

Season Gala: Bill Murray, Jan Vogler, and Friends – *New Worlds*

Friday, October 13, 2017 at 8:00pm

This is the 757th concert in Koerner Hall

Bill Murray, actor

Jan Vogler, cello

Mira Wang, violin

Vanessa Perez, piano

PROGRAM

Ernest Hemingway: “Did You Even Play a Musical Instrument?” from *The Art of Fiction No. 21* from *Paris Review*

Johann Sebastian Bach: Prelude from Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major, BWV 1007

Walt Whitman: from *Song of the Open Road* and *Song of Myself*

James Fenimore Cooper: from *The Deerslayer*

with music by

Franz Schubert: from Trio in B-flat Major for piano, violin, and cello, D. 989

Ernest Hemingway: “Group Feeling” from *The Art of Fiction No. 21* from *Paris Review*

Maurice Ravel: Blues from Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 2

Ernest Hemingway: “With Pascin at the Dome” from *A Moveable Feast*

Astor Piazzolla: “La muerte del ángel” (arr. Jose Bragato)

George Gershwin: “It Ain’t Necessarily So” from *Porgy and Bess* (arr. Jascha Heifetz)

Astor Piazzolla: “Oblivion”

Billy Collins: “Forgetfulness”

Stephen Foster: “Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair”

Musical Surprise

Van Morrison: “When Will I Ever Learn to Live in God” (arr. Stephen Buck)

Mark Twain: from *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

with music by

Henry Mancini: “Moon River” (arr. Manfred Grafe)

Dimitri Shostakovich: Allegro from Sonata for Cello and Piano in D Minor, op. 40

James Thurber: “If Grant Had Been Drinking at Appomattox” from *Writings and Drawings*, Library of America

Leonard Bernstein: "Somewhere," "I Feel Pretty" & "America" from *West Side Story* (arr. Stephen Buck)

Bill Murray and Jan Vogler met during their travels and became friends in New York. Curious about each-other's artistic world and interests, the artist and the cellist soon had the idea to work together on a project – a program that showcases the core of the American values in literature and music – a show that communicates the bridges artists have built between America and Europe. Twain, Hemingway, Whitman, Cooper, Bernstein, Gershwin, and Foster are some of the strongest voices that influenced generations of humans in America and gave the world a picture of the charm, energy, and creative force of the New World. In 2017, their idea for a joint program celebrated its premiere. The Hollywood star's love for classical music is young and his art of language boundless, as is evident in this fascinating encounter between great music and great literature, featuring two masters of their art.

Bill Murray

Actor

Bill Murray was born in 1950 and grew up in Wilmette, a village just outside Chicago. After giving up his medical studies, he dedicated himself to his second passion, acting. Having gathered experience on the radio show *The National Lampoon Radio Hour*, he became a fixture among the authors and performers of the legendary TV show *Saturday Night Live*, for which he won an Emmy Award. Growing popularity brought his first film roles. He worked closely with the director Ivan Reitman, whose 1984 comedy *Ghostbusters* propelled him into the first rank of Hollywood actors. This was followed by movies such as *Tootsie*, *Ghostbusters II*, and *Groundhog Day*. In 1999, he starred in Wes Anderson's *Rushmore*, which brought him seven awards. He further collaborated with Anderson in *The Royal Tenenbaums* (2001), *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou* (2005), *Moonrise Kingdom* (2012), and *Grand Budapest Hotel* (2014). For his role in Sofia Coppola's *Lost in Translation*, he received a Golden Globe Award and was nominated for an Oscar. Murray was also nominated for a Golden Globe for his role in the 2014 film *St. Vincent*. Recognized not only as an actor but also as a humorist, Bill Murray was awarded the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor in October 2016. His passion for baseball and golf is just as famous as his ability to turn everything into art, and his eccentric and irreverent style have caused him to be seen by many as a folk hero.

Jan Vogler

Cello

Jan Vogler is one of today's most renowned soloists, praised for his "soulful, richly hued playing" (*The New York Times*) and his "spiralling virtuosity" (*Gramophone Magazine*).

He frequently performs with leading international orchestras, including New York Philharmonic; Boston, Pittsburgh, and Montreal Symphony Orchestras; Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra; Deutsche Symphonie-Orchester Berlin; Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg; as well as Orchestra dell'Accademia di Santa Cecilia. He collaborates with conductors such as Andris Nelsons, Fabio Luisi, Sir Antonio Pappano, Valery Gergiev, Thomas Hengelbrock, Manfred Honeck, and Kent Nagano.

Currently he is focussing on the historically informed sound of the cello repertoire and performing with gut strings on his latest album of Schumann's Cello Concerto with Dresden Festival Orchestra under the baton of Ivor Bolton. He is also the creative mind and key player of the project "New Worlds. Bill Murray, Jan Vogler and Friends," which aims to intertwine American literature with European music. Upcoming highlights include a recital tour with long-term duo partner Héléne Grimaud in Germany.

A prolific and multi-award-winning recording artist, Jan Vogler exclusively records for Sony Classical. Among his most recent albums is a Tchaikovsky recording with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by Andrés Orozco-Estrada and the Moritzburg Festival Ensemble.

Hugh Canning of the *Sunday Times* comments: "Vogler's witty and affectionate Rococo Variations are up there with the best." For his recording of Bach's six Suites for Cello Solo he was awarded his third ECHO Klassik award in the category of Instrumentalist of the Year 2014 (cello). Jan Vogler plays the 1707 Stradivari "Ex Castelbarco/Fau" cello.

Mira Wang

Violin

A native of China, the violinist Mira Wang studied with Roman Totenberg at Boston University, from which she graduated with distinction and the prestigious Kahn Award for outstanding musicians.

She is the recipient of numerous prizes at competitions worldwide, including the First Prize of the International Violin Competition in Geneva and the First Prize of the International Violin Competition in New Zealand.

Mira Wang has appeared with numerous orchestras in the USA, Europe, and Asia, including the Staatskapelle Dresden, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. As a chamber musician, she has performed at many international festivals, including the Marlboro Festival, Les Museiques in Basel, the Kuhmo Festival, and the MDR Music Summer. She is a regular guest at the Moritzburg Festival, where she has also directed the Moritzburg Academy for Young Musicians since 2014.

Among the highlights of her concert career are the world premiere of the violin concerto *Spring in Dresden* by Chen Yi, which she performed with the Staatskapelle Dresden and Iván Fischer, and her appearances as a guest soloist with the American Symphony Orchestra, performing such works as *Chain 2* by *Lutosławski*. In 2010, she gave the world premiere of the Double Concerto by John Harbison with cellist Jan Vogler and the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and in October and November 2015 she premiered Wolfgang Rihm's Duo Concerto on three continents.

She records for BERLIN Classics and Sony Classical.

Vanessa Perez

Piano

Praised for a bold, passionate performing style and musicianship of keen sensitivity, Vanessa Perez has performed across the United States, Latin America, and Europe with musicians such as pianists Gabriela Montero and Ingrid Fliter, cellist Jan Vogler, and conductors Gustavo Dudamel, John Axelrod, Enrique Batiz, Gustav Meier, James Judd, David *Giménez Carreras*, and Diego Matheuz.

Among other high-profile experiences in the studio, she joined superstar violinist Joshua Bell for his *At Home with Friends* album, released by Sony Classical in 2009. She also teamed with Jan Vogler for the cellist's 2008 Sony album, *Tango*.

As a solo artist, she has recorded for VAI and Telarc, and her most recent recording, *Spain*, was released by Steinway & Sons in 2016. Recent performance highlights include appearances at the International Keyboard Institute & Festival in New York, the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, concerts with the Orquesta de la Juventud Simon Bolívar under Gustavo Dudamel, the Casals Festival, the Chopin Festival in Mallorca, a tour with the Youth Orchestras of the Americas, the Montpellier Festival, Konzerthaus in Berlin, Wigmore Hall, and Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires.

Vanessa Perez began her studies in Caracas, Venezuela at the age of seven at the Colegio Emil Friedman. She has degrees from the Royal Academy of Music in London and Yale University. She studied with Peter Frankl, Christopher Elton, Lazar Berman, and Ena Bronstein.

Vanessa Perez is a Steinway Artist.

All artists are making their Royal Conservatory debuts tonight.