



Violinist Kristin Lee Perform Brahms' Double Concerto with Cellist Thomas Mesa and Hopkins Symphony Orchestra



Photo by Lauren Desberg (Lee) available in high resolution at www.jensenartists.com/kristin-lee

Saturday, March 9, 2019 at 8pm

Shriver Hall | 3400 N. Charles Street | Baltimore, MD

Tickets (\$6-\$14; JHU Students Free) available at <http://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/hso>

“A powerfully constructed and played programme, one of the most satisfying recitals that I’ve heard in years.” – *The Strad* | Kristin Lee: www.violinistkristinlee.com

Baltimore, MD – On **Saturday, March 9, 2019 at 8pm**, violinist **Kristin Lee** and cellist **Thomas Mesa** perform **Johannes Brahms’ Double Concerto** with the **Hopkins Symphony Orchestra** in Shriver Hall (3400 N. Charles Street). Led by Music Director Jed Gaylin, the program also features Franz Liszt’s Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 and Igor Stravinsky’s Symphony in C.

The **Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Orchestra**, often referred to as the **Double Concerto**, was the last piece of music Brahms composed for orchestra. In this work featuring two prominent soloists, Lee and Mesa join forces to create an expanded stringed instrument envisioned by Brahms, with a sonority and range that neither alone can offer.

A recipient of the 2015 Avery Fisher Career Grant, as well as a top prizewinner of the 2012 Walter W. Naumburg Competition and the Astral Artists’ 2010 National Auditions, **Kristin Lee** is a violinist of remarkable versatility and impeccable technique who enjoys a vibrant career as a soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, and educator. “Her technique is flawless, and she has a sense of melodic shaping that reflects an artistic maturity,” writes the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, and *The Strad* reports, “She seems entirely comfortable with stylistic diversity, which is one criterion that separates the run-of-the-mill instrumentalists from true artists.”

Kristin Lee has appeared as soloist with leading orchestras including The Philadelphia Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, New Jersey Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, Milwaukee Symphony, Tacoma Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Nordic Chamber Orchestra of Sweden, Ural Philharmonic of Russia, Korean Broadcasting Symphony, Guiyang Symphony Orchestra of China, Orquesta Sinfonica Nacional of Dominican Republic, and many others. She has performed on the world’s finest concert stages, including Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, the Kennedy Center, Philadelphia’s Kimmel

Center, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Steinway Hall's Salon de Virtuosi, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, the Ravinia Festival, Philadelphia's World Cafe Live, Le Poisson Rouge in New York, the Louvre Museum in Paris, Washington, D.C.'s Phillips Collection, and Korea's Kumho Art Gallery. An accomplished chamber musician, Kristin Lee is a member of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, performing at Lincoln Center in New York and on tour with CMS throughout each season.

Highlights of Lee's 2018-19 season include performances presented by the San Francisco Symphony with Itzhak Perlman, Town Hall Seattle, Chamber Music Sedona, Parlance Chamber Concerts, Lyra Music Festival, Olympic Music Festival, North Carolina New Music Initiative, Leicester International Music Festival, Chamber Music at La Sierra University, Crescent City Chamber Music Festival, MusikiWest, and a return to the Moab Music Festival.

Reflecting on both her personal journey and her professional journey, Kristin Lee has developed a new project, *Americana*, which showcases a spectrum of illustrious composers and the American musical styles which influenced them, as well as their own musical styles which influenced generations of composers to come. As a foreign-born citizen of America, Lee was compelled to select this unique collection of works to express her pride of the country she now calls her own, and offers recital programs that have a distinct and recognizable sound of American music and its rich history.

Lee's many honors include awards from the 2015 Trondheim Chamber Music Competition, 2011 Trio di Trieste Premio International Competition, the SYLFF Fellowship, Dorothy DeLay Scholarship, the Aspen Music Festival's Violin Competition, the New Jersey Young Artists' Competition, and the Salon de Virtuosi Scholarship Foundation. She is also the unprecedented First Prize winner of three concerto competitions at The Juilliard School – in the Pre-College Division in 1997 and 1999, and in the College Division in 2007.

Born in Seoul, Lee began studying the violin at the age of five, and within one year won First Prize at the prestigious Korea Times Violin Competition. In 1995, she moved to the United States and continued her musical studies under Sonja Foster. Two years later, she became a student of Catherine Cho and Dorothy DeLay in The Juilliard School's Pre-College Division. In January 2000, she was chosen to study with Itzhak Perlman. Lee holds a Master's degree from The Juilliard School. She is a member of the faculty of the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College and the co-founder and artistic director of Emerald City Music in Seattle. For more information, visit www.violinistkristinlee.com.

Cuban-American cellist **Thomas Mesa** is quickly becoming established as one of the most charismatic and versatile performers of his generation. A winner of Astral's 2017 National Auditions, he was also the top prizewinner at the Sphinx Competition (2016), the Thaviu Competition for String Performance (2013), and the Alhambra Orchestra Concerto Competition (2006).

He recently appeared as concerto soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic at The Hollywood Bowl, Erie Chamber Orchestra, Firelands Symphony, and the Elgin Symphony Orchestra. Recent recital engagements include those for the Mainly Mozart Festival, Nantucket Musical Arts Society, Bargemusic, Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series, Columbia University, Carnegie Hall, the Supreme Court of the United States, the Heifetz Institute, Meadowmount School of Music, New York City's "Strad for Lunch" series, the International Beethoven Project, and the Perlman Music Program's Alumni Recital. Mesa was a featured instrumentalist on The Crossing's 2017 Grammy-nominated album *Bonhoeffer*. The multi-award-winning choir invited him for return solo engagements at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Longwood Gardens, the Winter Garden, and New York's Theological Seminary. He also collaborated with The Crossing for the U.S. premiere of *Astralis*, for choir and solo cello, by Wolfgang Rihm.

As a chamber musician, he has toured internationally with Itzhak Perlman, and is a member of the St. Petersburg Piano Quartet, which has played to numerous sold-out audiences. He has held faculty positions at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, Montecito International Music Festival, St. Petersburg International Music Academy, the Mozart Academy at John Jay College, and the Manhattan School of Music, where he currently teaches through the Long Distance Learning Program. Mesa is a graduate of The Juilliard School and Northwestern University. Currently, he is a doctoral candidate at the Manhattan School of Music. For more information, visit www.thomasmesacello.com.

About Hopkins Symphony Orchestra: Hopkins Symphony Orchestra is open to JHU students not majoring in music, as well as to JHU faculty, staff, alumni, and community musicians. The only community orchestra in Baltimore City, HSO is dedicated to performing and promoting orchestral and chamber music from the standard and contemporary repertoires at a high artistic level. HSO reaches out to a diverse audience through affordable concerts and educational programs like public school instrumental mentoring, lecture-demonstrations, and free pre-concert talks. Performances feature young Maryland soloists and composers as they develop their careers in addition to nationally and internationally known soloists. Among HSO's prominent soloists have been Sara Davis Buechner, Allison Charney, Brian Ganz, Hilary Hahn, Awadagin Pratt, Eugenia Zukerman, and Stefan Jackiw.