

JESSEN SERIES

presents

BRIAN LEWIS
VIOLIN

ANTON NEL
PIANO

PROGRAM

Sonata No. 5 for Piano and Violin in A Major, KV305
I. Allegro di molto
II. Thema. Andante grazioso—Variazioni I—VI

W.A. Mozart
(1756-1791)

Sonata No. 1 for Violin and Piano in A Minor, Op. 105
I. Mit leidenschaftlichem Ausdruck
II. Allegretto
III. Lebhaft

Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)

Intermission

Sonatine No. 5 for Solo Violin, Op. 32, No. 1
I. Allegro espressivo
II. Allegro—Adagio—Allegro

Jean Martinon
(1910-1976)

Suite for Violin and Piano
I. Prelude
II. Scherzo “a la Russe”
III. Lullaby
IV. Moto Perpetuo

Michael McLean
(b. 1966)

One of the most versatile violinists on the current scene, **Brian Lewis** is an exceptionally gifted and charismatic artist. "There are a lot of fine violinists on the concert stage today, but few can match Lewis for an honest virtuosity that supremely serves the music," reports the *Topeka Capital-Journal*. Acclaimed performances include concerto debuts in both New York's Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall, as well as performances with the Berlin (Germany), Louisiana, Kansas City, Syracuse, Odense (Denmark), Wichita, Hartford, Eugene, Spokane, and American Symphony orchestras, among others. He has recorded six CDs, most recently for Delos as soloist with the London Symphony Orchestra of music by Leonard Bernstein and Hollywood composer Michael McLean.

Mr. Lewis has won numerous young artists' competitions, including the grand prize in the Mid-America Violin Competition. In addition to the Waldo Mayo Talent Award, he holds both the Peter Mennin Prize and William Schuman Prize awarded by Juilliard for outstanding achievement and leadership in the field of music. Mr. Lewis was one of the first recipients of the Sony ES Award for Musical Excellence, and he has received two Elizabeth B. Koch Fellowships from the Kansas Cultural Trust. In 2005-06, Mr. Lewis received both the Texas Exes Teaching Award and The University of Texas School of Music Teaching Excellence Award.

Known for his variety in programming and ability to communicate with audiences of all ages, Mr. Lewis has performed frequently as a member of the Kansas Arts Commission Touring Program and the Mid-America Arts Alliance Regional Touring Program. Radio and television appearances include performances on WNYC, WFMT (Chicago), National Public Radio, and CBS "Sunday Morning." An advocate for music education in the schools, Mr. Lewis frequently presents concerts, workshops, and master classes for Young Audiences of Houston. Named National Artist of the Year in 1998 by Young Audiences, Inc., he was also presented the 2003 Fredell Lack Award by YAH for having performed for more than 165,000 young people in the Houston area.

As a student of Eleanor Allen, Mr. Lewis began his violin studies at the age of four, and participated in the Ottawa Suzuki Strings program under the direction of his mother, Alice Joy Lewis. He later studied with Tiberius Klausner, and twice traveled to Japan where he studied with Dr. Shinichi Suzuki at the Talent Education Institute in Matsumoto. He holds both the Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from The Juilliard School where he was a student of Dorothy DeLay, Masao Kawasaki, and Hyo Kang. Mr. Lewis holds the David and Mary Winton Green Chair in String Performance and Pedagogy at The University of Texas at Austin. He is also Artistic Director of the Starling-DeLay Symposium on Violin Studies at The Juilliard School in New York City, concertmaster of the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra in Houston, founding member of the Texas Piano Quartet, and Artistic Director of the Starling Distinguished Violinist Series at UT.

Anton Nel, winner of the first prize in the 1987 Naumburg International Piano Competition enjoys a remarkable and multifaceted career that has taken him throughout North and South America, Europe, Asia, and South Africa. Recent highlights in the US include performances with

the Cleveland Orchestra, and the Symphonies of San Francisco, Boston, and Detroit. He has an active repertoire of more than 100 works for piano and orchestra, including the newly discovered Third Concerto by Felix Mendelssohn of which he gave the North American premiere in November of 1997. His coast-to-coast recital appearances have included numerous performances on the Great Performers at Lincoln Center series in New York, the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, as well as the Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena. A favorite at summer festivals he has performed with the Chicago Symphony at the Ravinia Festival, at Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, as well as at the Aspen and Blossom Music Festivals (where he is on the artist-faculties), among many others. Over the years he has regularly collaborated with some of the world's foremost artists including members of the Juilliard and Cleveland Quartets, and cellist Zara Nelsova. With acclaimed violinist Sarah Chang he recently completed a highly successful tour of Japan as well as appearing at a special benefit concert for Live Music Now in London, hosted by HRH the Prince of Wales. In addition to concerts throughout North America and his sixteenth tour of South Africa (where he will perform the Beethoven Concerto cycle in Cape Town), he will be making return visits to Japan and France as well as undertake his debut tour of Korea during the 2002-3 season. Stephen Paulus has recently completed a new Piano Concerto for Mr. Nel, and the world premiere will take place in New York in March. He has three solo CDs (including a recital disc for EMI) as well as several chamber music recordings to his credit.

Following an auspicious debut at the age of twelve with Beethoven's C Major Concerto after only two years of study, the Johannesburg native captured first prizes in all the major South African competitions while still in his teens, toured his native country extensively and became a well-known radio and television personality. A student of Adolph Hallis, he made his European debut in France in 1982, and in the same year graduated with highest distinction from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. He came to the United States in 1983 attending the University of Cincinnati, where he pursued his Masters and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees under Bela Siki and Frank Weinstock. In addition to garnering many awards from his alma mater during this three-year period he was also a top prizewinner at the 1984 Leeds International Piano Competition in England and won several first prizes at the Joanna Hodges International Piano Competition in Palm Desert in 1986. Eager to pursue dual careers in teaching and performing he was appointed to the faculty of the University of Texas at Austin at the age of 23, followed by professorships at the Eastman School of Music, and the University of Michigan, where he was chairman of the piano department. In September 2000, Anton Nel was appointed as the Priscilla Pond Flawn Regents Distinguished Professor of Piano and Chamber music at the University of Texas at Austin. Since his return he has been the recipient of both the Austin-American Statesman's Critics Circle Award for his performance of the Rachmaninov Second Concerto, as well as the University Cooperative Society/College of Fine Arts award for extra-curricular achievement. He was also recently appointed Visiting "Extraordinary" Professor at the University of Stellenbosch, and continues to teach master classes worldwide.

"An uncommonly elegant pianist" -- New York Times

"A pianist of exceptional sensitivity and stylistic discrimination" -- L.A. Times

"A beautifully weighted tone and a nearly flawless legato" -- Chicago Tribune