THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Music

presents

Faculty Recital

Shannon Thomas, Violin
Heidi Louise Williams, Piano

Saturday, February 19, 2022
4:00 p.m. | Longmire Recital Hall
To Ensure An Enjoyable Concert Experience For All...

Please refrain from talking, entering, or exiting during performances. Food and drink are prohibited in all concert halls. Recording or broadcasting of the concert by any means, including the use of digital cameras, cell phones, or other devices is expressly forbidden. Please deactivate all portable electronic devices including watches, cell phones, pagers, hand-held gaming devices or other electronic equipment that may distract the audience or performers.

Recording Notice: This performance may be recorded. Please note that members of the audience may at times be included in this process. By attending this performance you consent to have your image or likeness appear in any live or recorded video or other transmission or reproduction made in conjunction to the performance.

Health Reminder: The Florida Board of Governors and Florida State University expect masks to be worn by all individuals in all FSU facilities.

Florida State University provides accommodations for persons with disabilities. Please notify the College of Music at (850) 644-3424 at least five working days prior to a musical event to request accommodation for disability or alternative program format.

PROGRAM

Lonely Suite: Ballet for a Lonely Violinist
   I. Dancing with Oneself
   II. Boredom
   III. No Escape
   IV. Imaginary Dialogue
   V. Worrisome Thought
   VI. Question

Piano Sonata No. 1 (1953; revised 1991)
   II. Theme and Six Variations

Suite for Violin and Piano
   I. African Dancer
   II. Mother and Child
   III. Gamin

INTERMISSION

Incantation

Sonata No. 6 in A major for Piano and Violin, Op. 30, No. 1
   I. Allegro
   II. Adagio molto espressivo
   III. Allegretto con Variazioni

Histoire du Tango
   Bordel 1900

To Lera Auerbach (b. 1973)

To George Walker (1922–2018)

To William Grant Still (1895–1978)

To Augusta Read Thomas (b. 1964)

To Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

To Astor Piazzolla (1921–1992)
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

A Tennessee native, violinist Shannon Thomas has garnered a reputation for exciting, thoughtful performances as a chamber musician, soloist, and in recital throughout North and South America, Europe, and Asia. Recent performing engagements have taken her to the Kennedy Center, Spoleto Festival USA, Carnegie Hall Stern Auditorium, Bolivia’s Centro Sinfónico in La Paz, and the Banff Centre where she has collaborated with distinguished artists such as the St. Lawrence String Quartet, David Halen, Richard King, Wendy Chen, Anita Pontremoli, and Midori.

As a chamber musician, Shannon has performed at the Innsbrook Summer Music Festival, Garth Newel Music Center, Sarasota Music Festival, Kneisel Hall, ENCORE School for Strings, Aspen Music Festival, Stony Brook University, the International Clarinet Association National Conference (Belgium), Northwestern University, Brancaleoni International Music Festival (Italy), and with the Bryant Park Chamber Players in New York City. In addition to concerts with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra where she serves as principal second violin, Shannon performs regularly with the IRIS Orchestra under the direction of Michael Stern. Shannon has recorded for the Blue Griffin Records, and her CD celebrating the music of women composers Lera Auerbach, Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, and Jennifer Higdon was released in 2018.

Interested in sharing her enthusiasm for the arts through teaching, Shannon is in demand as a pedagogue. She currently serves as Associate Professor of Violin at Florida State University and gives master classes throughout the United States and abroad. She also teaches at Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s Luby Violin Symposium, and Hilton Head Chamber Music Institute. Previously on the faculties of University of Southern Mississippi, the Cleveland Institute of Music Preparatory Division, and Interlochen Arts Camp, her students have been prizewinners and finalists at national competitions, including MTNA and the Sphinx Competition. She has also taught at the Kinhaven Music School, Stony Brook University Chamber Music Camp, and the Innsbrook Institute Summer Music Academy and Festival, where she served as Education Director. Shannon has presented educational sessions at the National ASTA conferences, Florida Music Educators Association annual conference, and the Luby Violin Symposium. In addition, she has served as an adjudicator and clinician for the Seattle Young Artists Music Festival Association in addition to regional All-State orchestral auditions.

Shannon earned a Doctorate of Musical Arts at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she was Paul Kantor’s teaching assistant. She received a Master of Music at Yale University and a Bachelor of Music at Vanderbilt University, and also pursued graduate work at Arizona State University, where she was the first student to be accepted into the Artist Diploma program. She studied chamber music with Peter Salaff, Merry Peckham, George Sopkin, Christopher von Baeyer, Laurie Smukler and members of the Juilliard, Blair, Tokyo, and Cavani String Quartets. Her principal teachers have included Paul Kantor, Cornelia Heard, Jonathan Swartz, Robert Lipsett, and Ani Kavafian.
Recipient of both a 2020 Undergraduate Teaching Award and a 2020 Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor Award from Florida State University, Professor of Piano Heidi Louise Williams joined the Florida State University College of Music in 2007. Her growing roster of graduate and undergraduate students have won prizes regionally, nationally, and internationally, and are actively gaining employment in teaching and performing roles in the United States and abroad. Williams completed the BM, MM, and DMA degrees at the Peabody Institute, where she studied with Ann Schein and coached chamber music with Earl Carlyss, Samuel Sanders, Stephen Kates, and Robert McDonald. She is artist-faculty for the MasterWorks Summer Music Festival, festival pianist for the Sunriver Music Festival, and has also taught at the Interharmony International Music Festival in Tuscany, Italy.

Praised by New York critic Harris Goldsmith for her ‘impeccable soloistic authority’ and ‘dazzling performances,’ Professor Williams has appeared in solo and collaborative performances across North America and internationally, having won numerous prizes. Her Albany Records solo album, Drive American, was named among the top 10 classical albums of 2011 in the Philadelphia City Paper, featured in Fanfare’s 2012 Critics’ Want Lists, and has been described as ‘veritably operatic,’ ‘bold yet thoughtful,’ ‘provocative and stimulating’ (Fanfare), possessing ‘...the muscularity and poetic power to bring this demanding repertory to life’ (American Record Guide). Her 2019 Albany Records solo release Beyond the Sound has also been selected for Fanfare’s Critics’ Want Lists, described by British music critic Colin Clarke: “Brilliant programming meets performances of fire...this is a significant release from all angles.” An avid chamber musician, Williams has collaborated with numerous outstanding American and international artists. She has also recorded for the Naxos and Neos labels.