



Donald F. Cook Recital Hall
M.O. Morgan Building
Friday, 5 October 2001 at 8:00 p.m.

Thomas Loewenheim, Violoncello

Christopher Harding, Piano

Sonata for Cello and Piano No.5 in D major, Op.102, No.2

Allegro con brio

Adagio con molto sentimento d'affetto

Allegro – Allegro fugato

Ludwig van Beethoven

(1770-1827)

Sonata for Cello and Piano in C Major, Op. 119

Andante Grave

Moderato

Allegro ma non troppo

Sergei Prokofiev

(1891-1953)

Intermission

Sonata for Cello and Piano in G minor, Op.65

Allegro moderato

Scherzo (Allegro con brio)

Largo

Finale (allegro)

F. Chopin

(1810-1849)

Thomas Loewenheim's cello career has taken him throughout Europe and the United States, as well as Canada and Israel, as a soloist and a chamber musician. He has recorded for the Austrian radio station ORF and the CBC radio in Canada. He is currently professor of cello at Memorial University of Newfoundland, where he also conducts the MUN Chamber Orchestra.

Mr. Loewenheim studied at the Indiana University School of Music with distinguished Professor Janos Starker and Professor Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, whose assistant he was. Starker has described him as "a highly gifted cellist and musician," while Tsutsumi has remarked that "In his beautiful cello playing one finds both highly developed technical command and genuine artistry." Prior to that, he studied at the University of Michigan with Professor Erling Blöndal Bengtsson, who found him "a highly stimulating musical personality . . . an accomplished artist with a profile of his own." He began his studies at the Rubin Academy for Music and Dance in Jerusalem with Emanuel Gruber, Shmuel Magen, and Uri Vardi, and has also taken part in master classes with Yo-Yo Ma, Mischa Maisky, Antonio Meneses, Arto Noras, Aldo Parisot, William Pleeth, and Menahem Pressler.

Mr. Loewenheim was twice a prize-winner at the International Chamber Music Festival Austria. For six years he was the recipient of a scholarship from the Israel-America Cultural Foundation. His doctoral research won the Presser Foundation Award for 2000-2001.

Recently, Mr. Loewenheim has been making exciting discoveries in the early 20th-century unaccompanied cello repertoire and incorporating the results into his recitals. His magnum opus will be a study and bibliography of this neglected but fascinating oeuvre.

Pianist **Christopher Harding** has performed internationally and across the United States to enthusiastic acclaim, impressing audiences and critics alike with his substantive interpretations and pianistic mastery. *The Washington Post* has praised his "unusual depth and beauty" of interpretation and pronounced him "a complete pianist." In a performance of Rachmaninoff's First Piano Concerto, the *Santa Barbara News-Press* admired "his innate sense of poetry, his ability to take time, to sing, ponder, and reflect" while the *Independent* delighted in his "wit and panache." Mr. Harding's "genuine artistry, brilliant technique, and poise" drew equally warm response from Kenneth Bartlett of the *Valley Voice*.

Since his first recital at the age of twelve, Mr. Harding has given numerous solo and concerto performances in California, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, Texas, Virginia, Georgia, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and in the cities of Chicago, New York, and Washington, D.C. In 1992, he was chosen by then Artistic Director Mstislav Rostropovitch to perform Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the National Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Randall Craig Fleischer. "The highlight of the night," wrote *The Washington Post*. "He received a well-deserved standing ovation for a superb effort." Mr. Harding continues to perform with orchestras frequently, and recent seasons have included engagements with the San Angelo Symphony and the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. In April of 1999 he completed a two-week tour of Asia, collaborating with the Maestro Taijiro Iimori and the Tokyo City Philharmonic, and also performing lecture recitals and giving master classes in both Tokyo and Seoul. He has also collaborated with conductors John DeMain, Gisèle Ben-Dor and Fabio Machetti and with orchestras such as the Santa Barbara Symphony, the Elgin Symphony Orchestra, the Camerata Orchestra, and the Prince William Symphony Orchestra.

An active and successful competitor, Mr. Harding has taken twenty-five first prizes in national and international competitions. Among his achievements are top prizes in competitions sponsored by the American Matthey Society, the National Society of Arts and Letters, the Saint Louis Symphony, the Santa Barbara Symphony and Esperia Foundation, the Kingsville International Young Performers' Competitions, and the Grace Welsh Prize for Piano. In 1999, he was awarded the special "Mozart Prize" at the Cleveland International Piano Competition, given for the best performance of a composition by Mozart. Most recently he was a semi-finalist in the Calgary Esther Honens International Piano Competition 2000, one of twenty-seven pianists chosen through worldwide auditions to compete.

Born in Munich, Germany and raised in Northern Virginia, Mr. Harding holds degrees and Performer's Certificates from Indiana University and the Eastman School of Music, where his teachers were Menahem Pressler and Nelita True. Prior to college, he worked for ten years with Milton Kidd at the American University Department of Performing Arts Preparatory Division. Mr. Harding currently holds a position on the faculty at Brevard College in North Carolina and teaches at the Indiana University Piano Academy during the summers, in addition to giving master classes around the United States and in Asia. He makes his home in Brevard, North Carolina, with his wife Yuki and son Andrew.