PROGRAM  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 | 4:30 PM

ARA DINKJIAN
(b. 1958)

Ağlä dikça
Middle East Music Ensemble

FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN
(1810-1849)

Ellyn Liu, piano

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
(1685-1750)

Suite No. 6 in D Major for Solo Cello
I. Prelude
II. Allemande
III. Courante
IV. Sarabande
V. Gavottes 1 and 2
VI. Gigue
Andrew Molina, cello

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

Intermezzo in A Major, Op. 118 No. 2
Nayu Shimo, piano

FRANZ LISZT
(1811-1886)

La Campanella
Haokun Liu, piano
MIDDLE EAST MUSIC ENSEMBLE
WANEES ZAROUR, DIRECTOR

The Middle East Music Ensemble explores a variety of classical, neoclassical, and popular musical forms from throughout the Middle East and embraces compositional and improvisational techniques unique to non-Western musical cultures. Members perform on traditional instruments, often in company with noted guest artists. No previous experience in the genre is required, but the ability to read music is necessary. Membership in the Middle East Music Ensemble includes undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff of the University, as well as community members who are interested in the art, culture, and music of the region.

The ensemble has been meeting virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and from their homes members have put together a recording of Ağladıkça, composed by renowned composer and oud player Ara Dinkjian and arranged by MEME Director Wanees Zarour.

ELLYN LIU

Ellyn Liu is a third year majoring in music and computer science. In her free time, she enjoys playing the violin and the piano.

ANDREW MOLINA

Andrew Molina is pursuing joint MD-PhD degrees in the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine’s Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP). He is in the UChicago Biophysics Graduate Program where he studies potassium channel folding with Tobin Sosnick and Benoit Roux. In 2019, he was awarded the prestigious Frank Family Fellowship for demonstrating outstanding potential in biomedical research, and will be named Fellow throughout his tenure in the MSTP. He graduated in 2018 from UChicago with BS degrees in chemistry and biochemistry and was named a Beckman Scholar. Andrew is principal cellist in the University Symphony Orchestra and performs in UChicago’s Chamber Music Program. He is active in the music ministry at Calvert House, the Catholic student center on campus, and currently studies with Nazar Dzhuryn who trained and taught at the Moscow Conservatory. He has recorded with local steampunk and alternative rock bands and was a featured artist on Dramaglider’s self-titled debut album in 2018. Andrew has won numerous music honors, most recently earning First Place in the 2016 UChicago Biennial Concerto Competition and being awarded the 2016 Fulton Prize for Orchestral Excellence. Andrew is an alumnus of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras, where he served as co-principal cellist in the Symphony Orchestra.

ABOUT THE RECORDING

This piece was likely written for a 5-string instrument, but I perform it on a modern 4-string cello here.

– Andrew Molina
PERFORMER BIOS

NAYU SHIMO

Nayu Shimo is a first year at the College and started playing the piano when she was three. Currently, she studies privately with Katsura Tanikawa.

Nayu loves to play chamber music and has performed trios, quartets, and quintets as part of New York Youth Symphony’s chamber music program, as well as at the Lyra Music Festival and Killington Music Festival during the summer. During her free time, she enjoys composing music, baking, and watching sitcoms.

HAOKUN LIU

Haokun Liu is a second year graduate student of the Masters in Computational and Applied Math program. Haokun has been playing the piano since childhood and especially loves pieces from Beethoven, Chopin, and Liszt.
The University of Chicago Department of Music involves over 700 musicians, including students, alumni, faculty, staff, and dedicated members of the community. Ensembles and programs include the University Symphony Orchestra, University Wind Ensemble, University Chamber Orchestra, University Chorus, Women’s Ensemble, Motet Choir, Rockefeller Chapel Choir, Jazz X-tet, Early Music Ensemble, Middle East Music Ensemble, South Asian Music Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Afro-Cuban Folkloric Ensemble, Vocal Studies Program, Chamber Music Program, and Piano Program. The Musical Moments virtual concert series contributes to the rich musical scene on campus, even amidst the pandemic.

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