



Hugh Hodgson School of Music

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

presents a
Faculty and Guest Artist Recital

Liza Stepanova, *piano*
Guest Artist, Itamar Zorman, *violin*
Lysander Piano Trio: Zorman, Stepanova, and James Kim, *cello*

This recital is presented in part as an announcement of the 2026 Chamber Music Athens festival (www.chambermusicathens.org). Reception to follow.

Friday, September 26, 2025

5:30 pm, Ramsey Concert Hall

Violin Sonata in B-flat major, K. 454

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

- I. Largo-Allegro
- II. Andante
- III. Allegretto

Piano Sonata in B minor, Op. 58 (1921)

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

- I. Allegro maestoso
- II. Scherzo: Molto vivace
- III. Largo
- IV. Finale: Presto non tanto

Intermission

Intermezzo from *Goyescas*, arranged for piano trio

Enrique Granados
(1867-1916), arr. Gaspar Cassadó

Verklärte Nacht (Transfigured Night), Op. 4, arranged for piano trio

Arnold Schoenberg
(1874-1951), arr. Eduard Steuermann

*** Out of respect for the performer, please silence all electronic devices throughout the performance.
Thank you for your cooperation.*

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GUEST ARTIST BIOGRAPHY: ITAMAR ZORMAN

Itamar Zorman is one of the most soulful, evocative artists of his generation, distinguished by his emotionally gripping performances and gift for musical storytelling. Since his emergence with the top prize at the 2011 International Tchaikovsky Competition, he has wowed audiences all over the world with breathtaking style, causing one critic to declare him a “young badass who’s not afraid of anything.” His “youthful intensity” and “achingly beautiful” sound shine through in every performance, earning him the title of the “virtuoso of emotions. Awarded the Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award for 2014, violinist Itamar Zorman is the winner of the 2013 Avery Fisher Career Grant, and the 2011 International Tchaikovsky Competition in Russia.

Mr. Zorman has performed as a soloist with such orchestras as the Mariinsky Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic, New World Symphony, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, KBS Symphony Seoul, Frankfurt Radio Symphony, German Radio Philharmonic, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Kremerata Baltica, RTE National Symphony Orchestra (Dublin) and American Symphony. He has worked with conductors such as Zubin Mehta, Michael Tilson-Thomas, David Robertson, Valery Gergiev, James DePreist, Karina Canellakis, Yuri Bashmet, and Nathalie Stutzmann. Mr. Zorman has performed around the world in halls such as Avery Fisher Hall, Carnegie Hall’s Stern Auditorium, Tokyo’s Suntory Hall, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Zurich Tonhalle, Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in Moscow, and Teatro Massimo Palermo. As a recitalist he performed at Carnegie Hall’s Distinctive Debut series, Wigmore Hall, People’s Symphony Concerts, Merkin Hall, the Louvre Museum, Suntory Hall Laeiszhalle Hamburg and HR-Sendesaal Frankfurt. Mr. Zorman was invited to the Verbier, Marlboro, Rheingau, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Brevard, Classical Tahoe, MITO SettembreMusica, and Radio France Festivals. He has also collaborated with a number of legendary artists such as Richard Goode (including performances at Carnegie Hall and Library of Congress), Mitsuko Uchida, Steven Isserlis and Jörg Widmann. Mr. Zorman’s latest CD, “Violin Odyssey”, a collection of works for violin from five continents, was released in 2022 by First Hand Records to critical acclaim. As part of an ongoing exploration of the music of Paul Ben-Haim, Mr. Zorman released a CD of the works for violin and orchestra with BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Philippe Bach for BIS Records, in April 2019, entitled “Evocation”. His first solo CD recording, entitled “Portrait”, features works by Messiaen, Schubert, Chausson, Hindemith, and Brahms and was released by Profil - Editions Günther Hänssler. Described as a “poet of the violin”, Itamar Zorman is also a committed chamber player. He is a founding member of the Israeli Chamber Project and a member of the Lysander Piano Trio, with which he won the 2012 Concert Artists Guild Competition, the Grand Prize in the 2011 Coleman Chamber Music Competition, 1st prize in the 2011 Arriaga Competition, and a bronze medal in the 2010 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition.

Born in Tel-Aviv in 1985 to a family of musicians, Itamar Zorman began his violin studies at the age of six with Saly Bockel at the Israeli Conservatory of Music in Tel-Aviv. He graduated in 2003 and continued his studies with Professor David Chen and Nava Milo. He received his Bachelor of Music from the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance as a student of Hagai Shaham, and his Master of Music from The Juilliard School in 2009, where he studied with Robert Mann and Sylvia Rosenberg. He then went on to receive an Artist Diploma from Manhattan School of Music in 2010 and an Artist Diploma from Juilliard in 2012 under the tutelage of Sylvia Rosenberg, and he is an alumnus of the Kronberg Academy where he studied with Christian Tetzlaff and Mauricio Fuks. He is also the recipient of scholarships from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation and has taken part in numerous master classes around the world, working with Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, Shlomo Mintz, Ida Haendel, and Ivry Gitlis.

Mr. Zorman is an Associate Professor of Music (Violin) at Indiana University’s Jacob’s School of Music. He plays on a 1734 Guarneri del Gesù, from the collection of Yehuda Zisapel.

LYSANDER PIANO TRIO

The Lysander Piano Trio has been praised by The Strad for its “incredible ensemble, passionate playing, articulate and imaginative ideas and wide palette of colors” and by The Washington Post for “an uncommon degree of heart-on-the-sleeve emotional frankness” and “vivid engagement carried by soaring, ripely Romantic playing.” The Trio’s debut recording *After A Dream* (CAG Records) was acclaimed by The New York Times for its “polished and spirited interpretations.” The Lysander Trio is devoted to inventive programming, finding intriguing connections between works from all over the world, and uncovering lesser-known gems of the repertoire from the past to the present.

Highlights of the 2024-25 season include performances at the Asheville Chamber Music Series, Bender JCC of Greater Washington, Chamber Music Society of Central Kentucky, Chamber Music Society of Utica, Cosmos Club, Valley Classical Concerts, Westchester Chamber Music Society, Music Mountain, Hunter International Music Festival, Nantucket Musical Arts Society, and other notable series in Chattanooga, Palm Beach, and the Greater Boston area. In the 2023-24 season, the Trio gave debuts at Parlance Chamber Concerts, Feldman Chamber Music Society, Chamber Music Society of Williamsburg, Northeast Kingdom Classical Series, Blue Hill Concert Association, University of Idaho's Auditorium Chamber Music Series, Nelson Overture Concerts Society, and Kelowna Chamber Concert Association in Canada. In the spring of 2023, the Lysander “brought the house down” (Dumbarton Concerts) with its new tango-infused collaboration with Argentine bandoneonist and composer JP Jofre and looks forward to continuing the collaboration in upcoming seasons.

The Lysander Piano Trio has spent over a decade performing around the US with appearances at notable venues such as the Kennedy Center’s Terrace Theater, Los Angeles’ Da Camera Society, Atlanta’s Spivey Hall, San Francisco’s Music at Kohl Mansion, Palm Beach's Kravis Center and Norton Museum of Art, Chamber Music Raleigh, Concerts International Memphis, Sanibel Music Festival, Florida Keys Concert Association, Chamber Music Tulsa, Juneau Jazz and Classics, and notable college venues including Middlebury College, Clemson University, Lee University’s Presidential Concert Series, Purdue University’s Convocations Series, and University of Illinois’ Krannert Center. Summer and festival appearances include the Bard Music Festival, Cooperstown Summer Music Festival, Copenhagen Summer Festival, The Chautauqua Institution, Princeton University Summer Chamber Concerts, and a critically acclaimed recital at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. The Lysander Trio also performed abroad in recent seasons, notably at Calgary Pro Musica in Canada, Pro Musica San Miguel de Allende in Mexico, and a tour of Israel. Orchestral engagements include Beethoven’s Triple Concerto with the DuPage Symphony Orchestra, University of Wyoming Symphony Orchestra and Greenwich Village Orchestra in New York City.

The Trio has a long-standing commitment to working with living composers and building a new repertoire for the piano trio. The Lysander Trio's latest commission, *Nostos* by Udi Perlman, was premiered in 2024 and has been received enthusiastically by audiences across the US. Following a recent performance of *Nostos* at Music Mountain, The Millbrook Independent proclaimed: “That melody has been ringing in my ears over the past twenty-four hours; it provided a delightful conclusion, and I wished to hear the work once more!” The ensemble’s commissions also include Gilad Cohen’s *Around the Cauldron* (2017), co-commissioned by Concert Artists Guild and premiered at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall; *Ghostwritten Variations*, by Venezuelan-American composer Reinaldo Moya; Jakub Ciupinski’s *The Black Mirror*; and *Four Movements Inspired by “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,”* penned by four pre-teen composers of ComposerCraft from NYC’s Kaufman Music Center and premiered at Merkin Concert Hall in 2014. Lysander members also premiered Jennifer Higdon’s *Love Sweet* for soprano and piano trio, which received its world-premiere recording together with acclaimed soprano Sarah Shafer on the group’s 2021 release, *Mirrors*. Beyond its praise from Musical America for being “strikingly inventive...meticulous” and from The Strad for its “evocative moments,” Gramophone celebrated *Mirrors* by noting that “all six of this release’s compositions benefit from the Lysander Trio’s finely honed ensemble values and well-characterised solo contributions.”

The Lysander Piano Trio, whose name is inspired by the character in Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, was formed at The Juilliard School. The Trio studied with Ronald Copes of the Juilliard String Quartet, the late Joseph Kalichstein, and Seymour Lipkin. Early in their career, Lysander became a standout at competitions, with top honors at the Fischhoff National

Chamber Music Competition, the Coleman Chamber Ensemble Competition (Grand Prize), the J. C. Arriaga Chamber Music Competition (First Prize), and the Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition.

Award-winning cellist and UGA cello faculty, James Kim joined the Lysander Trio as a permanent member in January 2025.