The Murasaki Duo

Since its founding in 1996 at the Juilliard School, the **Murasaki Duo** has been dedicated to performing the cello and piano literature as chamber music. Named in homage to Lady Murasaki, the author of the world’s first novel,

cellist **Eric Kutz** and pianist **Miko Kominami** weave their instruments’ voices together in a unique and compelling equal partnership. The Duo has performed in North America, Europe, and Asia, including concerts in New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Toronto, Washington, London, Tel Aviv, Copenhagen, and Oslo.

In 2015 the Duo released a new compact disc entitled *Duo Virtuoso* on the Delos label. *American Record Guide* praised the recording as containing “fine, beautifully balanced performances,” and it concluded, “These are two outstanding musicians.” The disc won the Violoncello Society’s “Listeners Choice” Award, from among all cello CD’s released in 2015. Last year the Duo released a new CD featuring the complete cello/piano works of Los Angeles composer Maria Newman.

The Duo earlier released its debut compact disc—featuring works of Beethoven, Chopin, and Rachmaninoff—on the Centaur Records label. The disc was recommended by the *Journal of the Atlanta Audio Society* as “ebullient . . . brilliant throughout.”

Advocates for new music, the Murasaki Duo actively commissions new works, in addition to performing the classics. Its program “The Commissions” features five commissioned works from 2007-2012. The Duo has been a part of leading festivals, such as the Niagara International Chamber Music Festival, the Malibu Coast Music Festival, the Icicle Creek Music Center, Cello an American Experience, and it has been broadcast on public radio stations throughout the country.

Press for the Murasaki Duo

“An easy virtuosity . . . brilliant and witty.” “. . . an unusually high level of ensemble playing.”

New York Concert Review, New York City

“Perfect throughout the evening . . . two highly gifted musicians.”

News-Times, Danbury, Connecticut

“Two outstanding musicians.” “. . . a splendid interpretation.” “. . . a virtuosic and very spirited rendition.”

Sunnmørsposten, Ålesund, Norway

“. . . performed with great sensitivity. The duo communicated the mood of the music—regardless whether joy or fury—in a most effective manner.” “The interpretation was entertaining and the piece played at a tempo that almost set the hairs of the bow on fire!”

*Varingen*, Nittedal, Norway

“. . . effortless perfection.”

Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Murasaki Duo Program Samples

BEETHOVEN (Featured program 2019-2020)

Seven Variations on a theme from Mozart’s Magic Flute

Sonata in A Major, Op. 69

Sonata in G minor, Op. 5 No. 2

Sonata in C Major, Op. 102 No. 1

DUO VIRTUOSO

Paganini: Variations on One String on Rossini’s Moses

Martinu: Variations on Rossini’s Moses

Piazzolla: Le Grand Tango

Brahms: Sonata in E minor

DANCE WITH ME

Schumann: Fantasy Pieces

Stravinsky: Suite Italienne

Beethoven: Sonata in A Major, Op. 69

Chopin: Polonaise Brillante

Owen: Mr. Raggity’s Sublime Dance

VARIATIONS

Paganini: Variations on One String on Rossini’s Moses

Martinu: Variations on Rossini’s Moses

Beethoven: Seven Variations on a theme from Mozart’s Magic Flute

Dohnanyi: Sonata in B-flat Minor

MURASAKI DUO GOES TO THE OPERA!

Castelnuovo-Tedesco: Figaro Fantasy from Rossini’s Barber of Seville

Chopin: Grand Duo Concertante after Meyerbeer’s Robert the Devil

Paganini: Variations on One String on Rossini’s Moses

Martinu: Variations on Rossini’s Moses

Beethoven: Seven Variations on a theme from Mozart’s Magic Flute

MURASAKI DUO COMMISSIONS

Ethan Haimo: Concert Duo (2003)

Brooke Joyce: dark waters (2007)

Maria Newman: Peccavi Duo (2009)

Jocelyn Hagen: Elegy (2009)

Jerry Owen: Mister Raggity’s Sublime Dance (2012)

Robert Pound: goes around (2012)

Programs are offered in various combinations. We work with presenters to create a unique and compelling experience. Our repertoire list exceeds seventy compositions from Bach to the present.

Key Points

◄ A Murasaki Duo concert is a high-energy, engaging experience. With more than 15 years of performing together, the Duo members communicate on stage with spontaneity and wit, completely at home with the audience and one another.

◄ During concerts, the members of the Duo speak with conviction, clarity, and humor, to help the audience connect to the music in a meaningful way.

◄ Murasaki Duo programs are tailored to each venue’s desires. The Duo works with presenters to create individualized programs from its large repertoire.

◄ The Murasaki Duo has a unique mission, advocating the cello piano literature as chamber music— a partnership of two equal voices.

◄ The Duo works with living composers to create bold new works that are accessible and enjoyable for the audience. They pair these with traditional favorites for everyone’s pleasure.

◄ The members of the Duo are experienced with the media, whether print, radio, TV, or online. They will help to maximize opportunities afforded by local media outlets.

◄ The Murasaki Duo is committed to performing educational outreach programs for all levels—ranging from master classes and workshops for young professionals to its entertaining and age-appropriate ‘Haydn Seek’ program for young children.

Murasaki Duo

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