

University of Missouri School of Music

2021-2022 Series • Faculty Recital

Peter Miyamoto, piano

October 3, 2021 • 3:00pm

Sinquefield Music Center

Program

Troubled Water **Margaret Bonds**
(1913-1972)

Three Visions (1935) **William Grant Still**
(1895-1978)

Dark Horsemen
Summerland
Radiant Pinnacle

Piano Sonata in E Minor (1932) **Florence Price**
(1887-1953)

Andante - Allegro
Andante
Scherzo: Allegro

Intermission

Wounded Children: Suite for Piano in Thirteen Movements (2020) **Adolphus Hailstork**
(b.1941)

If you wish to visit with the performers, please do so in the lobby after the performance.

Program Notes

While in high school, **Margaret Bonds** studied piano and composition with Florence Price before attending Northwestern University and the Juilliard School. She is often cited as the first African American pianist to solo with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She wrote for orchestra, choir, chamber ensemble, piano and voice, but is perhaps best known for her many arrangements of African-American spirituals (most notably “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”). “Troubled Water” comes from Bonds’ *Spiritual Suite* for solo piano and is a virtuosic setting of the spiritual “Wade in the Water,” which may have been used to signal slaves on the Underground Railroad to get in the water to avoid the hunting dogs of slave catchers.

Sometimes referred to as the “Dean of Afro-American Composers,” **William Grant Still** was a prolific composer, writing over 150 compositions including symphonies, ballets, operas, chamber works, choral and solo works. He studied at Oberlin College and the New England Conservatory, and privately with Edgar Varese, but also gained extensive musical experience playing in orchestras and orchestrating music alongside legendary musicians such as Paul Whiteman, Artie Shaw and Bing Crosby. According to the composer’s daughter, Judith Anne Still, the opening movement of *Three Visions*, “Dark Horsemen,” is an image of death and divine judgment. The second movement, “Summerland,” is a vision of the heaven that worthy souls can attain. It was clearly meaningful to Still, as he arranged it no less than nine times for various instrumentation. The suite’s final movement, “Radiant Pinnacle,” depicts the cycle of reincarnation that souls embark upon.

Florence Price studied piano, organ and composition at the New England Conservatory. Many of her over 300 compositions, including some 20 orchestral works and over 100 art songs, were performed by important performing artists of her day, including the Chicago Symphony, the United States Marine Band and contralto Marian Anderson. In 1932, Price won the Rodman Wanamaker Music Competition for both her Symphony in E Minor, which was premiered by the Chicago Symphony, and the Piano Sonata in E Minor. The sonata is in three movements, and blends classical form, a virtuosic Romantic language and references to spirituals and plantation dances.

Adolphus Hailstork studied composition at Howard University and with Nadia Boulanger at the American Conservatory at Fountainebleau, before receiving degrees from the Manhattan School of Music and Michigan State University. Hailstork’s choral works are frequently programmed, and his orchestral works have been performed by major orchestras such as the orchestras of Philadelphia, New York and Chicago, the Detroit Symphony and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Notes by Peter Miyamoto

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Note from the Composer on Adolphus Hailstork’s Wounded Children Suite for Piano:

Children starving in Africa. Children bombed and gassed in Syria, and abducted in Nigeria. Children beaten, battered, and caged in America. Abusing children is a universal activity. The easiest thing for an adult to do is to abuse a child. Often the abusers were wounded children themselves. The vicious circle continues.

The direct impetus for writing this piece is the caging of immigrant children in the southwest part of the United States of America. My country. My Homeland. These

children were separated from their parents without any tracking system for reuniting parents with their children. The children will bear the scars of their internment for the rest of their lives.

Some of these small pieces bear a tinge of sadness or regret, even anger. But not all. Some reflect the playfulness that should be natural to childhood. And some reflect the tenderness that every child deserves. Some are prayers.

Adolphus Hailstork
Spring 2020

Biography

Peter Miyamoto enjoys a brilliant international career, performing to great acclaim in recital and as soloist in Canada, England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland, China, and Japan, and in major US cities such as Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Washington D.C. In 1990, Miyamoto was named the first Gilmore Young Artist. He won numerous other competitions, including the American Pianist Association National Fellowship Competition, the D'Angelo Competition, the San Francisco Symphony Competition and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Competition.

Dr. Miyamoto holds degrees from the Curtis Institute of Music, Yale University School of Music, Michigan State University, and the Royal Academy of Music in London. His teachers included Maria Curcio-Diamand, Leon Fleisher, Claude Frank, Peter Frankl, Marek Jablonski, Aube Tzerko, and Ralph Votapek, as well as Szymon Goldberg, Felix Galimir and Lorand Fenyves for chamber music.

Currently Catherine P. Middlebush Chair of Piano and Coordinator of Keyboard Studies at the University of Missouri School of Music, Peter Miyamoto formerly taught at Michigan State University, and the California Institute of the Arts. From 2003-2015 he served as head of the piano faculty at the New York Summer Music Festival and from 2016 as a member of the piano faculty at the Curtis Institute of Music's Young Artist Summer Program in Philadelphia. He is also the Executive Director of the Plowman Chamber Music Competition.

Miyamoto's six solo CDs, available on the Blue-Griffin label, have received excellent reviews in periodicals such as *Gramophone*, *International Record Review*, *Fanfare*, and *American Record Guide* and were recognized by the American Prize. A CD of six commissioned duos for violin and piano with Julie Rosenfeld, produced by GRAMMY winner Judith Sherman, was released by Albany Records.

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