



'Where the biggies leave off...'

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## CELLO*ici* recital series concludes July 31 with rising star Brannon Cho

By Michael Wilson

Mark Kasower, principal cello of the Cleveland Orchestra, and Astrid Schween, the Julliard Quartet's cellist, both received not one but two standing ovations from the audiences at their July 17 and 21 recitals at the Art Room of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, the first and second of three concerts in this summer's CELLO*ici* series. Their virtuosity dazzled everyone, including the students at the International Cello Institute 2018 summer camp, now underway at St. Olaf's College in Northfield.

And on Tuesday, July 31, at 7:30 pm we'll have a fine opportunity to hear 24-year-old Brannon Cho, who is well on his way to being one of tomorrow's cello superstars. A native of Short Hills, NJ, Cho is the recent top prize winner of several international competitions, including the Queen Elisabeth, Naumberg, Cassadó, and Johansen competitions. Brannon is also a recent winner of the Friends of the Minnesota Orchestra Competition, which resulted in him appearing this past January as soloist with the Minnesota Orchestra.

Cho has soloed with orchestras and at chamber music festivals around the world. He has shared the stage with artists such as Christian Tetzlaff and Gidon Kramer and recently went on a chamber music tour with Joshua Bell. Cho plays a rare cello made in 1668 by Antonio Casini in Modena, Italy, making it exactly 350 years older than he is!

Appearing with Cho on July 31 will be the acclaimed Filipino-American pianist Victor Santiago Asuncion, hailed by the Washington Post for his "poised and imaginative playing." As a recitalist, chamber musician and concerto soloist, Asuncion has played in major concert halls across the United States and around the world.

For those of you who like to "listen ahead," Cho's



Brannon Cho / cello



Victor Santiago Asuncion / piano

and Asuncion's program includes Boccherini's Sonata for Cello in C Major, G. 17; Schumann's Fantasiestück, Op. 73 for Cello and Piano; Britten's Suite No. 1 for Solo Cello, and Castelnuovo-Tedesco's Paraphrase on "Largo al Factotum" after Rossini's "The Barber of Seville." You can hear and watch Cho playing the Schumann by googling "Cho Fantasiestück."

All three CELLO*ici* recitals are hosted by Classical Minnesota Public Radio's Melissa Ousley. Audiences

always particularly enjoy Ousley's on-stage interviews and repartee with the musicians.

Kasower, Schween, and Cho are all faculty members at the 2018 ICI summer camp in Northfield, as are (among many others) Minnesota Orchestra cellists Anthony Ross and Silver Ainomäe. Go to <[internationalcelloinstitute.com](http://internationalcelloinstitute.com)> for a full schedule (under "Events") of performance masterclasses which we are welcome to attend.