

CCM

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES
PRESENTS

SÆUNN
THORSTEINSDÓTTIR,
CELLO

Sunday, January 28, 2024
Robert J. Werner Recital Hall
2:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

Suite for Solo Cello in D Minor, BWV 1008

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Prelude
Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Menuets 1 and 2
Gigue

Suite for Solo Cello in Eb Major, BWV 1010

Johann Sebastian Bach

Prelude
Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Bourées 1 and 2
Gigue

Short Pause

Neige éternelle, 5 pieces for solo cello (World Premiere)

Veronique Vaka
(b. 1986)

Suite for Solo Cello in D Major, BWV 1012

Johann Sebastian Bach

Prelude
Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Gavottes 1 and 2

PROGRAM NOTES

Neige éternelle is a series of five pieces for solo cello.

This work emerged after Gemæltan, a cello concerto written for Sæunn Þorsteinsdóttir.

Each piece is an imagined phase in the formation of a glacier.

Veronique Vaka, born in 1986, is a composer based in Iceland. She studied classical cello performance at Vincent-d'Indy, continued her studies in electro-acoustic composition at the University of Montreal and completed a Master's degree in music composition from the Iceland University of the Arts. Her orchestral work Lendh has been nominated for The Icelandic Music Awards 2020 - Composition of the year, and for the Nordic Council Music Prize 2020.

Veronique took a step towards a more abstract approach to her music when she started her research: From Landscape to Music Notation. The intention of her work is to create a poetic context between what she sees, hears and feels in the unspoiled nature, and combine it into a musical composition. Her composition style is described as organic, with an emphasis on small details such as textural and timbral elements.

Veronique Vaka works have been performed by: The Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Sinfóníuhljómsveit Áhugamanna's Orchestra, Ensemble Paramirabo, Duo Harpverk, Ensemble Synaesthesia, Ensemble Adapter, Elektra Ensemble, Caput Ensemble, The Reykjavík Chamber Orchestra, Siggí String Quartet, Ensemble Dasein, Nordic Affect, Opus XX Orchestra, Una Sveinbjarnardóttir, Feima, Sarah Parkin -soprano, Michael Taylor -countertenor and Halla Steinunn Stefánsdóttir. She wrote two vocal works, Vötn, with the poetry of Steinunn Arnbjörg Stefánsdóttir. Vaka composed a Violin Concerto, Sceadu (2018-19), for Una Sveinbjarnardóttir, a Cello Concerto, Gemæltan (2020), for Sæunn Þorsteinsdóttir and a Viola Concerto, Vanescere (2021) for Þórunn Ósk Marinósdóttir. Her works have been performed during Chamber Music on Valentia Island (2022), Myrkir Músíkdagar/ Dark Music Days (2018-19-20-22), Tónlistarhátið Rásar 1 (2020), Kammermúsíklúbburinn (2020), and Sumartónleikar í Skálholti (2018).

Veronique is a member of the Society of Icelandic Composers (Tónskáldafélag Íslands). Since 2021, her works are published by Universal Edition via Scodo.

BIOGRAPHY

Icelandic cellist Sæunn Thorsteinsdóttir has appeared as soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Iceland Symphony, among others, and her recital and chamber music performances have taken her to many of the world's prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall, Suntory Hall, and the Barbican Center. Her most recent album "Marrow: The 6 Suites for Solo Cello by J.S.Bach" was released on the Sono Luminus label in 2023. Born in Reykjavík, Iceland, Sæunn serves on the faculty of the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music teaching cello and chamber music.

www.saeunn.com

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