

heifetz

2021

The 25th Anniversary Season

COMMUNICATE • ENGAGE • INSPIRE

JULY 11, 2021 - 2:00 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

STAUNTON, VA

Sunday Matinee:

Vivaldi's Four Seasons
With Rachell Ellen Wong

Fresh off her triumphant performance with the Seattle Symphony, Heifetz alumna and Avery Fisher Career Grant winner Rachell Ellen Wong returns to Staunton for a personal and powerful interpretation of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*.

Rachell will be joined by an all-star cast of students, alums, and special guests in the spacious and freshly-refurbished First Presbyterian Church in Staunton.



Click Play to Watch



@HEIFETZINTERNATIONALMUSICINSTITUTE



@HEIFETZMUSIC



@HEIFETZMUSIC



WWW.HEIFETZINSTITUTE.ORG

Praeludium and Allegro

Andrew Gonzalez, viola
Miki Aoki, piano

Fritz Kreisler
(1875-1962)

The Four Seasons

La primavera ("Spring")
L'estate ("Summer")
L'autunno ("Autumn")
L'inverno ("Winter")

Antonio Vivaldi
(1678-1741)

Rachell Ellen Wong, violin

Orchestra

Violin I

Yiu Ting Chik (28—*Hong Kong, China*)

Miray Ito (18—*New York, NY*)

Kearston Gonzales (16—*Hampton, VA*)

Violin II

Yip Wai Chow (25—*Hong Kong, China*)

Clayton Hancock (20—*Milwaukee, WI*)

Henry Rogers (17—*Princeton, NJ*)

Viola

Andrew Gonzalez

Caleb Wong (17—*Milton Keynes, UK*)

Maeve Whelan (20—*Bloomington, IN*)

Cello

Yan Ho Cheng (27—*Hong Kong, China*)

George Wolfe-McGuire (17—*Amityville, NY*)

Davis You (19—*Palo Alto, CA*)

Bass

James Peterson

William Valencia

Archguitar

Peter Blanchette

Harpsichord

Andrew Rosenblum

Cello Sonata in E Major

I. Grave

II. Allegro

Lillian Su, cello (19—*Farmington, CT*)

Yoon Lee, piano

Giuseppe Valentini
(1681-1753)

Intermission

THIS CONCERT IS SPONSORED BY:



Redbeard Small Batch Craft Brewery and Taproom in the heart of historic downtown Staunton. With 10-14 of our beers available on draft, you can sit down and have a pint or get a growler to go. We encourage guests to bring a snack from home or get something to go from one of the fine restaurants nearby.

Notes from Rachell

La Primavera (Spring)

In this first movement, we are greeted by three different birds singing from each of the principal violins. The bird calls lead us to a babbling brook in the strings, with the harpsichord portraying gusts of wind on top. With a start, thunder strikes, and dueling violin sections try to outdo one another. But, the storm soon dissipates, and the violins return with the birds! In the second movement, see if you can locate who is the barking dog. We end this season with a lively country dance.

L'Estate (Summer)

I just flew into Staunton from my hometown in the Pacific Northwest, where last week my region had an unprecedented heatwave. The temperatures we experienced there were so intense that I will never take air conditioning for granted ever again! It gave me a great backdrop to imagine the swelter of summer. I hope you can feel the languor of heat immediately from the start of this first movement; so hot that you are too lazy to move. Suddenly the cello and violin take off in a fiery burst—so infectious that the rest of the orchestra joins in. A cuckoo calls out from the distance in the violin, with the orchestra responding with other bird calls. Wind blows throughout the orchestra, stirring the strings into a frenzy. I particularly enjoy performing the section where the wailing shepherd starts complaining about an impending storm. The second movement is the lead-up to what looks to be a very intense storm brewing, with both violin sections acting as annoying mosquitoes buzzing around and biting. As the storm continues to swirl around the orchestra, the last movement explodes with an exciting finale.

L'Autunno (Autumn)

We start off with a wonderful dance, where there is alcohol present. I think it will be pretty obvious who is playing the drunkard in this first movement! The poor orchestra has to follow the inebriated solo violin, who is VERY unpredictable. Suddenly the drunkard falls asleep, and who better than the viola to portray the loud snores of someone who has had too much to drink! At once, the drunkard wakes up—realizing they are late for something important—and rushes off, a great conclusion for this first movement! At this point, the lead violin takes a break and the orchestra becomes the party goers at rest, while the harpsichord provides the cool breeze flowing over the slumbering guests. We then end autumn with a hunt. Gunshots and explosive cannons are launching from all corners of the orchestra, which leads to the sad demise of the poor beast they are hunting.

L'Inverno (Winter)

Right now it's hard to imagine the biting cold, but try to do so while you hear the orchestra shivering from the start of this first movement, with intermittent outbursts from the solo violin. Suddenly, the entire group is off to a running start, trying to get away from the chill, but there's no escape. I love the effect of the teeth chattering in the solo violin. The wonderful contentment of the second movement is what makes this movement so special. Imagine you are sitting inside your warm cabin with a fire going, the rain pitter-pattering outside your window while you hold a nice cup of hot chocolate. We end the entire four seasons with a dramatic walk on the ice, stumbling and sliding. The basses will provide the final ice crack before a beautiful moment of rest provided by the upper strings, but then it is back to the frozen winds competing for who can be the most intense. This exhilarating end of this movement evokes the last line of the sonnet: While winter may have its troubles and bitter cold, it also brings its own delights.

La Primavera (Spring)

*Spring has arrived merrily
the birds hail her with happy song
and, meanwhile, at the breath of the Zephyrs,
the streams flow with a sweet murmur:*

thunder and lightning, chosen to proclaim her,

*come covering the sky with a black mantle,
and then, when these fall silent, the little birds
return once more to their melodious incantation:*

and so, on the pleasant, flowery meadow,

*to the welcome murmuring of fronds and trees,
the goatherd sleeps with his trusty dog beside him.*

*To the festive sound of a shepherd's bagpipe,
nymphs and shepherds dance beneath the beloved roof
at the joyful appearance of spring.*

L'Estate (Summer)

*Beneath the harsh season inflamed by the sun,
Man languishes, the flock languishes, and the pine
tree burns;*

*the cuckoo unleashes its voice and, as soon as it is
heard,
the turtle dove sings and the goldfinch too.*

*Sweet Zephyrus blows, but Boreas suddenly
opens a dispute with his neighbor,
and the shepherd weeps, for he fears
a fierce storm looming – and his destiny;*

the fear of lightning and fierce thunder

*and the furious swarm of flies and blowflies
deprives his weary limbs of repose.*

*Oh alas! his fears are only too true.
The sky thunders, flares, and with hailstones
severs the heads of the proud grain crops.*

L'Autunno (Autumn)

*The peasant celebrates in dance and song
the sweet pleasure of the rich harvest
and, fired by Bacchus' liquor,
many end their enjoyment in slumber.*

*The air, which, fresher now, lends contentment,
and the season which invites so many
to the great pleasure of sweetest slumber,
make each one abandon dance and song.*

At the new dawn the hunters set out on the hunt

*with horns, guns and dogs.
The wild beast flees, and they follow its track;*

*already bewildered, and wearied by the great noise
of the guns and dogs, wounded,
it threatens weakly to escape, but, overwhelmed, dies.*

L'Inverno (Winter)

*To shiver, frozen, amid icy snows,
at the harsh wind's chill breath;
to run, stamping one's feet at every moment;
with one's teeth chattering on account of the excessive
cold;*

*to pass the days of calm and contentment by the
fireside
while the rain outside drenches a hundred others;*

*to walk on the ice, and with slow steps
to move about cautiously for fear of falling;*

*to go fast, slip, fall to the ground;
to go on the ice again and run fast
until the ice cracks and breaks open;*

*to hear, as they sally forth through the iron-clad gates,
Sirocco, Boreas, and all the winds at war.
This is winter, but of a kind to bring joy.*

About the Heifetz Institute

The Heifetz International Music Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to the artistic growth and career development of the most talented and promising young musicians in the world. We believe there are specific factors that distinguish a good performance from a great one; an emerging musician struggling to form their artistic identity from a complete performer who will establish a notable career. We seek to know—and to teach—what those factors are and how to achieve them. Through the innovative Performance & Communication Training method, the Institute leads musicians to convey the emotion of the music they're performing, explore their full creative potential, express their individuality, and redefine the concert experience. As a summer program, we are uniquely positioned to guide our students at this critical point in their development in a non-competitive, supportive environment outside of the trials of conservatories and competitions.

Join us all summer long for the 2021 Festival of Concerts June 29–August 6

- ((••)) Tuesdays & Thursdays:** *Stars of Tomorrow* - 7:30 PM, First Presbyterian Church | \$10
- ((••)) Wednesdays:** *VIRTUAL Stars of Tomorrow* - 7:30 PM, Online | \$10 suggested donation
- Fridays:** *Fridays in the Gallery* - 1:00 PM, Staunton Augusta Art Center | Free *
- ((••)) *Celebrity Series* - 6:00 PM, First Presbyterian Church | \$30**
- Saturdays:** *Heifetz Hootenanny* - 7:30 PM, Blackburn Inn, Great Hall | \$30 **
- ((••)) Sundays:** *Sunday Matinee* - 2:00 PM, First Presbyterian Church | \$10

**Reservations must be made in advance online*

***\$10 student and under-21 discounts available—use code STUDENTHOOT*

Free admission to all concerts for children 12 and under

((••)) Streaming Live Worldwide via YouTube and Facebook

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SUPPORTERS OF THE
2021 HEIFETZ INTERNATIONAL MUSIC INSTITUTE**

