharp minor* for piano quartet in 1910, for a competition organized by William Cobbett for which the theme was Phantasy. The intention was to revive the ancient form – Fancy – from the Elizabethan age into new compositions. In general a Fancy is a work in one part, relatively short and preferably constructed as a palindrome. In the case of Bridge's *Phantasy* a central allegro is flanked by two main parts in andante, in which the relaxing middle part refers to the beginning of the piece.

--notes provided by Los Angeles Piano Quartet

About The Skride Quartet

Since its formation in 2016, the Skride Piano Quartet has enjoyed success on three continents with regular performances throughout Europe, North America, and Australia. The Quartet brings together four soloists—sisters Baiba and Lauma Skride, Lise Berthaud, and Harriet Krijgh—who all share both a musical kinship and close friendships that go back decades. Recent highlights include performances at the Concertgebouw, Wigmore Hall, the Louvre, Melbourne Recital Centre, Library of Congress, and the Tanglewood Music Festival.

About the Artists

Violinist **Baiba Skride**'s natural approach to her music-making has endeared her to some of today's most important conductors and orchestras worldwide. She is consistently invited for her refreshing interpretations, her sensitivity, and her delight in the music. The list of prestigious orchestras with whom she has worked include the Berlin Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Concertgebouw Orchestra, Sinfonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Orchestre de Paris, London Philharmonic, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, and NHK Symphony. Notable conductors with whom she collaborates include Christoph Eschenbach, Thierry Fischer, Paavo and Neeme Järvi, Andris Nelsons, Santtu Matias Rouvali, Vasily Petrenko, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, John Storgårds, and Kazuki Yamada.

In February 2016, Baiba Skride made her debut with the New York Philharmonic with Christoph Eschenbach; the concerts were a huge success with Vivien Schweitzer of *The New York Times* writing, "Ms. Skride brought a wide tonal palette to her insightful and passionate interpretation, her tone meaty and bold to open, then sweet, gossamer and brash." In the 2017-18 season Baiba Skride appeared with the Chicago Symphony and Cleveland Symphony, as well as with the Boston Symphony for the American premiere of Sofia Gubaidulina's Triple Concerto for violin, cello, and bayan.

Lise Berthaud has been unanimously praised as a leading violist on the international music scene and was a member of BBC Radio 3's New Generation Artists Scheme from 2013 -2015. As a soloist, Lise has played with all BBC orchestras, including for her BBC Proms Debuts in 2014 with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Andrew Litton. Other solo engagements include the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre National de Belgique, Düsseldorfer Symphoniker, Orchestre National de Lyon, les Musiciens du Louvre, Wrocław Philharmonic Orchestra, Sao Paulo Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre de Chambre de Paris, Orchestre de Chambre de Wallonie, Hong-Kong Sinfonietta, and various orchestras in France, with conductors like Sakari Oramo, Fabien Gabel, Emmanuel Krivine, Leonard Slatkin, Andrew Litton, François Leleux, Paul Mc Creesh, Marc Minkowski.

The young Dutch artist **Harriet Krijgh** is one of today's most exciting and promising cellists. Her grace and expressiveness touch her audiences as soon as she is on the concert platform. She played in the most important venues in Europe, North America and Asia such as the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Vienna Symphony Orchestra, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, Hong Kong Sinfonietta and Sydney Symphony Orchestra. She is also a regular guest at international festivals such as the Heidelberger Frühling, Grafenegg Festival and the Schubertiade Hohenems. As "Prizewinner in Residence" of the Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Harriet Krijgh made her mark on the 2019 summer festival edition in about 20 concerts.

Lauma Skride's playing is "wonderfully sensitive, with marvelous tone quality, and always with highly virtuosic vigor," according to a review by the Bavarian Broadcasting Service. Combined with brilliant technique, these are the qualities with which Lauma Skride captivates audiences on major concert stages throughout the world, both as a soloist and chamber musician. Awarded the Beethoven Ring in 2008, Lauma is highly acclaimed for her interpretations of Germanic classical and romantic repertoire. In recent seasons, Lauma Skride has appeared with Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, Dresden Philharmonic, and the Orquesta de Gran Canaria. Lauma Skride performs with such conductors as Andris Nelsons, Kristjan Järvi, Anu Tali, Muhai Tang, Peter Ruzicka, John Storgårds, Pedro Halffter, André deRidder, Yan Pascal Tortelier, and Cornelius Meister.

The Skride Piano Quartet released its first album together for the Orfeo label that includes repertoire by Mahler, Mozart, and Brahms