

CNU  
Contemporary Music Festival

# Music of Croatia

Dora Pejačević • Dubravko Detoni • Marek Kepřt  
Laura Mjeda Čuperjani • Reiko Fueting • Javier Torres Maldonado  
Frano Djurovic • Michelle Barzel Ross • Ricky Ian Gordon

Mia Elezović, piano  
Vlatka Peljhan, violin  
John McGuire, voice

Saturday, March 29, 2025  
4 PM  
Ferguson Center for the Arts  
Peebles Theatre

Free Admission



CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT  
UNIVERSITY



## PROGRAM

**Preobrazba/Verwandlung**

Dora Pejačević  
(1885-1923)

**22 per 2 in 2**

Dubravko Detoni  
(b. 1937)

**Traumeswirren – Désir, Aufschwung**

Marek Kepřt  
(b. 1974)

**Portraits**

Laura Mjeda Čuperjani  
(b. 1971)

**land – haus – berg**

Reiko Fueting  
(1970)

**Broken columns in a false horizon**

Javier Torres Maldonado  
(b. 1968)

**Doubling Diamond**

Frano Djurovic  
(1971)

**Toujour pour La Première Fois- Vignette One (2020)**

Michelle Barzel Ross

*poetry by André Breton*

**A Horse With Wings**

Ricky Ian Gordon  
(b. 1956)

John McGuire, tenor  
Vlatka Peljhan, violin  
Mia Elezović, piano





**Vlatka Peljhan** is an accomplished violinist and violist, whose career spans a rich tapestry of solo, chamber, and orchestral performances. She began her musical journey at the Academy of Music in Zagreb, Croatia, before further honing her craft with dual Master's degrees in violin and viola from the Hogeschool voor Muziek en Dans in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Her teachers include distinguished educators such as Jean-Jacques Kantorow, Cristian Bor, Andras Czifra, Eva Hühn, Asja Kushner, and Giselle Bergman. As a soloist, she has appeared with numerous Croatian orchestras, including the Zagreb Philharmonic, the Croatian Army Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra of the National Opera House, and the Academy of Music Wind Orchestra. She gained international recognition early in her career by winning the prestigious "A. Marcosig" International Violin Competition in Italy in 1998.

A sought-after chamber musician, Vlatka Peljhan has collaborated with many ensembles, notably as a member of the award-winning Zagreb Piano Trio. With this ensemble, she captivated audiences at both national and international chamber music festivals, performing in Israel, Norway, Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Italy, and the Netherlands. She is also a co-founder of the Alisios Camerata chamber ensemble, with whom she has toured extensively in Japan, Canada, Poland, and Cyprus. Their CD, featuring works by Croatian composers dedicated to Alisios Camerata, has been widely acclaimed. Her versatility extends to contemporary music as a member of the International Contemporary Music Ensemble, Synchronos, and her passion for baroque music has led her to join renowned baroque groups such as Harmonia Antiqua Labacensis and the Balkan Baroque Band, performing across Greece, Slovenia, Italy, and France. Her extensive orchestral experience includes performances with the Pacific Music Festival Orchestra in Japan, the Symphony Orchestra Academy of the Pacific in Canada, the Rotterdam Chamber Orchestra, and the Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra. She was also a member of Symphony Orchestra of the famed Arena di Verona Foundation during the summer of 2014. Most recently, she was a leader of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Orchestra in Italy.



**Mia Elezovic** has performed internationally in solo recitals and chamber music concerts across Europe, Asia, and North and Middle America. She has appeared as a soloist with renowned orchestras, including the Croatian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra, Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra, Histoire Chamber Orchestra (Brooklyn) and more under conductors Kazushi Ono, Pavle Despalj, Pascal Ralphe, Andreja Šolar, Tara Simonic, Aleksandar Kalajdžić and Luca Pfaff. Ms. Elezovic has made several

recordings for labels such as Croatian Radio, MSR Classics, Aulos, Cantus Edition, and Bella Musica Edition. In addition, she has appeared with notable success on radio and television in Austria, Croatia, Germany and France. She leads a very active musical life participating in various festivals as Hamamatsu Music Academy, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, Holland Music Session, Music Biennale Zagreb,



Dubrovnik Summer Festival, Las Vegas Music Festival, and participated in projects in chamber music at Jeunesses Musicales Croatia. Ms. Elezovic was a pianist at the Spanish National Ensemble for Contemporary Music in Madrid.

She is a founding member of Alisios Camerata as well as Synchronos Ensemble- for contemporary music. Her expertise in contemporary music led her to collaborate with different ensembles such as Zagreb Guitar Trio, East Coast Contemporary Ensemble, USA; Le Train Blue, USA, Cantus Ensemble, Croatia. Ms. Elezovic has collaborated with esteemed international artists and composers. In 2013 one of the leading contemporary Croatian composers, dr. Davorin Kempf wrote a piano concerto and insisted Ms. Elezovic to premiere it with Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra.

Ms. Elezovic has won prizes at prestigious national and international competitions, including 1st prize at the prestige the Darko Lukic Music Competition, in Zagreb, Croatia (at the same time the award from Croatian Composers Society), and First Prize in Moncalieri, Italy; the Third Prize at the International Piano Competition in Rome, Italy. She was finalist at the International Piano Competition in Kobe, Japan as semifinalist at the "Seiler Piano Competition" in Kitzingen, Germany.

Ms. Elezovic received the Rector Prize at the University of Zagreb, Croatia, Da-Ponte Foundation Award in Germany, and scholarships from organizations like Rom-Foundation, Soros Foundation and Rotary Club Germany. In 2019, she received the Dean Prize at the Academy for Arts and Culture in Osijek for artistic and pedagogical contributions. Since 2012, Ms. Elezovic has been a vocal coach and the managing director of the Franco-American Vocal Academy in Salzburg, Austria. She was also invited to coach singers at Scuola Italia's Summer Program for Young Opera Singers in Sant'Angelo in Vado, Italy. Ms. Elezovic was part of the vocal accompanying department at Manhattan School of Music, NYC, where she played for vocal studios of Mark Oswald, Gait Sirgvey, Marianne Barrett, Joan Caplan and Mignon Dunn. In addition, she was a pianist at the master classes of Mo Manfred Mayrhofer, William Matteuzzi, William Lewis, Sylvia Stone, Silvia dalla Benetta as well as played for lessons at Mrs Ruza Pospis Baldani's studio.

Besides performing Ms.Elezovic continuously stays in the pedagogical path. She has held faculty positions at various institutions worldwide, including the International School Frankfurt (Germany), Kyoto University for Music and Art (Japan), British School Tokyo (Japan), Bergen Academy of Music (USA), Arts Academy at the University of Split (Croatia), and Royal Conservatory of Liege (Belgium) and since 2016 Ms. Elezovic teaches at the Academy of Arts and Culture, University J.J.Strossmayer in Osijek, Croatia. She has been invited to give master classes at different festivals and summer camps in Europe and the USA. Between 2019-2021 Ms Elezovic was the Head of the Instrumental Department at the Academy of Arts and Culture in Osijek.

Born in Zagreb, Croatia, Ms.Elezovic began her musical education at Zagreb in the class Zvezdana Basic. After graduating, at age of 19, she moved to Vienna to study at the Hochschule für Musik in Wien and later to Frankfurt/Main for "Aufbaustudium" with Herbert Seidel. Parallel she was a student of the master's program at Music Academy in Zagreb, where she received her Master of Music degree in 2001 from the Music Academy in Zagreb. She moved to New York City in 2007 for the Contemporary Performance Program at Manhattan School of Music, where she received her second master's degree in 2009.

In 2004, she was invited by the Japanese government for a 10-month research program in the field of Japanese contemporary music for piano at Showa Music Academy in Japan. Ms. Elezovic had the opportunity to collaborate with several distinguished professors who left their mark on her musical journey such as R. Kehrher, J. F. Antonioli, L. Hokanson, J. O'Connor and M. Guindani, which contributed to shaping her artistic personality and expertise. Mia Elezovic's multifaceted career reflects her dedication to both performance and education, showcasing her versatility as a pianist, vocal coach, and educator in various cultural and musical contexts. Currently, Vlatka Peljhan serves as the Concertmaster of the National Opera Orchestra in Zagreb and is an esteemed Associate Professor of Chamber Music at the Academy of Music in Zagreb.





**Dr. John A. McGuire** is an active teacher, director and performer. Dr. McGuire is a member the music faculty at Christopher Newport University (CNU) as an Associate Professor of Voice and the Director of OperaCNU. Operas he has directed for OperaCNU include *The Old and the Thief*, *Così fan tutte*, *Die Fledermaus*, *The Whole Truth*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Tender Land*, *Brundibár*, the world premiere production of *The Trial of God*, *The Magic Flute* and *Le nozze di Figaro*. John has performed with several opera companies and orchestras throughout the United States and Europe. Most recently he performed the role of Emperor Altoum in Virginia Opera's production of *Turandot*. Some of his other leading operatic roles include Tamino, *Die Zauberflöte*, Idomeneo, *Idomeneo*, Sultan, *Zaide*, Pedrillo, *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, Lippo, *Street Scene*, Martin, *The Tender Land*, Ferrando, *Così fan tutte*, Don José, *Carmen*, and Rodolfo, *La bohème*. Dr. McGuire has served a member of CNU's Torggler Summer Vocal Institute faculty where he conducted Master Classes, Private Lessons, presented Opera Workshop seminars, and directed Opera Scenes. As a faculty member for the William Lewis School of Opera he is an Opera Director and a Professor of Applied Voice. He has directed productions for both the Franco American Vocal Academy and The Austrian American Mozart Academy. These directing credits include, *Les Contes D'Hoffmann*, *La Périochole*, *La belle Hélène*, *Leçons de Français Au Étudiants Américains*, *Der Shauspieldirektor*, *Bastien un Bastienne*, and *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Dr. McGuire's students have gone on to perform with several prestigious opera companies including San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and Boston Lyric Opera.

### Music Program

Accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, Christopher Newport University offers the Bachelor of Music degree with concentrations in composition and performance; the Bachelor of Arts degree in fine and performing arts with concentrations in music studies and creative studies; and the dual degree program of the Bachelor of Music degree with concentrations in pre-certification choral and pre-certification instrumental and the Master of Arts in Teaching degree with concentrations in choral music education and instrumental music education and teacher certification. Professional instruction is available on all woodwind, brass, percussion, and string instruments as well as piano, harpsichord, organ, and in voice, composition, improvisation, and conducting. The ensembles include the Wind Ensemble, University Band, Marching Captains, University Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, Pep Band, Percussion Ensemble, Electronic Music Ensemble, Chamber Choir, University Chorale, Opera CNU, World Music Ensemble, and numerous chamber ensembles. Student organizations include the American Choral Directors Association, the American String Teachers Association, Kappa Kappa Psi, the National Association for Music Education, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Pi Kappa Lambda, and Society of Composers, Inc.

### Christopher Newport University

Selected by The Princeton Review to be included in "The 388 Best Colleges: 2023 Edition," Christopher Newport University is a public school offering a private school experience – great teaching, small classes, and a safe, vibrant campus. The University is located in Newport News, Virginia, enrolls approximately 5,000 students, and is dedicated to the ideals of scholarship, leadership, and service. Our Fall 2022 incoming class presented average high school GPA and SAT scores of 3.76 and 1180, respectively. Academic programs at Christopher Newport University encompass more than 90 areas of study, from biology to business administration and political science to the performing arts. The University is ranked by U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges guide as 2nd among public regional universities in the South and 5th overall, and has recently completed more than \$1 billion in capital construction on its 260-acre campus.



## FRIENDS OF MUSIC

### Golden Baton (\$5,000 and above)

Frauke Elber  
N. Scott Millar  
Gayle and Judy Rauch  
Dr. Mark U. Reimer  
J. Lynn and Adelia P. Thompson  
Linda and Blair Thompson  
George and Mary Torggler  
Weymouth Funeral Home

### Silver Baton (\$2,500-4,999)

Abbott Family Foundation  
Shea and Deanna Brown  
Mrs. Doris Eagle  
Sarah Elliott  
Bill and Angie Kelly  
The Minner Family  
Moore, Candella & Associates  
Dr. Thomas E. Morris  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen M. Noone  
Silvino and Beverly Silvino  
Diane Giangrande Stallings  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff B. Tunstall

### Director's Circle (\$1,000-2,499)

LTC Kevin J. and Mrs. Lisa B. Callanan  
Ramona Tarkington-Deal and Robert Deal  
Ms. Melanie D. Erler  
Susan White Frazier  
Mr. Michael S. Haigh  
Gary and Linda Hess  
H. Dieter and Mary Lib Hoinkes  
Mr. Eric Johnson and Ms. Rachele Valente  
Larry King Law  
Mr. Alfred Manco  
Steven and Joan Marks  
Ms. Kathleen A. Nonnemacker  
O'Connell/Fendrick/Tamburri Group  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Pearson  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Pectelidis  
Mr. and Mrs. L. Wallace Sink  
Larry Smail  
The Spencer Family  
Patty Heath Agency  
Cynthia J. Temple  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Williams

### Conductor's Circle (\$500-999)

Jana Adamitis  
Chris and Terri Beale  
William and Cheri Conoscenti  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark S. Fendrick  
Gordon and Judy Gentry  
Chip and Baylee Goldstein  
The Kelso Family  
David and Debbie Mumford  
Maury and Mary O'Connell  
Rich and Pat Rinaldo  
Jennifer and David Shinn  
Mr. and Mrs. Shawn R. Weingast  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Wornom

### Artists' Guild (\$250-499)

Rosanne Reimer Bachman  
Bobby and Ann Berrier  
Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Scot Bigley  
Carol Ann and Bruce Blair  
T. P. Bostick  
Madonna Brink  
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Buterbaugh  
Joe and Candy Chan  
Dr. Robert Colvin and Dr. Qingyan Tian  
Rick and Betty Elofson  
Ray Goodman  
Charles and Holly Hazard  
Donna and Tom Herbert  
Kim and Eric Hinson  
Harry Illak  
Dr. John W. Irving  
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Jones  
Mr. and Mrs. John Newman  
Russ and Kathy Quirici  
David and Karrie Shackleton  
Karen and Joseph Smith  
William and Ligia Toutant  
Dr. and Mrs. Helmuth W. Trieschmann, Jr.  
Jeffery and JoAnne Trimbur  
Carolyn M. Webb  
Rose W. Winter

### Benefactors (\$100-249)

Karen and Paul Adamo  
Bobbie Bartels  
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Beckstoffer, II  
Priscilla S. Bele  
LTC (USA, Ret.) Michael E. and Audrey A. Bigelow  
John and Michelle Valeña Brady  
Mr. Tyler Brookhart  
Ken Brooks  
Mr. R. Kenneth Brown

Dr. Douglas H. Chesson  
Ronnie Cohen and Ron Herzick  
Julianna Conway  
Malcolm and Caroline Covington  
L. P. Culotta

Mr. and Mrs. David Daggett  
Mr. W.R. Deskins, Jr. and Dr. Helene Goldsman  
Kevin and Sharon Dooley  
James and Jennifer Doran  
Ms. Sarah Dunn  
Doyle Eckert

Mr. Christopher J. Espy  
Mrs. Judith R. Fitzpatrick  
Dr. and Mrs. John F. Frantz  
Charles Michael Fremaux

Ms. Beth Gist  
Ms. Via Goode  
Nancy Healy  
David Helfrich

Rodney and Laura Hoppe  
Pat and Willard Hoskins  
Donald and Debra Houston  
Sharon Jadrnak, Kevin Kessler, and William Kessler  
William C. King, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Kelly  
Bill and Jacque King  
Torii A. Masinsin  
Benjamin and Claudia McDowell  
Erin McElrath  
Linda and Ron Minetree  
Mr. John A. Murdock  
Dr. Bonnie Nixon and Mr. Bert Nixon

Ray Nobles  
Mr. Brian Powers  
The Raderer Family  
Mr. and Mrs. John Rooz  
Rick and Elise Rose  
Jolsuan and Elizabeth Ruiz  
Ruth Sacks

Matthew and Shannon Schultz  
Charlotte Smith  
Skip and Lindsey Smith  
Ms. Samantha Webber and Dr. Ward Strickland  
Jane B. Sulzberger

Brandon and Crystal Thornell  
Margaret S. Todd  
Mr. M. Baxter Vendrick, Jr.  
Dorothy Wanke  
Clara Liesmann Warren  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry H. Wason  
Nathan and Jennifer Webel  
Maureen Wiese  
Jason and Gretchen Wills

Every effort has been made to ensure this list is accurate.

Please call (757) 594-0571 with corrections or updates.

This list represents contributions from March 1, 2024 to March 1, 2025