



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
GRADUATE RECITAL

## Beti Girma, violin

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Trio élégiaque No. 1 in G Minor

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Teresa Lee, piano | Jasmine Anibaba, cello

Violin Sonata No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 75

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

- I. Allegro Agitato
- II. Adagio

Teresa Lee, piano

### INTERMISSION

Violin Concerto, Op. 14

Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

- I. Allegro

John Cozza, piano

Ballad of the Spirits

Emahoy Tsegué-Maryam Guèbrou (1923-2023)

John Cozza, piano

Zigeunerweisen, Op. 20

Pablo de Sarasate (1844-1908)

John Cozza, piano

*This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the  
requirements for the degree of Master of Music in Performance.  
Betí Girma is a student of Anna Presler.*



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FRIDAY, 7:00 P.M.  
MAY 9, 2025  
CAPISTRANO HALL 151

## PROGRAM NOTES

### **Trio élégiaque No. 1 in G minor, Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)**

Sergei Rachmaninoff was considered one of the greatest piano virtuosos of his time. Born in the Russian Empire into an aristocratic and musical family, he began his piano studies at the age of four. He went on to study composition at the age of 13 at the Moscow Conservatory. During his time at the conservatory, he met fellow Russian composers Tchaikovsky and Arensky, who would later influence many of his compositions, including *Trio élégiaque No. 1*. *Trio elegiaque No. 1*, published in 1892 when Rachmaninoff was just 19 years old, was included in Rachmaninoff's official Moscow debut as a composer and performer. A single movement written for piano, violin, and cello, it is characterized by a foreboding atmosphere and sweeping romanticism.

### **Violin Sonata No. 1 in D minor, Op. 75, Camille Saint Saens (1835-1921)**

Samuel Barber was one of the most celebrated American composers of the 20th century. Both an instrumentalist and vocalist, he was born into a wealthy and distinguished family. A child prodigy, he composed his first work at the age of seven and went on to study at the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Of the many works Barber composed, the majority were works for voice and orchestra. This could explain why his violin concerto is identifiable by its dynamic lyricism and lush melodies. Composed in 1939 on commission by a wealthy businessman, it was premiered by Albert Spalding in 1941 and continues to be one of the most performed violin concertos worldwide. Check out Gil Shaham's rendition!

### **Violin Concerto, Op. 14, Samuel Barber (1910-1981)**

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### **Ballad of the Spirits, Emahoy Tsegué-Maryam Guèbrou (1923-2023)**

Emahoy Tsegué-Maryam Guèbrou was an Ethiopian composer and pianist. She was born to a wealthy aristocratic family in Addis Ababa and left at the age of seven to study piano and violin in Switzerland. After she returned to Ethiopia in the mid 1930's, Guèbrou and her family became prisoners of war during the Italian occupation of Ethiopia amidst World War II. Following her family's release following the end of World War II, Guèbrou began to compose and frequently performed her piano compositions for the emperor Haile Selassie. Guèbrou decided to become a nun in 1944 and live a monastic life after her request to return to Europe to study music was denied by senior officials of the emperor. While living in the convent, she continued to compose. Her music gained international recognition after being featured as part of Francis Falceto's *Ethiopiquest* music series in 2006 and has been used in various commercials and soundtracks since. *Ballad of the Spirits*, written in 1963, blends Ethiopian traditional modes with western classical music. Guèbrou dedicated it to her youngest brother who was killed during the Italian occupation. Check out Maya Dunietz and String Ensemble's rendition!

### **Zigeunerweisen, Op. 20, Pablo de Sarasate (1844-1908)**

Pablo de Sarasate was a Spanish virtuoso best known for *Zigeunerweisen*, *Spanish Dances*, and *Carmen Fantasy*. A prodigy violinist, he publicly performed in his youth, making his Paris debut at the age of 16 and his London debut a year later. He studied at the Paris Conservatoire and won first prize at its most notable competition. Sarasate's pieces are technically demanding show pieces, created to highlight his mastery of the instrument. *Zigeunerweisen*, written in 1878, is one movement comprised of four sections: Moderato, Lento, Un Poco Più Lento, and the blistering Allegro Molto Vivace. Check out Roman Kim's rendition!