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THE 49th ANNUAL
FESTIVAL OF NEW AMERICAN MUSIC

YVONNE LAM, VIOLIN

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 7:00 P.M.

Rhapsody No. 1 (2014) — Jessie Montgomery (b. 1981)

Sonata for Violin and Piano (2008) — Philip Glass (b. 1937)

with Sonia Leong, piano

smooth | pluck | whirl — Shawn Okpebholo (b. 1981)

Watch Over Us — Nathalie Joachim (fixed media)

Viva (2012) — Michael Daugherty (b. 1954)

Grammy Award-winning violinist **Yvonne Lam** is known for performances that challenge, delight, and disarm audiences around the world. With a fearless aesthetic, technical brilliance, and deep musical insight, she is a passionate advocate for new music and boundary-pushing artistic collaboration.

A champion of contemporary composers, Yvonne has premiered over 100 commissioned works. Her 2023 debut solo album, *Watch Over Us*, was inspired by a work written for her by Nathalie Joachim and features music by Missy Mazzoli, Anna Clyne, Kate Moore, Katherine Balch, and Eve Beglarian.

Yvonne spent eight years touring internationally as Co-Artistic Director and violinist of eighth blackbird, collaborating with ensembles such as the Philadelphia Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, and Tasmanian Symphony. With Eighth Blackbird, she recorded three albums, earning a Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance for *Filament*. In 2017, she co-founded the Blackbird Creative Lab, a tuition-free mentorship program for emerging performers and composers dedicated to the ensemble's mission of innovation, access, and new music advocacy.

Before her tenure with Eighth Blackbird, Yvonne was Assistant Concertmaster of the Washington National Opera Orchestra and Associate Concertmaster of the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra. She has performed as soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and Auckland Philharmonia, among others. A laureate of multiple international competitions, she was awarded the Silver Medal at the 2005 Michael Hill International Violin Competition, and received top prizes at the Liana Issakadze, Pasadena Instrumental, and Bronislaw Kaper Awards, as well as special prizes for outstanding performances of commissioned works.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Yvonne began studying the violin by mistake, thinking it was a guitar. Refusing to admit she was wrong, she persisted, studying violin and piano at the Colburn School, continued at the Peabody Institute, and earned her Bachelor of Music from the Curtis Institute of Music and Master of Music from The Juilliard School, where she studied with Robert Mann. To this day, she still hasn't learned to play the guitar even though there are at least two in her basement.

Artist Bios

Pianist **Sonia Leong**, a founding member of UOP's Trio 180, has performed as both a soloist and chamber musician throughout the U.S., and in Canada, Mexico, Hong Kong, Switzerland, England, and Romania. She has appeared with the Filarmonica de Stat *Dinu Lipatti* in Satu Mare, Romania, the St. John and Zion Chamber Orchestras in Stockton, the Banff Festival Orchestra, and the Stockton Symphony; and performed live on *Radio Suisse Romande* in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Leong also collaborates frequently with violinist Ann Miller, with whom she released the album *Perspectives on Light and Shadow* in December of 2015. The album *Metamorphosis*, with bassoonist Nicolasa Kuster, was released in 2013.

The *St. Galler Tagblatt* (Switzerland) wrote of Dr. Leong's "richly colorful and tender playing", saying "she balances intelligence and sensitivity, revealing the depths of each score". The *San Francisco Classical Voice* described her "sensitive and accomplished touch" and wrote, "Leong…played the brilliant piano part effortlessly and with a great deal of flair".

Dr. Leong studied at the University of British Columbia, the Peabody Conservatory, and the Université de Montréal, as well as at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (London) on a Commonwealth Scholarship, where she received a Concert Recital Diploma. Her principal teachers include Robert Silverman, Julian Martin, Alexander Volkov, and Marc Durand. She has participated in festivals at the Banff Centre; Orford, Quebec; Scotia Festival; Ladevie, France; and Ernen, Switzerland (with György Sebök).