



'Where the biggies leave off...'

Hill & Lake Press

Published for East Isles, Lowry Hill, Kenwood Isles, & Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhoods

VOLUME 42 NUMBER 6

www.hillandlakepress.com

JUNE 26, 2018

CELLO*ici* returns to neighborhood with three concerts in July

By Michael Wilson

After playing to enthusiastic audiences last summer, CELLO*ici* returns to our neighborhood in July with three concerts featuring three of the country's best cellists.

An outgrowth of the International Cello Institute, an intensive three-week program for aspiring young cellists held at St. Olaf College, CELLO*ici* brings faculty members to Minneapolis so we can enjoy some of the wonderful music-making going on in Northfield.

All three concerts take place in July at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, right next to our Hill and Lake neighborhood. Concerts begin at 7:30 pm. Melissa Ousley, Classical MPR host and International Cello Institute board member, will provide commentary at all three concerts.

Concerts on July 17 and 21.

The first concert on Tuesday, July 17, features Mark Kasower, principal cellist of the acclaimed Cleveland Orchestra, and his recital partner (and wife) Jee-Won Oh. Kasower grew up in Eau Claire and performed many times as a student in the Twin Cities. He has the distinction of being the youngest person ever to have performed on Schubert Club's Music in the Park Series when he appeared, along with his sister and father, as a nine-year-old prodigy. Oh has performed across the United States and in Europe, Asia, and South America as a soloist and chamber musician.

The second concert on Saturday, July 21, features Astrid Schween, cellist of the renowned Juilliard Quartet, and pianist Mary Jo Gothmann. Schween is currently a faculty member at the Juilliard School and the cellist in the Juilliard String Quartet. Prior to joining the Juilliard, Schween was the Lark Quartet's cellist for 25 years, succeeding Laura Sewell, founding cellist of the Lark. Gothmann has been a staff accompanist with VocalEssence, Minnesota Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and the Metropolitan Opera. She performs with the SPCO and Minnesota Orchestra.

The third concert is on Tuesday, July 31. Read your July Hill & Lake Press for more information.

Laura Sewell directs the International Cello Institute's Junior Division -- and is of course one of the

cellists of the Isles Ensemble, which performs four times a year at Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church, in the heart of our Hill and Lake neighborhood.

Bach, Barber, Bridge, Debussy and Franck.

"We're excited to be bringing Mark and Jee-Won to the Twin Cities because they are well-known as a duo and, as husband and wife, play so beautifully and effortlessly together," Sewell says. "Their program is quite unusual and will be a treat. Mark has arranged a Bach violin sonata for cello (BWV 1005)

which should be delightful. They are playing two lush, romantic cello sonatas: the Samuel Barber Sonata, Op. 6, and the Frank Bridge Sonata."

Sewell is enthusiastic about the Schween/Gothmann concert as well. "Astrid is the consummate chamber musician," Sewell says. "She is one of the world's leading string quartet cellists and she approaches everything she plays with great integrity and a lot of thought. Mary Jo is well known to Twin Cities audiences as one of our most sought-after local pianists. Both women are true music collaborators."

Schween and Gothmann will be playing the delightful cello sonata of Claude Debussy, Sewell says, and the famous sonata by César Franck (usually played by vio-

linists but transcribed for cello by Franck himself). Schween will perform the unaccompanied sonata for cello by composer and cellist Gaspar Cassadó, which Sewell promises is "full of Spanish passion and virtuosity!"

Concert tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance on ICI's website (<internationalcelloinstitute.com>). Individual tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for seniors. Tickets for the three-concert series are \$65 for adults and \$40 for seniors. Students are free. It's refreshing that the CELLO*ici* venue can please everyone -- easily accessible for transit users, bikers, and walkers, with plenty of free parking for those who drive.



Mark Kasower July 17

Jae-Won Oh July 17

Astrid Schween July 21

Mary Jo Gothmann July 21