



# Southwest Chamber Music

presents

## *Project Muse Guide*

January 2014

### *Music for Solo Violin*

Shalini Vijayan

#### *Program*

Excerpts from *Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin*

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

*The Lonely Suite*

Lera Auerbach  
(b. 1973)

*Subliminal Waters*

Yu-Hui Chang  
(b. 1970)

*Night Vase & Obsession Toccata*

Kurt Rhode  
(b. 1966)

## Program Notes

*Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin* are a set of six works by Johann Sebastian Bach. These pieces are the standard by which all solo violin repertoire is judged. Bach was a German composer, organist, harpsichordist, violist and violinist of the Baroque period. He enriched established German styles through his skill in counterpoint, harmonic and motivic organization, and the adaptation of rhythms, forms, and textures. For more information: [www.jsbach.org](http://www.jsbach.org)

*The Lonely Suite*, by Russian composer Lera Auerbach, is an episodic, programmatic piece. Each movement tells a unique story. Auerbach's compositions have been commissioned and performed by a wide array of artists, orchestras and ballet companies. She holds degrees in piano and composition from the Juilliard School. For more information: [www.leraauerbach.com](http://www.leraauerbach.com)

*Night Vase & Obsession Toccata* by Kurt Rohde are all that survive of a longer solo violin piece written a number of years ago. One movement is fast, the other slow and can be played in any order. Rohde is a violist and composer and is a Professor of Music Composition and Theory at the University of California at Davis Department of Music. For more information: [www.kurtrohde.com](http://www.kurtrohde.com)

*Subliminal Waters*, by Taiwanese native, Yu-Hui Chang, uses a diverse palette of colors in this piece for solo violin and shows how vast the sound world of the instrument can be. Chang began pursuing composition at the age of fourteen and graduated from the National Taiwan Normal University, and earned her Ph.D. at Brandeis University and Masters at Boston University. For more information: [www.yuhuichang.com](http://www.yuhuichang.com)

## About Shalini Vijayan



**Shalini Vijayan**, deemed “a vibrant violinist” by Mark Swed of the Los Angeles Times, is an established performer and collaborator on both coasts. A native of California, Shalini studied in New York as a scholarship student at the Manhattan School of Music where she received her B.M. and M.M. degrees under the tutelage of Ariana Bronne and Lucie Robert.

Always an advocate for modern music, Shalini was a founding member and is Principal Second Violin of Kristjan Jarvi's Absolute Ensemble, having recorded several albums with them including 2001 Grammy nominee, *Absolution*. As a part of Absolute, she has performed throughout the United States and Europe.

A member of the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, Florida from 1998-2001, Shalini served as concertmaster for Michael Tilson Thomas, John Adams, Reinbert de Leeuw and Oliver Knussen. She was also concertmaster for the world premiere performances and recording of Steven Mackey's *Tuck and Roll* for RCA records in 2000.

In Los Angeles, Shalini is featured regularly with Grammy Award winning Southwest Chamber Music and can be heard on their *Complete Chamber Works of Carlos Chávez, Vol. 3* and the *Encounters* of William Kraft. She is one half of the duo 61/4, with percussionist Lynn Vartan, with performances throughout California and in Mexico.

Shalini was a first violinist of the Pacific Symphony Orchestra and served as Principal Second Violin of the Opera Pacific Orchestra from 2003-2008. She has appeared on over a hundred film scores including *The Incredibles*, *Ratatouille*, *Star Trek*, *Up* and *Avatar* as well as on every season of the television show *Lost*.

## ***Musical Vocabulary*** (from the California Standards for the Arts, unless noted otherwise)

**DYNAMICS** are various degrees of volume in the performance of music, such as loud and soft.

**EXTENDED TECHNIQUES** are unconventional, unorthodox techniques of playing musical instruments, in order to expand and explore the possibilities of different instruments.

**IMPROVISATION** is the spontaneous creation of music.

An **INTERVAL** is the distance in pitch between two tones.

A **MELODY** is an organized sequence of single notes.

The **METER** is the grouping of beats by which a piece of music is measured.

**MINIMALISM** in music is a reductive style or school of modern music utilizing only simple sonorities, rhythms, and patterns, with minimal embellishment or orchestrational complexity, and characterized by protracted repetition of figurations, obsessive structural rigor, and often a pulsing, hypnotic effect.

**PONTICELLO** is a string instrument technique where one play son the bridge of the instrument to achieve a special effect.

**RHYTHM** is the combination of long and short, even and uneven sounds that convey a sense of movement in time.

**SCORDATURA** is an alternate tuning used for the open strings of a string instrument. It is an extended technique used to allow the playing of otherwise impossible melodies, harmonies, figures, chords, or other note combinations.

A **SCORE** is the written form of the entire composition. All players have a part of the score for their instrument, unless they have memorized the notes.

**SOUND PERCEPTION** is how you interpret what you hear and where you hear it.

The **STRING FAMILY** (also called **Chordophones**) is the group of instruments that uses strings to produce sound. The strings are made of gut, steel, or nylon. Stringed instruments can be played with a bow - a long stick that has horsehair attached to it, or they can be played by plucking or strumming the strings with the fingers.

The **TIMBRE** is the tone color or character of sound heard.

The **TONALITY (KEY)** is the tonal center of a composition.

**TREMOLO** is a shaking sound which is achieved by repeating the same note extremely quickly or by playing two notes very quickly, one after the other.

**TUNING** is to adjust a music instrument to the desired frequency or pitch.

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[www.swmusic.org/about\\_us/musicians.html](http://www.swmusic.org/about_us/musicians.html)

*To try to create your own composition at:*

[www.creatingmusic.com](http://www.creatingmusic.com)

*Another excellent interactive website for kids with information about instruments is:*

[www.playmusic.org](http://www.playmusic.org)



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## *2013-2014 Music Unwrapped*

Free of charge, and lots of fun, *Music Unwrapped* is a great way for the entire family to learn about a wide variety of music. Our Grammy Award-winning musicians present an entertaining and enjoyable learning experience, including interaction with the audience, which is suitable for all ages.

**February 9, 2014 at 4 pm. Angels Gate Cultural Center, San Pedro**

Visit [www.swmusic.org](http://www.swmusic.org) to learn more about *Music Unwrapped!*

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