

# Juho Pohjonen

piano



**FRIENDS of  
CHAMBER  
MUSIC**

world-class musicians

Friends of Chamber Music presents  
Juho Pohjonen, Finland  
Piano

J. S. Bach Goldberg Variations

Saturday, November 14 – Saturday, November 28, 2020

# Welcome

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Friends of Chamber Music's Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our 25<sup>th</sup> Concert Season and our first concert by pianist, Juho Pohjonen.

Adjusted to the unprecedented times, this transformed season is the collaborative product of the tremendous work poured into it by our guest artists, managing agencies, and the Friends of Chamber Music's Board. We are humbled by this experience and thankful for the grace and understanding continuously shown by you, our audience, friends and patrons.

We are grateful for your unwavering support and the trust that you have placed in us as Friends of Chamber Music keeps moving forward in 2020.

I want to thank Jane Stowell especially, and the Friends of Chamber Music's Board for the innovation and hard work that have been required to transition from the original, live concerts that we had planned, to the digital format of the concerts that are now presented online.

We have a wonderful line-up of performances this season following this first concert including

A Chanticleer Christmas, with choral works from the Renaissance to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, presented this December,

The McGill-McHale Trio combining tonalities of the clarinet, flute & piano in January,

The Ariel String Quartet performing works by Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven in February,

Cellist Zlatomir Fung, the Gold Medalist of the XVI International Tchaikovsky Competition, in March, and the renowned Miro String Quartet in May 2021.

Instead of welcoming our guest musicians on stage, we invite you to enjoy their artistic mastery and incredible skills in the safety of your own residences. And I promise you that we will adjust our concert formats and venues for concerts this year, as safety permits.

Friends of Chamber Music is continuing the series of outreach programs to local schools. In the 2020-2021 school year, interactive educational outreach events will be held online. Outreach is the most essential part of the Friends of Chamber Music's mission, and we are thrilled that the remarkable musicians that we present this season share our understanding of how important this is.

We begin the 25<sup>th</sup> season with the concert that can have no rivals for this unusual and surprising year – a truly intimate chamber music experience. Here now is the recital of Finnish pianist Juho Pohjonen, who performs the Goldberg Variations by J. S. Bach. We hope that you enjoy this program as much as we do.

We wish you all well.



Andreas Kronenberg

President, Friends of Chamber Music

# Mission Statement

Friends of Chamber Music brings music from diverse periods and cultures, performed by world-class musicians, to the Brazos Valley. Through concerts and outreach programs at area schools, we strive to enhance the cultural life of the community.

## Board of Directors

Harry Elliott  
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## Outreach

Juho Pohjonen is committed to have an interactive educational outreach event with students from our local schools, on-line, during the Spring semester of the 2021. Friends of Chamber Music is grateful that Juho supports our understanding of the vital role that educational outreach programs play in the lives of young people.

The plans for Juho Pohjonen's outreach are underway. Watch out for new information on it at [www.fcmtx.org](http://www.fcmtx.org) and FCM Facebook and Instagram. Questions? [info@fcmtx.org](mailto:info@fcmtx.org)

## The Encore!

This season, Friends of Chamber Music launches The Encore! – an online series of interviews with our remarkable guest musicians. Changed by the new social reality of the 2020, we have transformed our traditional post-concert receptions into online conversations with our guests. We pose some in-depth questions about the impact that the pandemic has had on their lives and their art. And we also ask them about fun and not-so-serious topics, such as their holiday traditions, or favorite dishes, or hiking preferences.

We invite you to take part in our conversations. Email us the questions that you would like to ask our guest artists, and we will make sure to ask them for you! [info@fcmtx.org](mailto:info@fcmtx.org)

### Join The Encore!

Stay with us to the very last notes of the breathtaking final cadence of J. S. Bach's Goldberg Variations performed by Juho Pohjonen and watch out for The Encore! Brett Cooke, Professor of Russian at the Department of International Studies at Texas A&M University, will join Andreas Kronenberg, FCM President, and Elena Reece, FCM Artistic Director.

So much to discuss, too little time...

# Concert Program

Juho Pohjonen, Piano

J. S. BACH: Goldberg Variations, BWV 988

*Aria*

*Variatio 1. a 1 Clav.*

*Variatio 2. a 1 Clav.*

*Variatio 3. Canone all'Unisono. a 1 Clav.*

*Variatio 4. a 1 Clav.*

*Variatio 5. a 1 ô vero 2 Clav.*

*Variatio 6. Canone alla Seconda. a 1 Clav.*

*Variatio 7. a 1 ô vero 2 Clav. al tempo di Giga*

*Variatio 8. a 2 Clav.*

*Variatio 9. Canone alla Terza. a 1 Clav.*

*Variatio 10. Fughetta. a 1 Clav.*

*Variatio 11. a 2 Clav.*

*Variatio 12. a 1 Clav. Canone alla Quarta in moto contrario*

*Variatio 13. a 2 Clav.*

*Variatio 14. a 2 Clav.*

*Variatio 15. Canone alla Quinta. a 1 Clav.: Andante*

*Variatio 16. Ouverture. a 1 Clav.*

*Variatio 17. a 2 Clav.*

*Variatio 18. Canone alla Sesta. a 1 Clav.*

*Variatio 19. a 1 Clav.*

*Variatio 20. a 2 Clav.*

*Variatio 21. Canone alla Settima*

*Variatio 22. a 1 Clav. alla breve*

*Variatio 23. a 2 Clav.*

*Variatio 24. Canone all'Ottava. a 1 Clav.*

*Variatio 25. a 2 Clav.: Adagio*

*Variatio 26. a 2 Clav.*

*Variatio 27. Canone alla Nona. a 2 Clav.*

*Variatio 28. a 2 Clav.*

*Variatio 29. a 1 ô vero 2 Clav.*

*Variatio 30. a 1 Clav. Quodlibet*

*Aria da Capo*

# Juho Pohjonen

Juho Pohjonen is regarded as one of today's most exciting instrumentalists. The Finnish pianist performs widely in Europe, Asia, and North America, collaborating with symphony orchestras and playing in recital and chamber settings. An ardent exponent of Scandinavian music, Pohjonen's growing discography offers a showcase of music by Finnish compatriots such as Esa-Pekka Salonen, Kaija Saariaho and Jean Sibelius.

In 2020-2021 Pohjonen opens the season at the Tampere Philharmonic following his debut with the orchestra in 2017-2018. After a highly successful debut last year with Minnesota Orchestra, he returns to perform Mendelssohn's concerto for violin, piano, and strings, beside Erin Keefe and Maestro Juanjo Mena. He performs Daniel Bjarason's Processions with Finland's Tapiola Sinfonietta and Sweden's Norrlandsoperan Symphony Orchestra; the composer conducts Tapiola.. Continuing his longstanding relationship with Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Pohjonen plays Brahms and Dohnanyi on a two-week national tour with CMS. *In recital, Pohjonen will film a recital program for the Friends of Chamber Music in College Station, TX.*

Following the September 2019 performance of Grieg's Piano Concerto with Osmo Vänskä and the Minnesota, Pohjonen returned to the orchestra in January 2020 to repeat the program at Indiana University in Bloomington. Additional highlights included two orchestra debuts: with the New Jersey Symphony performing Grieg, conducted by Markus Stenz; and with the Rochester Philharmonic performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 with Fabien Gabel. Pohjonen made his Philadelphia recital debut at the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, and returned to Howland Chamber Music Circle in Beacon, NY with a recital. Pohjonen's chamber performance took him to San Francisco Performances and Society of the Four Arts in Palm Beach with violinist Bomsori Kim. An alumnus of The Bowers Program (formerly CMS Two), Pohjonen enjoys an ongoing association with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, with whom he played two performances in New York's Alice Tully Hall and Chicago's Harris Theater. Also in 2019, Pohjonen launched MyPianist, an AI-based iOS app that provides interactive piano accompaniment to musicians everywhere. Designed and programmed by Mr. Pohjonen himself and infused with his keen musical sensibility, MyPianist acts as a "virtual pianist" for musicians looking to hone their skills or learn new material. MyPianist carefully "listens" to the musician's playing and recreates the piano part in real time, matching the timing and nuances of the live performance. More information at <https://mypianist.app>.

Pohjonen's illustrious resume of concerto performances reveals a musician in demand internationally. He has appeared as a soloist with Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Danish National Symphony, Finnish Radio Symphony & Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestras, Philharmonia Orchestra of London, with the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York City, and a large number of additional North American orchestras. This includes the Atlanta Symphony where Pohjonen has performed three times. Pohjonen has collaborated with today's foremost conductors, including Marin Alsop, Lionel Bringuier, Marek Janowski, Fabien Gabel, Kirill Karabits, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Markus Stenz, and Pinchas Zukerman.

The pianist has previously appeared in recital at New York's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and in San Francisco, La Jolla, Detroit, Savannah, and Vancouver. He made his London debut at Wigmore Hall, and has performed recitals throughout Europe including in Antwerp, Hamburg, Helsinki, St. Petersburg, and Warsaw. Festival appearances include Lucerne; Savonlinna Finland; Bergen, Norway; and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in Germany, as well as the Gilmore Keyboard Festival. With CMS he has performed significant chamber music repertoire with Escher and Calidore String Quartets in New York, Chicago, and at Wolf Trap, among many other programs. Other highlights of recent seasons include a recital debut at the 92nd Street Y in New York, in which Pohjonen performed a program that featured Scriabin's Sonata No. 8 and Dichotomie by Salonen. In a review comparing Pohjonen's performance of the same piece in 2019 to his

2009 performance, the New York Times commented that the Salonen “no longer seemed nearly impossible. You might say he played it like a master.”

Pohjonen’s most recent recording with cellist Inbal Segev features cello sonatas by Chopin and Grieg, and Schumann’s ’Fantasiestücke, hallmarks of the Romantic repertoire. Plateaux, his debut recording on Dacapo Records, featured works by late Scandinavian composer Pelle Gudmundsen-Holmgreen, including the solo piano suite For Piano, and piano concerto Plateaux pour Piano et Orchestre, with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra and conductor Ed Spanjaard. His recital at the Music@Menlo 2010 festival was recorded as part of the Music@Menlo Live series. Entitled Maps and Legends, the disc includes Mozart’s Sonata in A major, K. 331, Grieg’s Ballade (Op. 24), and Handel’s Suite in B-flat Major. Pohjonen joins violinist Petteri Iivonen and cellist Samuli Peltonen to form the Sibelius Trio, who released a recording on Yarlung Records in honor of Finland’s 1917 centennial of independence. The album, described by Stereophile as “a gorgeous debut,” included works by Sibelius and Kaija Saariaho.

Pohjonen began his piano studies in 1989 at the Junior Academy of the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, and subsequently earned a Master’s Degree from Meri Louhos and Hui-Ying Liu-Tawaststjerna at the Sibelius Academy in 2008. Pohjonen was selected by Sir Andras Schiff as the winner of the 2009 Klavier Festival Ruhr Scholarship, and has won prizes at international and Finnish competitions.

“ Pearly touch, singing tone and sensitivity... [Pohjonen] demonstrated his elegant musicianship throughout the program.”

– *The New York Times*

“ The programme included Grieg’s Piano Concerto, with a fast-rising Finnish star, Juho Pohjonen, as the delightfully unassuming but bewitching soloist.”

– *The Guardian*

“ Pohjonen’s account of Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto No. 1 was positively electrifying, the ideal blend of poise and passion...the pianist brought virtuosity in spades, flitting through the music with a touch that was steely and bright.”

– *The Plain Dealer*

## GOLDBERG VARIATIONS

Popular name for Bach’s Aria mit [30] verschiedenen Veränderungen (Aria with 30 Different Variations BWV 988, named after Bach’s pupil Johann Gottlieb Goldberg (1727-56), a harpsichordist in the service of the Russian Count von Keiserlingk. No evidence supports the claim made in 1802 by Bach’s biographer Johann Nickolaus Forkel that Keiserlingk commissioned the work, although Bach apparently gave a copy to Keiserlingk for Goldberg’s use. The work’s plan is a series of threefold units, each consisting of two variations in free style (frequently highly virtuosic) followed by a canonic a canonic variation (nos. 3, 6, 9, etc.), the \*canon occurring at successively larger intervals; the final variation is a \*quodlibet. The air is played at the beginning and end of the piece. Bach published the work as the fourth part of his \*Clavier-Übung (1741-42). He also composed an additional 14 canons, BWV 1087, on the first eight notes of the air’s bass.

# Patrons - 2020

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# Collaborators

Friends of Chamber Music is grateful for the creative input, technical assistance, and cooperation that helped this program materialize!

Today, we especially thank

Brett Cooke, Professor of Russian at the Department of International Studies at Texas A&M University,  
Anne Black, Executive Director, MCS OPAS at Texas A&M University,  
and Terri Becker, Business Coordinator, MCS OPAS at Texas A&M University.

# Coming Next

Chanticleer Vocal Ensemble with a special Holiday concert recorded for Friends of Chamber Music

## A Chanticleer Christmas

### Premiere Online

Friday, December 4, 2020, 7 pm

### Online concert available

Friday, December 4 – Sunday, December 6, 2020

[Reverve Now on our website](#)



## Welcome to the 2020-2021 25<sup>th</sup> Concert Season

### Juho Pohjonen

Finland  
Piano

J. S. Bach: Goldberg Variations

**Saturday, November 14, 2020**

Online Premier 7 PM

Available through Saturday, November 28



Photo Credit: J. Henry Fair

### A Chanticleer Christmas

Choral works from the Renaissance to the 20th Century

**Friday, December 4, 2020**

Online Premier 7 PM

Available through Sunday, December 6



### McGill/McHale Trio

Flute, Clarinet, Piano

Dvořák, Poulenc, Debussy, Rogerson

**Friday, January 15, 2021**

Online Premier 7 PM

Available through Sunday, January 17



### Ariel String Quartet

Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven

**Friday, February 12, 2021**

Online Premier 7 PM

Available through Friday, February 26



### Zlatomir Fung, Cello

First Prize Winner and Gold Medalist, XVI International Tchaikovsky Competition 2019

**Tuesday, March 23, 2021**

Online Premier 7 PM

Availability to be confirmed



### Miro String Quartet

**Monday, May 3, 2021**

7 PM

In-Person at

A&M United Methodist Church



**ALL CONCERTS ARE FREE, BUT RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.**

Reservations online at [www.fcmtx.org](http://www.fcmtx.org)

Questions: [info@fcmtx.org](mailto:info@fcmtx.org)



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