

Friday, March 2, 2018, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

From the Top with Host Christopher O’Riley

PROGRAM

- Fritz KREISLER (1875–1962) *La Gitana*
John Fawcett, *violin*
Christopher O’Riley, *piano*
- Claude DEBUSSY (1862–1918) *String Quartet in G minor, Op. 10*
I. Animé et très décidé
Meraki Quartet
Sofia Matthews, *violin*
Jun Yong Liu, *violin*
Anna Renton, *viola*
Isabelle Nichols, *cello*
- Sergei RACHMANINOFF (1873–1943) *Sonata in G minor for Cello and Piano, Op. 19*
III. Andante
Woojin Nam, *cello*
Christopher O’Riley, *piano*
- Einojuhani RAUTAVAARA (1928–2016) *Piano Sonata No. 2, Op. 64, The Fire Sermon*
I. Molto allegro
Abigail Arkley, *piano*
- Traditional South African Song,
adapted by Jeffrey L. Ames (b. 1969) *Tshotsholoza*
Gunn High School Concert Choir
William Liberatore, *director*
- Stephen PAULUS (1949–2014) *Pilgrim’s Hymn*
Gunn High School Concert Choir
William Liberatore, *director*
- Carl ENGEL (1883–1944) *Sea-Shell*
arr. by Efrem Zimbalist
John Fawcett, *violin*
Christopher O’Riley, *piano*

Today’s show will air on participating stations during the week of April 30, 2018.

Listen to From the Top on KDFC, Sundays at 7pm.

To listen online or download the podcast, visit www.fromthetop.org.

Cal Performances’ 2017–18 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.



Christopher O’Riley (*host/piano*) has redefined the possibilities of classical music through media, contemporary music, and innovative programming. In addition to hosting From the Top’s radio and television programs and appearing with top orchestras and festivals around the world, O’Riley is also an interpreter of some of the most important contemporary popular music of our time. He lives by the Duke Ellington adage, “there are only two kinds of music, good music and bad.” O’Riley has performed two-piano arrangements of Astor Piazzolla’s tangos with Argentine pianist Pablo Ziegler, and collaborated with choreographer Martha Clarke in a work that sets the staged stories of Anton Chekhov to the piano works of Alexander Scriabin. He has recorded two discs of his own re-imaginings of Radiohead songs, as well as those of singer/songwriter Nick Drake, and a tribute to Elliot Smith. In 2009 he drew from the works of Nirvana, REM, Radiohead, Pink Floyd, Tori Amos, The Smiths, Cocteau Twins, Portishead, and others in *Out of My Hands*. In 2011 O’Riley teamed up with cellist Matt Haimovitz on *Shuffle.Play.Listen.*, a collaboration that plumbs the virtuosic possibilities of their instruments and blurs the boundaries between classical and pop music. In *O’Riley’s Liszt*, released in 2013, he delves into the transcriptions of Franz Liszt, adding his own touches and insight to the music of Mozart, Wagner, Berlioz, Schubert, and Schumann. Most recently, O’Riley again teamed up with cellist Matt Haimovitz to release *Beethoven, Period.*, featuring Beethoven’s complete sonatas and variations for fortepiano and violoncello, recorded on period instruments. O’Riley is a recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant, along with top prizes from the Van Cliburn, Leeds, Busoni, and Montreal competitions. He is a graduate of New England Conservatory in Boston.

Joanne Robinson (*announcer*) has a broad arts and communications background. She has performed and toured with several children’s theater companies and served on production teams of two children’s television programs. A longstanding member of the From the Top team, Robinson has worked in many capacities, including managing the organization’s website, blogging about her travels with the radio show, writing copy, and designing promotional and publication materials. When she is not on tour with the production team, she can be found in From the Top’s marketing and communications department, where she serves as senior graphic designer.

Abigail Arkley (*piano*), 17, is a twelfth grader from Bloomington, Minnesota, and a recipient of From the Top’s Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award. A student of Kevin Hobbs, Arkley won the top prize in the Schubert Club Scholarship Competition in Saint Paul in 2016, which gave her the opportunity to participate in master classes and to perform at Saint Paul’s Ordway Center. Her favorite musical experience has been performing Prokofiev’s Third Piano Concerto with the La Crosse Symphony Orchestra in Wisconsin. Arkley also enjoys playing the guitar and mandolin, singing, hand lettering, painting, and illustrating.

John Fawcett (*violin*), 17, is from Bend, Oregon, where he attends the Redmond Proficiency Academy and studies violin with Jan Mark Sloman. He was recently selected to participate in the New York String Orchestra Seminar, conducted by Jaime Laredo, culminating in performances at Carnegie Hall. Fawcett has been a soloist with the Central Oregon Symphony, Sunriver Music Festival Orchestra, and Oregon Mozart Players. His favorite musical experience

Based in Boston, From the Top is an independent nonprofit organization that celebrates the power of music in the hands of extraordinary young people—thanks to the charitable gifts made by many individuals and institutions each year. From the Top’s programs are made possible, in part, by an award from the National Endowment of the Arts, a grant from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, and partnerships with radio stations nationwide. From the Top’s founding partners are New England Conservatory and WGBH. Learn more at www.fromthetop.org.

thus far has been performing as a soloist with Pink Martini. Outside of music, he loves soccer, biking, hiking, skiing, and playing with his two dogs.

The Gunn High School Concert Choir, from Palo Alto, is comprised of 120 students grades 9–12, and is directed by William Liberatore. Recently, the choir was selected as a finalist and garnered the most public votes out of a dozen choirs in KDFC’s Bay Area vocal competition, winning this appearance on *From the Top*. The award-winning choir will perform at the Anaheim Choral Festival in May.

The Meraki Quartet is comprised of young musicians from the youth chamber music program at Crowden Music Center in Berkeley, coached by Eugene Sor. They include violinists **Sofia Matthews**, 15, from Berkeley (Berkeley High School) and **Jun Yong Liu**, 15, from Oakland (Oakland Technical High School); violist **Anna Renton**, 15, from Albany (Valley View Charter Prep); and cellist **Isabelle Nichols**, 15, from Berkeley (Berkeley High School). The quartet recently enjoyed the honor of playing contemporary works at a presentation for Gordon Getty.

Woojin Nam (cello), 17, was born in Suwon, South Korea, and raised in San Ramon, where she is currently a senior at Dougherty Valley High School. A student of Jonathan Koh at the California Music Preparatory Academy, she has won awards in numerous competitions, including the VOCE competition, Classic Alive Young Artists, and the American Protégé International Concerto Competition. She has also participated in Music@Menlo. Nam’s favorite musical experience so far has been attending the Meadowmount School of Music in 2017, where she says she “learned so much from teachers and peers.” She is most proud of having started a volunteer group that creates and performs a musical “story time” in local libraries throughout Contra Costa County. In her spare time, Nam loves listening to music of all kinds and hanging out with friends.

About From the Top

From the Top is America’s largest national platform celebrating the stories, talents, and character of classically trained young musicians. Founded in Boston in 1995 by Gerald Slavet and Jennifer Hurley-Wales, From the Top originated as a variety-style radio show. More than 20 years later, From the Top has grown into a multimedia and arts education powerhouse, transforming the lives of hundreds of young musicians each year, inspiring millions of fans, and pioneering new ways to unite communities around the promise of great young talent.

Programs

NPR’s *From the Top with Host Christopher O’Riley* is the most popular weekly one-hour classical music program on public radio, heard by more than half a million listeners on more than 200 stations nationwide.

From the Top’s online music video program, *See the Music*, brings together young classically trained musicians with collaborators from multiple artistic genres and disciplines. Distributed on YouTube and social media, *See the Music* reaches millions of additional fans who may not listen to the radio program or attend live events.

From the Top prepares young musicians to be instruments of positive social change in their communities through intensive leadership training offered by the Center for the Development of Arts Leaders (CDAL). Both in Boston and on From the Top’s national tour, CDAL empowers young musicians to explore their individual leadership pathways while planning and delivering programs to diverse audiences—schools, senior centers, hospitals, and museums—reaching thousands of people each year.

Scholarships

Since 2005, From the Top and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation have awarded more than \$2.4 million in scholarships to over 200 exceptional young musicians with financial need. In addition to providing these young artists with an opportunity to perform on From the Top’s national broadcasts, recipients are awarded up to \$10,000 to support their musical studies.

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