



## **Georgia Musicale Group Concert Series**

*Sunday, July 27th, 1 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.*

### **Program**

#### **Waltz (Minute Waltz) Op. 64 No.1**

**Frederic Chopin (1810 – 1849)**

About one minute long, Chopin's shortest, cute waltz, which is also called a "Puppy's Waltz"

#### **Berceuse (lullaby) Op. 57**

This delicate lullaby is built on a simple, repeated bass pattern. He created intricate variations—like a cradle gently rocking — showing his poetic touch, refined technique, and turn simplicity into beauty.

***Utako Tanigawa, Piano***

#### **How Fair This Place**

**Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873 – 1943)**

It is from Op 21 and song No 7 of a group of 12 songs written in 1902. In the literature, it is often referred to as a lovely song about admiring peaceful nature. This beautiful song will be sung in Russian.

***Annette Russo, Soprano & Kimber Kwiatkowski, Piano***

#### **Rondo Capriccioso Op. 14**

**Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)**

It begins with a gentle, lyrical introduction before bursting into a dazzling display of agility and elegance. It captures Mendelssohn's gift for balancing grace and energy in a single, captivating work.

***Utako Tanigawa, Piano***

#### **Ave Maria D.839**

**Franz Schubert (1797 – 1828)**

Composed based on "Ellen's Song III" in the epic poem "Beauty on the Lake". Ellen is hunted by her father, the leader of the rebel army, and while on the run, she prays for the Virgin Mary's help of fear and uncertain future.

***Chigusa Morimoto, Soprano & Kimber Kwiatkowski, Piano***

#### **Un Sospiro from *Trois études de concert*, S.144**

**Franz Liszt (1811 – 1886)**

A wistful exhalation, a poetic reflection on the breathtaking beauty of places and moments that once captivated the soul.

***Utako Tanigawa, Piano***

#### **Agnus Dei**

**Georges Bizet (1838 – 1875)**

Holy Lamb of God by Bizet.

#### **Chella mi creda**

**Giacomo Puccini (1858 - 1924)**

Dick Johnson is to be hung in the morning. He hopes that his beloved girl (Minnie) will never find out and one day he might be able to come back from exile,

***Fuling Chiang, Tenor & Kimber Kwiatkowski, Piano***

#### **Song to the Moon from Opera, Rusalka**

**Antonin Dvorak (1841 – 1904)**

Rusalka is the daughter of a water-goblin who falls in love with a prince who frequents the lake where she lives. Rusalka sings this song to the moon asking the moon to reveal her love to the prince.

***Annette Russo, Soprano & Kimber Kwiatkowski, Piano***

#### **Scherzo No.2 Op.31**

**Frederic Chopin (1810 – 1849)**

It opens with a haunting question, inspired by his nightmare where he stood at heaven's gate but rejected. This sense of pleading and rejection recurs throughout, with lyrical beauty with storms.

***Utako Tanigawa, Piano***

## ***Performers***

**Fuling Chiang** was born in Taiwan in January 1955. I came to the USA in 1980 and I am a retired small business owner. As a tenor, I sang for Alpharetta Community Chorus, Atlanta Chinese Christian Church North Choir and Chinese Eastern Choir. I have loved singing since I was young, however, I didn't start work on improving my voice until I was 57 years old. It's a bit late, but my passion for singing will never die. I love having the opportunity to sing and share my passion with others.

**Kimber Kwiatkowski** began playing for churches in an employee capacity at the age of 15, holding positions as pianist, organist and choirmaster. She earned her B.A. magna cum laude, majoring in music with a concentration in piano performance from Mercer University. She earned a J.D. from Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law. After working in various private law firms and two Fortune 500 companies as in-house counsel, she now teaches piano. Kimber is President of GCMTA and Secretary of GMTA.

**Chigusa Morimoto** earned the degree of Bachelor of Vocal Music, Nagoya University of Arts, Japan, M.M. in Vocal Music, International college of music, Hamburg, Germany. She studied German songs, opera arias, and church music there. After that, she worked as a voice trainer in Japan for 5 years. She is living with her husband and daughter in Georgia since March 2021 due to her husband's work. She became a GMG member in the spring of 2023.

**Annette Russo** has enjoyed a life-long love of music. She began piano lessons at the age of 8 and studied for about 7 years. She also studied voice for several years as a young adult. She has participated in a variety of vocal experiences including church and community choirs and solos. After graduating from Rutgers College in NJ, she taught 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade for 35 years. She incorporated music into the classroom whenever possible to enhance learning. Being involved in music has always been a priority her life.

**Utako Tanigawa** has over three decades of experience as an IT executive in global enterprises, including a Fortune 1 company. She has served as a lecturer at Stanford University, and others. In Japan, Dr. Tanigawa owned and operated a private school and a restaurant. In the U.S., she pursued further academic advancement, earning degrees in Mathematics, a Ph.D. in Computer Science and Information Systems, and postdoctoral research in Management Science and Engineering at Stanford University. A life-altering illness years ago led Dr. Tanigawa to reconnect with music, which had been set aside for 45 years, igniting a powerful new chapter in her life.

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### ***About GMG-Georgia Musicale Group, Inc.***

Dr. Utako Tanigawa battled a life-threatening illness, which prompted her to rediscover music after a 45-year hiatus. Music became a powerful source of healing and solace during her recovery. Inspired by her journey, she began participating in international music competitions, academies, and festivals. It was through these experiences that she envisioned the idea of founding her own organization—one dedicated to sharing the joy of music and creating spaces for adult musicians to pursue their musical passions. She founded GMG in 2015 to share this experience, and it was formally established as a nonprofit in 2016. This year, we are proud to celebrate **ten years of building a welcoming community for music enthusiasts.**

The organization provides a supportive environment for reigniting that passion and musical development at any age and stage. Our musicales (practice sessions) provide opportunities to try new or unpolished pieces, improve their performance skills, receive encouragement, and share their music in a collaborative setting.

