Presented at Carnegie Hall by The Juilliard School

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 8 PM Isaac Stern Auditorium / Ronald O. Perelman Stage

Juilliard Orchestra

David Robertson, Conductor Tengku Irfan, Conductor* Jingting Zhu, Piano Joanne Chew-Ann Chang, Piano

LILI BOULANGER (1893–1918)	D'un matin de printemps (Of a Spring Morning)* (1918)
PIERRE BOULEZ (1925–2016)	Selections from <i>Notations</i> for Piano and Orchestra (1978/1997) I. Modéré—Fantasque VII. Hiératique—Lent IV. Rythmique III. Trés modéré II. Trés vif—Strident
	Joanne Chew-Ann Chang, Piano
	INTERMISSION

MAURICE RAVEL (1875–1937)

Piano Concerto in G Major (1931) Allegramente Adagio assai Presto

Jingting Zhu, Piano

MAURICE RAVEL	<i>Frontispice</i> (1918/2007; orch. Boulez)
CLAUDE DEBUSSY (1862–1918)	La mer (1905) De l'aube à midi sur la mer (From Dawn to Noon on the Sea) Jeux des vagues (Play of the Waves) Dialogue du vent et de la mer (Dialogue of the Wind and the Sea)

Performance Time: approximately 1 hour and 55 minutes, including one 20-minute intermission

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The Program

LILI BOULANGER (1893–1918) D'un matin de printemps (Of a Spring Morning) (1918)

Marie-Juliette Olga Boulanger (known as Lili) grew up as a prodigy nurtured by a musical family. Her mother was a Russian aristocrat who married a much older conservatory teacher (he was 77 at the time of Boulanger's birth). She did not have long to enjoy her victory in the 1913 Prix de Rome, which she was the first woman to win: Boulanger died in 1918, at only 24 years old. Her older sister Nadia, by contrast—who also possessed exceptional musical gifts—lived until 1979 and became one of the century's most influential pedagogues.

D'un matin de printemps (Of a Spring Morning) and its longer companion, *D'un soir triste (On a Melancholy Evening)*, date from spring 1917 to early 1918 and were the last works Boulanger was able to complete on her own. The Boulanger sisters had been deeply affected by catastrophe that World War I brought to their native France, and they spent time organizing relief efforts for soldiers who had left their careers as musicians to fight. Lili Boulanger prepared orchestral and chamber versions of these two pieces, which mirror each other musically, though they explore contrasting emotional spaces. Beginning animatedly in the solo flute's low register, *D'un matin* traces an invigorating, spring-like transformation of its material through Impressionist textures, arriving at a rhapsodic close.

PIERRE BOULEZ (1925–2016) Selections from *Notations* for Piano and Orchestra (1978/1997)

Pierre Boulez wrote *Douze Notations* as a solo piano work in 1945, during his student years. For a long time, he thought he had lost the score. But for a 70th birthday celebration of his mentor Olivier Messien's birthday in 1978, a copy emerged. When he was merely 20 years old, Boulez had anticipated serialism in these epigrammatic pieces, alongside his references to Schoenberg and Stravinsky.

Daniel Barenboim commissioned Boulez to orchestrate and expand *Notations*, premiering four of them with the Orchestre de Paris in 1980. Along with Mahler, Wagner exerted a decisive influence on the outcome, especially through his "orchestral illusions" and his "overlay of different sound pictures," as Boulez (who taught at Juilliard from 1972 to 1975) put it. His work on the orchestral versions of the first four *Notations* coincided with an intensive involvement with Wagner in the 1970s.

Comparing the piano pieces with their orchestral versions reveals the Boulezian principle of "proliferation," as gestures from the original seeds are investigated from multiple perspectives. The orchestral apparatus (including eight percussionists) is immense, yet operates like a graceful mobile, with timbres subdivided and newly combined into pointillist clouds of sound.

Composer and conductor Matthias Pintscher, like David Robertson a Boulez protégé, links the aesthetic outlook of this music with that of Ravel: "A glance at a single detail in one of the scores by Boulez (or Ravel) explains the 'totality,' the aura and the form of the large-scale work. This, to me, seems essentially 'French'—this sharpened awareness of the detail that fits into the whole architecture of the work logically as well as poetically."

MAURICE RAVEL (1875–1937) Piano Concerto in G Major (1931)

Only late in his career did Maurice Ravel succeed in the challenge of writing a concerto for his own instrument—and in fact produced two very different ones, side by side. The Piano Concerto in G Major, which draws on efforts going back to 1914, was inspired by his experiences touring the US in 1928. Ravel wanted a fresh concerto to showcase his own skills at the keyboard.

A deep admiration for Mozart is especially evident, along with Ravel's newfound enchantment with music he had discovered during his 1928 tour—including that of George Gershwin, whose Concerto in F from 1925 especially impressed him. Ravel's concerto combines the melodic poignancy of Mozart and sparkle of Saint-Saëns with a folklike simplicity and hints of jazz. A circuslike cracking of a whip calls the audience to attention at the outset: Ravel paints a kaleidoscopic range of sonorities with his chamber-size orchestra.

While never actually quoting Mozart, the deceptive simplicity of the piano's long opening soliloquy in the slow middle movement conjures the aura of Ravel's Austrian predecessor. The circus whip returns in the brief final movement, which intensifies the funhouse attitude of the opening with jazzy clarinet giggles, trombone slides, trumpet fanfares, and nimble percussive colors. The soloist is all the while put to work producing dizzying, acrobatic patterns. With mischievous abruptness, Ravel repeats the four chords that set the movement spinning, using the bang of a bass drum to draw the curtain.

MAURICE RAVEL

Frontispice (1918/2007; orch. Boulez)

One of Ravel's most enigmatic creations, *Frontispice* first appeared in a magazine in 1919 as a frontispiece, or decorative preface, to a poem by the

Paris-based Italian poet Ricciotto Canudo (1879–1923), with whom Ravel had nearly collaborated on an oratorio about Saint Francis. The numbers three and five have a notable presence—the original score comprises 15 (3x5) measures and is designed for three pianists and five hands. In 2007, Pierre Boulez arranged this music for a large orchestra.

Though very brief, *Frontispice* is densely packed with musical ideas. Boulez's orchestration underscores the intensity of each gesture. The five voices are introduced as dependent lines until all five are going at once, parallel universes that intersect to generate bold polytonality. Ravel seems to be charging forward to the very edge of chaos before a sudden break gives way to a solemn procession of chords that are followed by a fade away into the abyss of silence.

CLAUDE DEBUSSY (1862–1918) *La mer* (1905)

The memories awakened by thoughts of the sea, rather than a particular seascape, guided Claude Debussy's imagination in creating *La mer* between 1903 and 1905. A copy of Katsushika Hokusai's 19th-century woodblock print *The Great Wave Off Kanagawa* proved especially stimulating. *La mer* holds a unique position in the composer's oeuvre. As Debussy's early biographer Louis Laloy observed, this music conveys "an impressionism of the emotions, translated into harmonies unique to the world." Debussy's "three symphonic sketches" conform neither to an overarching symphonic design nor to an episodic, programmatic model but exist in a mysterious zone between musical abstraction and mimesis. The score exerts much of its effect through the power of suggestion.

In the first sketch, "From Dawn to Noon on the Sea," Debussy uses register, timbre, and dynamics to evoke the primordial spectacle of the day emerging over the sea's vastness. Kaleidoscopic sonorities produce a sense of continual flux that culminates in the climactic burst of high noon. The exquisite orchestral details of the middle sketch, "Play of the Waves," flicker and dance—a waltz of the waves that lightens the mood, in the manner of a scherzo. The sea's elemental, numinous power comes to the fore in the final sketch, "Dialogue of the Wind and the Sea," where the music swells and surges with wild fury. A Siren-like melody floats in and out of focus, like a hallucination, before *La mer* ends in an ecstatic, liberating rush of sound.

—Thomas May

Thomas May is the English-language editor for the Lucerne Festival and writes about the arts for a wide variety of publications. His books include *Decoding Wagner* and *The John Adams Reader*.

The Artists



David Robertson

Conductor, artist, composer, thinker, and American musical visionary, David Robertson (faculty 2018-present) is a champion of contemporary composers and an adventurous programmer. He served as chief conductor and artistic director of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, a transformative 13-year tenure as music director of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and with the Orchestre National de Lyon, BBC Symphony Orchestra, and, as protégé of Pierre Boulez, Ensemble InterContemporain. Robertson appears with the

New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Vienna Philharmonic, and many major ensembles and festivals on five continents. Since his 1996 Metropolitan Opera debut, Robertson has conducted a breathtaking range of Met projects, including premiere productions of works by John Adams and Nico Muhly (MM '04, composition; Arnhold Creative Associate). In 2022, he made his Rome Opera debut conducting Janáček's *Káta Kabanová*. Robertson is a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres of France and is the recipient of numerous artistic awards. He serves on the Tianjin Juilliard Advisory Council, complementing his role as Juilliard's director of conducting studies.



Tengku Irfan

Malaysian-born Tengku Irfan (Pre-College '16; BM '20, composition/piano; MM '22, piano) has appeared around the world as a conductor, pianist, and composer. Last year, he was a guest conductor with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra and assistant conductor of NYO-USA. Recipient of the Bayreuth Stipendium Award this year, he was also the runner-up and audience prize winner of the 2021 Los Angeles Conducting Competition. As a pianist, he has performed with orchestras including the Seattle and Sydney symphony orchestras as well as the Estonian

National Symphony Orchestra. His compositions have been premiered by orchestras including the New York Philharmonic and have won three ASCAP Morton Gould Awards. At Juilliard, his teachers included Yoheved Kaplinsky, Robert Beaser, and Ira Taxin. He is pursuing his master's degree in orchestral conducting with David Robertson. *Kovner Fellowship*.

Jingting Zhu

Born in Shanghai, Jingting Zhu began studying piano at age four. At age 12, he began studies at the Music Middle School Affiliated to the Shanghai Conservatory of Music (SHCM) with the piano department director Ting Zhou. Zhu, who studies at Juilliard under the guidance of Robert McDonald, has performed in China, Germany, Austria, Canada, Greece, Turkey, and the US, in venues including Shanghai Symphony Hall, Shangyin Opera House of SHCM, Musikverein's Goldener Saal in Vienna, P.C. Ho Theatre Chinese Cultural Center of Greater



Toronto, and Laeiszhalle in Hamburg, Germany. In 2019, he donated the personal income from the tickets of his solo recital at Shanghai Symphony Hall to the Soong Ching Ling Foundation to help children with financial difficulties realize their dreams of art and music. Zhu, who made his orchestra debut with the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, performed with the Pudong Philharmonic Orchestra for its 2023 opening night concert.

Joanne Chew-Ann Chang

Joanne Chew-Ann Chang, a native of Malaysia, is an accomplished pianist, teacher, coach, and entrepreneur. Hailed for her captivating and poetic musical interpretations, Chang has performed for the Dame Myra Hess Concert Series and WQXR's Young Artist Showcase as well as with Juilliard's AXIOM, the musicians of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra. Chang earned her doctorate in piano performance and literature from Indiana University. Her achievements include her 2018 debut recording *Díalogos* and



appointment as chair of the 2022 MTNA National Conference Pedagogy Saturday for Young Professionals. Chang, who studied with Jonathan Feldman, Karen Shaw, Menahem Pressler, Read Gainsford, and Jerry Wong, is a teaching fellow in piano and music theory at Juilliard, where she is pursuing her Graduate Diploma in collaborative piano. *Kovner Fellowship*.

Juilliard Orchestra

Juilliard's largest and most visible student performing ensemble, the Juilliard Orchestra delivers polished and passionate performances of works spanning the repertoire. Comprising more than 375 students in the bachelor's and master's programs, the orchestra appears throughout the season on the stages of Juilliard's Peter Jay Sharp Theater, Alice Tully Hall, and Carnegie Hall. The orchestra partners with Juilliard's other divisions, appearing in opera, dance, and drama productions as well as presenting an annual concert of world premieres by Juilliard student composers. This season, an impressive roster of conductors leads the orchestra, including John Adams, Marin Alsop, Joseph Colaneri, JoAnn Falletta, Ken-David Masur, Tito Muñoz, Nimrod David Pfeffer, Donald Runnicles, Jörg Widmann, and Thomas Wilkins as well as faculty conductors David Robertson and Jeffrey Milarsky. The Juilliard Orchestra has toured across the US and throughout Europe, South America, and Asia, where it was the first Western conservatory ensemble to visit and perform after the opening of the People's Republic of China, in 1987, returning in 2008. Other ensembles under the Juilliard Orchestra umbrella include the conductorless Juilliard Chamber Orchestra, Wind Orchestra, Lab Orchestra, and contemporary music group AXIOM.

Juilliard Orchestra

David Robertson, Conductor Tengku Irfan, Conductor

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Second Violins

Juliette Greer Principal Sungmin Cho Juhui Choi Alexandra Gonzales Siu Hyeonah Hong Aram Kim Yeonsoo Kim Hojung Kwon Yun Lee Yifei Mo Katya Moeller Audrey Park Xin Quan Dominique Valenzuela Esther Yang Yun Zhuang

Violas

Pierre Traché-Cavel Principal Lindan Burns Johannah Carmona Jeremy Klein Jimin Lee Miranda Lucas Ho Fei Ng Torron Pfeffer Madeleine Pintoff Marcus Stevenson Jie-Ling Jennie Tang Jordan Watt Yihan Xue Ruoran Yu

Cellos

Dale Jeong Principal Esther Chae Benjamin Douglas Doane Brendan Goh Sasha He Hyunji Kim Wujin Kim Cheyoon Lee Julia Lee David Lee Mingchen Ma Lydia Rhea Hannah Rubin Dawn Song Jiaxun Yao Jaewon Yoon

Basses

Bowen Ha Principal Taylor Abbitt Lucas Caceres Lon Fon Law Bria Rives Sonja Swettenham Michaella Tufariello Andrew Vinther Tyler Vittoria Yue Zhang

Flutes

Khoi Dinh Principal 1,2 Jamie Kim Principal 5 Yidi Wang Principal 3 Gloria Yeyoung Moon Phoebe Rawn

Piccolos

Khoi Dinh 5 Jamie Kim 4 Gloria Yeyoung Moon 1,2 Phoebe Rawn 3

Alto Flutes

Gloria Yeyoung Moon 2 Yidi Wang 4

Oboes

Peter Davies Principal 1,2 Jamie Yoojin Lee Principal 3 Evan Yonce Principal 4,5 Spencer Rubin

English Horns

Jamie Yoojin Lee 4,5 Spencer Rubin 1,2,3 Evan Yonce 2

Clarinets

Jin Yingcun Jin Principal 3 Alice McDonald Principal 4,5 Yvonne Wang Principal 1,2 Joshua Choi Anoush Pogossian

E-flat Clarinets

Anoush Pogossian 2 Yvonne Wang 3

Bass Clarinet Joshua Choi 1,2,4

Bassoons

Alexis Cerise Principal 1,2 Zachary VonCannon Principal 4,5 Caleb Hutchings Principal 3 Collin Odom

Contrabassoon Caleb Hutchings 1,2,5

French Horns

James Picarello Principal 4,5 Paige Quillen Principal 3 Carys Sutherland Principal 1,2 Cade Araza Sylvia Beach Brooks Wisniewski

Trumpets

Evan Schreiber Principal 2,5 Vincent Yim Principal 1,3,4 Jatin Himatsinghani Ryo Morita Jack Ramu

Cornets

Vincent Yim Principal 5 Jack Ramu 5

Trombones

Will Fowler Principal 1,2 Mal Layne Principal 3,4,5 Amaan Syed

Bass Trombone

Mirza Alkhairid

Tuba Lau Yeung Wong

Timpani Sean Edwards 2

Ning Tie 3 Braden Vaughn 5

Percussion

Yoon Jun Kim Principal 4,5 Mary La Blanc Principal 2 Kyle Rappe Principal 3 Braden Vaughn Principal 1 Irene Yoonseo Kang Heeyeon Kim Guoer Pang Hanna Piao Ning Tie

Piano

Joanne Chew-Ann Chang 2,4

Celestes

Joanne Chew-Ann Chang 4 Hye Jun An 1,2,4

Harps

Annette Lee Principal 1,2 Renée Murphy Principal 4 Alisa Sadikova Principal 3 Krissy Teng Principal 5 Olivia Tilley

Student Cover Conductor Tengku Irfan

1 Boulanger 2 Boulez 3 Ravel Concerto 4 Ravel *Frontispice* 5 Debussy

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