

# Jordan Bak



Juilliard



Photo by Erin Bajano

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The Juilliard School  
presents

# Leo B. Ruiz Memorial Award Recital

Jordan Bak, Viola

With  
Janice Carissa, Piano

Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 7:30pm  
Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

MANUEL DE FALLA  
(1876-1946)

*Siete canciones populares Españolas* (1914)

El Paño Moruno  
Seguidilla Murciana  
Asturiana  
Canción  
Polo  
Nana  
Jota

**Janice Carissa, Piano**

TORU TAKEMITSU  
(1930-96)

*A String Around Autumn* (arr. Toshio Hosokawa) (1989)

**Janice Carissa, Piano**

TYSON DAVIS\*  
(b. 2000)

*Tableau XII* (2021)

ALVIN SINGLETON  
(b. 1940)

*Argorú IV* (1978)

*Intermission*

\*Juilliard composition student, Jerome L. Greene Fellow

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Please make certain that all electronic devices are turned off during the performance. The taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment are not permitted in this auditorium.

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H. LESLIE ADAMS  
(b. 1932)

*L'Extase d'Amour* (The Ecstasy of Love) (2009)  
**Janice Carissa, Piano**

ARNOLD BAX  
(1883-1953)

Viola Sonata (1922)  
Molto Moderato  
Allegro energico ma non troppo presto  
Molto Lento  
**Janice Carissa, Piano**

Performance time: approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes, including an intermission

Jordan Bak is the winner of the 10th annual Leo B. Ruiz Memorial Recital Award. This concert is made possible by the Artists International Leo B. Ruiz Recital Memorial Fund.

The Juilliard School is deeply grateful for a gift from the Estate of Leo B. Ruiz, which is making this evening's recital possible. Leo B. Ruiz was founder and executive director of Artists International Presentations, Inc., a nonprofit organization that promoted exceptionally talented artists from all over the world from 1972 to 2009, including many musicians from Juilliard. Thanks to his passion for presenting young musicians to the world, and to his generous gift, Juilliard is able to award a debut recital at Weill Recital Hall to one gifted young artist each year. This evening's program honors the legacy of Mr. Ruiz, a generous individual who had a great impact on the careers of many performing artists.

# About the Artists

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## Jordan Bak

Award-winning Jamaican-American violist Jordan Bak (MM '18, Artist Diploma '20, viola) has earned acclaim as a trailblazing artist, praised for his radiant stage presence, dynamic interpretations, and fearless power. The 2021 YCAT Robey Artist and a laureate of the 2020 Sphinx Competition, Bak was, in 2019, a grand prize winner and audience prize recipient of the Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition and recipient of the Samuel Sanders Tel Aviv Museum Prize as well as John White Special Prize from the Tertis International Viola Competition. Other recent accolades include being named one of *ClassicFM's* 30 under 30 rising stars, *Musical America's* new artist of the month, and a featured artist for WQXR's inaugural Artist Propulsion Lab. Bak's debut album *IMPULSE (Bright Shiny Things)*, with new compositions by Tyson Davis, Toshio Hosokawa, Anne Leilehua Lanzilotti, Quinn Mason, Jeffrey Mumford, and Joan Tower, was released in May and received more than a million streams. A proud new music advocate, Bak gave the world premieres of Kaija Saariaho's *Du gick, flög* for viola and mezzo-soprano; Jessica Meyer's *Excessive Use of Force* for solo viola and *On fire ... no, after you* for viola, mezzo-soprano, and piano; and Augusta Read Thomas' *Upon Wings of Words* for string quartet and soprano. He has also championed works by H. Leslie Adams, Esteban Zapata Blanco, Carlos Carillo, Caroline Shaw, and Alvin Singleton.

Bak has appeared as a soloist with the Sarasota Orchestra, London Mozart Players, New York Classical Players, Juilliard Orchestra, and Brandon Hill Chamber Orchestra, among others, and has performed under such conductors as Howard Griffiths, Stephen Mulligan, Keith Lockhart, Gerard Schwarz, and Ewa Strusińska. As a recitalist and chamber musician, Bak has played at the world's greatest venues including Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Wigmore Hall, Jordan Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, Princeton University, the Kimmel Center, Elgar Concert Hall, and Helsinki Musiikkitalo. Recent performances include recitals at the Kravis Center, Wiltshire Music Centre, and Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and upcoming are concerts at the Concertgebouw, Harriman-Jewell Series, and Schleswig-Holstein and Lichfield music festivals, along with a tour with Musicians From Marlboro. Bak has appeared at chamber music festivals including Marlboro Music Festival, Tippet Rise, Chamber Music Northwest, Roman River Festival, and Newport Classical. He has also performed with the Verona Quartet and Merz Trio and has collaborated with such artists as Jonathan Biss, Lara Downes, Jennifer Frautschi, Ani Kavafian, Soovin Kim, Charles Neidich, Marina Piccinini, and Gilles Vonsattel.



Passionate about education, Bak serves as assistant professor of viola at Bowling Green State University. He was a former faculty member of the Opportunity Music Project in New York and serves as a visiting artist and ambassador for Music Masters in London. He has given master classes at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Conservatorio del Tolima, and Brevard Music Center. The third violist to earn an artist diploma from Juilliard (from where he also earned his master's), Bak holds a bachelor's with academic honors from the New England Conservatory. His principal teachers were Dimitri Murrath, Hsin-Yun Huang, and Samuel Rhodes. Bak, who plays a 2016 viola made by Jon van Kouwenhoven, is married to violist Rubina Bak and has two cats, Bartok and Walton. An avid car buff, he drives a very loud Dodge Dakota 5.9 R/T.



• *Kovner Fellowship*

### Janice Carissa

A Gilmore Young Artist and winner of Salon de Virtuosi, Janice Carissa has garnered acclaim at concert halls including the Sydney Opera House, Carnegie Hall, United Nations, Kennedy Center, Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park, Louis Vuitton Foundation, and Saratoga Performing Arts Center. Following her Philadelphia Orchestra debut at 16, Carissa substituted for Andre Watts as soloist with Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and performed with the Kansas City, Amarillo, Des Moines, John Hopkins, St. Peters by the Sea, Symphony in C, Eastern Wind, Bay Atlantic, and Midwest Young Artist symphonies. In 2023, she will be a featured soloist with the Sacramento Philharmonic, Promusica Chamber Orchestra, Curtis Symphony Orchestra, and the Tacoma and Battlecreek symphonies. Her passion for chamber music has led to performances with the Brooklyn Chamber Music Society and Jupiter Chamber Concert Series; collaborations with Vadim Gluzman, Miriam Fried, Paul Neubauer, Lucy Shelton, Marcy Rosen, David Shifrin, Jennifer Cano, and Peter Wiley, among others; and appearances at the Marlboro, North Shore, Ravinia, Caramoor, and Kneisel Hall festivals. A pupil of Gary Graffman and Robert McDonald, Carissa left Indonesia in 2013 and entered the Curtis Institute of Music, where she earned her bachelor's degree. She is pursuing her master's at Juilliard studying with McDonald. When not at the piano, Carissa is an avid foodie and loves going on strolls with her camera.

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