Lamont School of Music & Theatre

Graduate Recital

Ben Kolot
Piano

Sunday, November 15, 2026
4:30 p.m.
Frederic C. Hamilton Family Recital Hall





Robert & Judi Newman Center
for the Performing Arts

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of a
Certificate in Performance

Ben Kolot is from the studio of Steven Mayer

Reception to follow in the
Spencer Artist Reception Room

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Program

Prelude in G Minor, Op. 23, No. 5 — **Sergei Rachmaninoff** (1873–1943)

Ballade No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 23 — **Frédéric Chopin** (1810–1849)

Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 in C-Sharp Minor, S. 244/2 — **Franz Liszt** (1811–1886)

PAUSE

Piano Quintet in A Major, D. 667 "Trout" — **Franz Schubert** (1797–1828)

IV. Andantino (theme), Variations 1–4, and Allegretto
I. Allegro vivace

Auty Scherden, violin
Joshua Wyly, violin
Jaxon Cox, cello
Justine Barrera, double bass

Program Notes

Prelude in G Minor, Op. 23, No. 5
Rachmaninoff completed his ten Preludes, Op. 23, in 1903 and dedicated them to his cousin and former teacher Alexander Siloti. Together with the C-sharp minor Prelude of 1892 and the thirteen Preludes of Op. 32, they make up a set of twenty-four, one in every major and minor key. The G minor Prelude, marked *Alla marcia*, is the most often performed of Op. 23. Its outer sections are a march built on a sharp dotted rhythm. The middle section slows down and turns to a long, singing melody over flowing accompaniment. The march then returns and builds before the piece closes quietly.

Ballade No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 23
Chopin completed his First Ballade in 1835 and published it the following year. The word "ballade" usually meant a narrative poem or song; Chopin was the first to use it for a purely instrumental piece, and his four ballades established it as a genre for the piano. The work opens with a short introduction in the manner of a recitative. Two main themes follow, the first restless and in a lilting 6/4 meter, the second calmer and more lyrical, and both return later in changed form. The Ballade ends with a coda marked *Presto con fuoco* ("very fast, with fire"). With its rapid runs, wide leaps, and heavy chords across the keyboard, this closing section is famous as one of the most technically demanding passages in all of Chopin's music.

Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 in C-Sharp Minor, S. 244/2
Liszt, born in the Kingdom of Hungary, composed his Hungarian Rhapsodies as a tribute to the music of his homeland, in particular the style of the Romani bands he heard in his youth. The second of the nineteen Rhapsodies was composed in 1847 and published in 1851. Like most of the set, it falls into two contrasting parts. The opening *lassan* is slow, proud, and improvisatory. The *friska* that follows begins lightly and gradually speeds up into a whirling dance of rapid repeated notes, leaps, and crashing chords. Liszt even invited performers to add a cadenza of their own near the end. The Rhapsody is one of the best-known piano pieces ever written, and many in the audience will recognize it from cartoons: Tom plays it in the Oscar-winning Tom and Jerry short "The Cat Concerto" (1947), while Jerry does everything he can to interrupt.

Piano Quintet in A Major, D. 667, "Trout"
Schubert wrote the "Trout" Quintet in 1819, at the age of twenty-two, after a summer spent in Steyr in Upper Austria. It was requested by Sylvester Paumgartner, a local mining official and amateur cellist, who asked for a set of variations on Schubert's song "Die Forelle" ("The Trout"); these form the fourth movement. The quintet is scored for violin, viola, cello, double bass, and piano. The double bass covers the lowest line, which leaves the cello free to play melodies, and the piano often plays in octaves high in its range. The first movement, *Allegro vivace*, is broad and bright. The Finale has a dance-like character and brings the work to a lively close. The Quintet was not published until 1829, the year after Schubert's death.

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Upcoming Events

Monday, November 16, 7:30 p.m.
Viola Studio Recital
Williams Recital Salon
Free admission, no ticket required

Saturday, January 9, 7:30 p.m.
Guest Artist: Symphony of the Rockies Side-by-Side
Hamilton Recital Hall
$15 general admission

Wednesday, January 13, 7:30 p.m.
Faculty Recital: Mike Abbott, jazz guitar
Hamilton Recital Hall
$15 general admission

Sunday, January 17, 4:30 p.m.
Guest recital: Bruce Brubaker, piano
Hamilton Recital hall
Free admission, no ticket required

Tuesday, January 19, 2:00 p.m.
Brass masterclass: David Bilger, trumpet
Hamilton Recital Hall
Free admission to observe, no ticket required

Thursday, January 21, 2:00 p.m.
Trumpet masterclass: David Bilger, trumpet
Hamilton Recital Hall
Free admission to observe, no ticket required

Friday, January 22, 7:30 p.m.
Faculty Recital: Peter Stoltzman, jazz piano &
Gabriel Santiago, jazz guitar
Hamilton Recital Hall
$15 general admission

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