

# Daniel Saidenberg Faculty Recital Series

Laurie Smukler, Violin  
Robert McDonald, Piano



Juilliard



Photo by T. Charles Erickson

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The Juilliard School  
presents

Laurie Smukler, Violin  
Robert McDonald, Piano

Part of the Daniel Saidenberg Faculty Recital Series

Sunday, February 25, 2024, 5pm  
Paul Hall

WOLFGANG AMADEUS    Violin Sonata No. 27 in G Major, K. 379/373a (1781)  
MOZART                    Adagio—Allegro  
(1756–91)                Andantino cantabile (theme and variations)  
                                 Allegretto

MIECZYŚLAW WEINBERG    Violin Sonata No. 5, Op. 53 (1953)  
(1919–96)                Andante con moto  
                                 Allegro molto  
                                 Allegro moderato  
                                 Allegro—Andante—Allegretto—Andante

*Intermission*

RICHARD STRAUSS        Violin Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 18 (1887)  
(1864–1949)              Allegro, ma non troppo  
                                 Improvisation: Andante cantabile  
                                 Finale: Andante—Allegro

*Performance time: approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes, including an intermission*



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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# About the Artists

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## Laurie Smukler

Laurie Smukler (BM '77, violin; faculty 2013–present) enjoys a career that spans deeply involved chamber music collaborations, solo performances, artistic directing, and violin and chamber music teaching. Her regular concert appearances include recitals with Robert McDonald, her Juilliard faculty colleague; chamber music as part of the Capital City Concerts series in Montpelier, Vermont; concertos with the young musicians of the Gifted Music School Conservatory in Salt Lake City; and, with another Juilliard faculty colleague, cellist Natasha Brofsky, New York City performances benefiting Music for Food. Smukler made her concerto debut with Cleveland Orchestra at age 14, performing Lalo's *Symphonie Espagnole*; in the decades since, she has appeared as a soloist in most of the great concerto repertoire. With her husband of more than 40 years, Ira Weller, Smukler was a founding member of the Mendelssohn String Quartet. During her eight years as first violinist, the quartet won the Young Concert Artists competition in 1981; presented concerts across the U.S.; and recorded works of Schoenberg, Dvořák, Mendelssohn, and Mozart. Smukler and Weller also collaborated for many years on The Collection in Concert, a chamber music series at the Morgan Library that featured repertoire the original manuscripts of which were part of the institution's extensive collection. Since 1997, Smukler has taught at Kneisel Hall Chamber Music School and Festival in Blue Hill, Maine; she became artistic director in 2016. Highlights there have included duo and trio collaborations with cellist Joel Krosnick and pianist Seymour Lipkin as well as with cellist Gwen Krosnick and pianist Qing Jiang. Smukler has expanded the festival by presenting Continuum concerts featuring collaborations between Kneisel Hall faculty and alumni; inviting an Alexander Technique practitioner to campus; establishing an annual Music for Food concert to support the food pantry in Blue Hill; and starting a series, Composers Now, which brings a major composer for a residency each summer. At Juilliard, Smukler works with an extraordinary class of undergraduate and graduate student violinists; coaches chamber music groups; and co-directs the String Quartet Survey for first-year students. Prior to Juilliard, she taught at the Manhattan School of Music, Mannes, SUNY Purchase, and the Bard Conservatory of Music. Smukler grew up in Cleveland with an attorney father and a visual artist mother. Her early violin studies were with pedagogue Margaret Randall; she coached chamber music with members of the original Cleveland Quartet and grew up hearing performances by the Cleveland Orchestra, conducted by George Szell. Smukler's influences include Ivan Galamian, Donald Weilerstein, Josef Gingold, Rudolf Serkin, and Robert Mann.





### Robert McDonald

Robert McDonald (MM '79, piano; faculty 1999–present) has performed throughout the U.S., Europe, Latin America, and Asia as a solo recitalist and, for many years, as a recital partner to Isaac Stern and other distinguished instrumentalists. He has appeared with the San Francisco, Baltimore, and Curtis symphony orchestras as well as with the Orquesta Sinfonica Nacional in Costa Rica and the Orchestra Sinfonica Haydn di Bolzano e Trento in Italy. As a chamber musician, he has performed with the Juilliard, American, Takács, Muir, Brentano, St. Lawrence, Vermeer, Borromeo, Shanghai, and Orion string quartets and has given concerts for the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Chicago Chamber Musicians, and NHK and BBC television worldwide. His discography includes recordings for Sony Classical, Vox, Bridge, Musical Heritage Society, ASV, and CRI. McDonald is a member of the piano faculties at Juilliard and the Curtis Institute of Music, where he holds the Penelope P. Watkins Chair in piano studies. In addition to being the artistic director of the Taos School of Music and Chamber Music Festival in New Mexico, he has participated in the Bergen, Lucerne, and Salzburg festivals in Europe, the Four Seasons, Marlboro, and Brevard festivals in the U.S., and the Steans Institute at Ravinia as well as at the Banff Center in Canada and the Music Academy of the West. McDonald was a gold medal winner at the Busoni International Competition and also earned the Deutsche Schallplatten Critics Award. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Manhattan School of Music in 2018.



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