Berkshire Symphony
Ronald Feldman, Director

Student Soloist Gala

Sebastian Black ’19, piano
Totentanz
by Franz Liszt

Angela Chan ’19, pipa
Little Sisters of the Grassland
by Wu Zuqiang, Wang Yanqiao,
and Liu Dehai

Erin Kennedy ’19, soprano
“Caro nome” from Rigoletto
by Giuseppe Verdi

Jeff Pearson ’20, violin
Poème, op. 25
by Ernest Chausson

ALSO Symphonic Dances
by Sergei Rachmaninoff

FRI., APRIL 26, 2019
8 PM
CHAPIN HALL
Berkshire Symphony
Ronald Feldman, director

Student Soloist Gala

Franz Liszt
(1811 – 1886)

Totentanz
Sebastian Black ’19, piano

Giuseppe Verdi
(1813 – 1901)

“Caro nome” from Rigoletto
Erin Kennedy ’19, soprano

Ernest Chausson
(1855 – 1899)

Poème, op. 25
Jeffrey Pearson’20, violin

吴祖强 (Wu Zuqiang) (b. 1927)
王燕樵 (Wang Yanqiao) (b. 1937)
刘德海 (Liu Dehai) (b.1937)

草原小姐妹 (Little Sisters of the Grassland)
Grazing on the the grassland-
Furiously struggling in the blizzard-
Pressing forward in the freezing night-
Remembering the parties concerned-
Myriad red flowers blooming everywhere.

Angela Chan ’19, pipa

***intermission***

Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1895 – 1963)

Symphonic Dances, op. 45

i. Non allegro
ii. Andante con moto
iii. Lento assai - Allegro vivace -
     Lento assai

Please turn off or mute cell phones.
No photography or recording is permitted.
Ronald Feldman, director

Twice winner of the American Symphony League’s ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music, Ronald Feldman has achieved critical acclaim for his work as conductor and cellist. He has appeared as guest conductor with major orchestras such as the London Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Saint Louis Symphony, and the Quebec Symphony, as well as many regional orchestras including the Pro Arte Symphony, Springfield Symphony, Albany Symphony, and the Amarillo Symphony. In August of 2016 Mr. Feldman recorded three albums of music by Kevin Kaska with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

After successful appearances as guest conductor for three consecutive seasons at Symphony Hall and at Tanglewood, the Boston Symphony’s summer home, composer and Conductor John Williams appointed Mr. Feldman Assistant Conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra. He served as assistant to John Williams from 1989-1993.

Maestro Seiji Ozawa, Conductor Laureate of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, called Maestro Feldman “an outstanding conductor…I find him to have a deep musical mind which is clearly conveyed through his performances….”

John Williams, composer & Conductor Laureate of the Boston Pops Orchestra called Maestro Feldman, “a brilliant conductor, who displays the best leadership qualities…an outstandingly high level of musicianship that imbues his conducting style with strength, taste, and imagination”.

Mr. Feldman joined the Boston Symphony at the age of 19. He has appeared as cello soloist with many orchestras performing a wide range of concerto repertoire from Dvorak to Ligeti. His many chamber music affiliations have included performances with the Boston Symphony Chamber Players, Collage New Music Ensemble, the Boston Conservatory Chamber Players, and the Williams Chamber Players. His performances include collaborations with artists Emmanuel Ax, Garrick Ohlsson, Gil Shaham, and Yo Yo Ma.

Mr. Feldman currently directs the Berkshire Symphony a regional orchestra in residence at Williams College. He was formerly the conductor and Music Director of the New England Philharmonic and the Worcester Orchestra. He is on the faculties of Williams College, the New England Conservatory of Music, and The Boston Conservatory of Music. 2012 marked the beginning of his tenure as Music Director of the Longwood Symphony Orchestra, the orchestra of Boston’s medical community.

Mr. Feldman appears on a compact disk recording of an all-Mozart program with the Bucharest “George Enescu” Philharmonic. This CD received excellent reviews in the March/April 1999 issues of the American Record Guide and Fanfare Magazine. “Feldman secures a polished and alert account of the Mozart Symphony No. 29 K.201”. Bernard Jacobson, Fanfare Magazine

“The Mozart symphony No. 29 is given a dazzling reading, effulgent and scintillating with articulation and note length all in sync”. Steven Ritter, American Record Guide

He also conducts the London Symphony in a recording of music of John Williams and Kevin Kaska. This recording is with virtuoso trumpet player Arturo Sandoval.

In 2001 Mr. Feldman left the Boston Symphony Orchestra to pursue other musical interests. He joined the faculty of Williams College where he is Artist in Residence, Lecturer in Music, Chamber Music coordinator, and Conductor of the award-winning Berkshire Symphony.
Sebastian Black ’19 is a senior music and psychology double major from Birmingham, AL. He has been studying the piano since he was five years old, and has received regular piano lessons from Mrs. Mindy Black, Mrs. Tatiana Kasman, and Williams College Artist-in-Residence Doris Stevenson, with whom he is currently working on the capstone course of the music major. Sebastian’s debut performance as an orchestral soloist came in 2011 with the National Academic Honored Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, but the Gala will be his orchestral debut in the United States. In addition to his work as a soloist, Sebastian has served extensively as an accompanist and music director for both Williams College Department of Music and student theater group Cap and Bells. His past music directorial credits include Into the Woods, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Die Fledermaus, and The Last Five Years, and he is currently working hard on his final project, Mr. Burns, which will open on May 2nd. In his time at Williams, Sebastian has also branched out into songwriting; he recorded his first single, titled Might As Well Be Me, in 2017.

Erin Kennedy ’19 is a music major from St. Paul, MN. She currently studies voice with Erin Nafziger, and sings in the Williams Concert and Chamber Choirs under Lindsay Pope. Stage credits at Williams include Die Fledermaus (Adele), La Clemenza di Tito (Servilia), and Into the Woods (Rapunzel); she has also been featured as a soloist at the I/O New Music Festival, with the Williams Choirs, as well as in the community at First Congregational Church and Sweetwood Retirement Community. Erin also performs as an accompanist in the music department, works as a student conductor in the Mt. Greylock Regional Middle and High School Choir, and teaches a small studio of private voice students from the Williamstown area. She is thrilled to be performing with the Berkshire Symphony and would like to extend her deepest gratitude to the many teachers, friends, and family members who have made this opportunity possible!

Jeff Pearson ’20 is a junior math and music double major and studies violin with Joanna Kurkowicz. An avid orchestral player and chamber musician, Jeff plays with Berkshire Symphony, Williams Chamber Orchestra and the Axxea String quartet, a group he co-founded with other Williams students, among several other groups. Jeff is also a very active jazz guitarist, playing with the Williams Jazz Ensemble as well as small combos. Jeff’s love for performing has taken him to tours in Europe and Asia with local orchestras as well as to the Aspen Music Festival and School, Meadowmount School of Music, and Bowdoin International Music Festival where he studied with David Halen, Ann Schein, Gerardo Ribeiro, Ann Setzer and Janet Sung. The Axxea string quartet has also been invited to perform at Lincoln center and Bargemusic and have received masterclasses and coaching from such quartets as Dover and Takacs. Jeff is very excited to be playing this beautiful piece by Chausson and hopes that everyone will have as much fun listening to it as he will have playing it.

Angela Chan ’19 was born in Beijing, China and grew up in Vancouver, Canada. She has been playing pipa since age seven, first under Jane Yang and later under Guilian Liu. Before coming to Williams, she participated in the B.C. Chinese Orchestra and taught private lessons as a pipa teacher. She has also been playing the piano since age six and holds a Licentiate Diploma in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music. At Williams, she studies under Guowei Wang and participates in the Williams Chinese Ensemble. She is a double major in environmental studies and political science. These days, Angela can be found avoiding her schoolwork, ringing the Thompson Chapel bells, and eating string beans. This is her first time performing as a soloist with an orchestra, and she would like to give her sincerest gratitude to her inspiring teachers, loving parents, and supportive friends, many of whom have heard the line “I need to practice” one too many times.
Berkshire Symphony Personnel

Violin I
Joanna Kurkowicz, concertmaster
Ben Mygatt ’20, asst. concertmaster
Deanna Baasch
Sarah Briggs
Christopher Chung ’22
Joseph Jewett
Louisa Nyhus ’20
Jeffrey Pearson ’20
Teresa Yu ’20

Violin II
Joana Genova, principal
Aidan Dunkelberg ’22
Polly Ellman ’22
OuiSa Fohrhaltz
Ana M. Strong Garcia ’22
Anna Kankkunen ’22
Fiona Keller ’21
Thomas McGee ’22
Christian Maloney ’22
Cindy Ogulnick
Harriet Welther

Viola
Ah ling Neu, principal
James Bergin
Rebecca Christainsen ’21
Leo Goldmakher
Catherine Hall-Schor
Bing Liu
Ben Maron ’21
Chad Topaz

Cello
Nathaniel Parke, principal
Mea Cook
Elisar El-Gaouny ’21
Sonya Lee ’22
Richard Mickey
Eli Miller ’21
Caroline Tally ’21
Megalan Tso ’22

Double Bass
Robert Zimmerman, principal
Isabel Lane ’21
Anna Leedy ’22
Steve Moran
Patrick O’Connell
Matthew Williamson ’21

Flute
Jacqueline DeVoe, principal
Robin Eagleton ’22
Maddie Hurwitz ’21
Justin Connell ’22

Piccolo
Maddie Hurwitz ’21

Oboe
Carl Jenkins, principal
Margaret Allen ’20
Abraham Steinberger ’20
Tamara Winston

English Horn
Abraham Steinberger ’20

Clarinet
Paul Green, principal
Minjun Kim ’22
Sam Meyerson ’21

Saxophone
Michael Kolodny

Bass Clarinet
Elizabeth Orchulek

Bassoon
Stephen Walt, principal
Sofie Netteberg ’20

Contrabassoon
William Stoll

Horn
Jessica Cunningham, principal
Michael Lombardi
Crystal Ma ’21
Ron Wold

Trumpet
David Wharton, principal
Leonard Bopp ’19
Eric Hirsch ’19
Alex Simons ’21

Trombone
Victoria Garcia-Daskalova, principal
Gilberto Cruz

Tuba
John Bottomly, principal

Timpani/Percussion
Matthew Gold, principal
Alex Atchley
Conor Meehan
Jay Sager
Nicholas Tariello
Daniel Wolfe

Harp
Elizabeth Morse, principal
Olivia Tse ’20

Piano
Bob Logan

Orchestra Manager
Jeff Miller

Librarian
Rachel Cucinella ’19

Teaching Assistant
Leonard Bopp ’19

Stage Managers
Hannah Gruendemann ’20
Francesca Hellerman ’22
Anna Leedy ’22
Moiz Rehan ’19
Abel Romero ’19
Megalan Tso ’22

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Music Ensembles Fund
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Berkshire Symphony, Concert & Chamber Choir, Jazz Ensemble, Symphonic Winds,
and Kusika & the Zambezi Marimba Band.

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Richard A. & Karen G. Oberfield
Ms. Judith Reichert

If you wish to become a donor, contributions may be mailed to Music Ensembles Fund, Attn. Michelle Picard, 54 Chapin Hall Drive, Williamstown, MA 01267. Please let us know how you would like your name listed in our program.