



RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK

Mason Gross School of the Arts

Music Faculty Recital

Todd Phillips, violin

Jonathan Spitz, cello

Rachel Yunkyung Choo, piano

Scott Ordway, composer

Monday, April 20, 2026 | 7:30 p.m.

Schare Recital Hall
Marryott Music Building
Douglass Campus

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

PROGRAM

Prelude (in the wide spaces of the day) (2018)
for Cello and Piano

Scott Ordway
(b. 1984)

Trio for Violin, Cello and Piano (1921)

Rebecca Clarke
(1886-1979)

- I. Moderato ma appassionato
- II. Andante molto semplice (or Poco lento)
- III. Allegro vigoroso

INTERMISSION

Trio for Violin, Cello and Piano
in E flat major, Op. 100, D. 929 (1827)

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Allegro
Andante con moto
Scherzando. Allegro moderato
Allegro moderato

NOTES

Prelude (in the wide spaces of the day) (2018) for Cello and Piano
Scott Ordway

This short work for cello and piano was inspired by the penultimate line of Hermann Hesse's 1953 poem "Night."

Wohl lieb ich die finstre Nacht;
Oft aber, wenn sie also bleich
Und düster wie aus Schmerzen lacht,
Graut mir vor ihrem argen Reich
Und ich sehne mich, die Sonne zu schauen
Und lichterfüllte Wolken im Blauen,
Um warm in glänzenden Tagesräumen
Von der Nacht zu träumen.

*I like the dark night well enough;
But sometimes, when it turns bleak
And peaked, as my suffering laughs at me,
Its dreadful kingdom horrifies me,
And I wish to God I could take one look at the sunlight
And the blue of heaven brought back to light by its clouds,
And I want to lie down warm in the wide spaces of the day.
Then I can dream of the night.*

Hermann Hesse, 1953

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Pianist **Rachel Yunkyung Choo** is recognized for her expressive artistry and musical sensitivity, with praise from *The New York Times* and *The New York Sun*. She made her U.S. debut at David Geffen Hall with The Juilliard Orchestra under maestro James Colon.

A native of Seoul, Korea, Ms. Choo gave her debut recital at age twelve at Kumho Art Hall as part of the Prodigy Concert Series. She has since appeared at major venues including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the National Gallery of Art, and Seoul Arts Center, and has performed with orchestras and her performances have been broadcast on WCLV, WWFM, and KBS Classic FM.

Dr. Choo studied at The Juilliard School with Yoheved Kaplinsky and Matti Raekallio and received a Graduate Performance Diploma from the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Rutgers University. An active chamber musician, she continues her Beethoven sonata project with violinist Todd Phillips, and a new project promoting Korean Women Composers are coming 2026-2027 season. In her leisure time, she enjoys playing tennis and enjoys exploring new coffee shops.

Scott Ordway is a composer and multimedia artist whose widely acclaimed work spans contemporary classical and electronic music, text, photography, and film. His compositions have been described as “exquisite” (*New York Times*), “hypnotic” (*BBC*), and “a marvel” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*), and have been presented at Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, Lincoln Center, Stanford Live, and major festivals in the US, Europe, and Asia. His recent projects increasingly integrate live electronics and solo performance, including his ongoing project *Public Ceremony*, which explores ritual, repetition, and ecstatic sound through solo and collaborative work. Based in Philadelphia, he serves as Head of Music Composition at Rutgers University.

Todd Phillips made his solo debut with the Pittsburgh Symphony at the age of thirteen. He has appeared with many orchestras throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan since that time, including the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, of which he has been a member for more than forty years.

He made his Carnegie Hall debut in 1982 with the New York String Orchestra,

and solo performances in Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and Boston's Symphony Hall soon followed. Mr. Phillips is a founding member of the legendary Orion String Quartet, which has been the Quartet-in-Residence at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Mannes College of Music, and the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. Their performances and recordings of the complete Beethoven string quartets have been universally praised for their insightful and uncompromising interpretations. His other extensive chamber music activities have included performances of the Marlboro, Spoleto, Santa Fe, Aspen, Mostly Mozart, Ravinia, and Lockenhaus Festivals, the 92nd Street Y, and he has participated in several tours with Musicians From Marlboro.

Mr. Phillips is a faculty member at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, the Manhattan School of Music, and the Cleveland Institute of Music where he is Artistic Director of the chamber music intensive program CMI@CIM as well as the CIM Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra.

Jonathan Spitz has established himself as a leading cellist in the United States with his performances as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral principal. He is the head of string studies at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University and serves as Associate Professor of cello. He has been principal cello of the New Jersey Symphony since 1991, and he is a Emeritus Member of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and principal cello of the American Ballet Theater Orchestra.

Spitz has appeared as a soloist with the New Jersey Symphony on numerous occasions, performing many of the standard cello concertos. He has performed recitals at Carnegie Hall and at colleges and universities throughout the US. An active chamber musician, Spitz was a participant at the Marlboro Music Festival. A graduate of the Curtis Institute, he was a student of David Soyer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rutgers Mingus Big Band

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 | 7:30 PM

New Brunswick Performing Arts Center

Rutgers University Jazz Ensemble

Friday, April 24, 2026 | 7:30 PM

New Brunswick Performing Arts Center

Rutgers Kirkpatrick Choir

Saturday, April 25, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Kirkpatrick Chapel

Rutgers Voorhees Choir

Sunday, April 26, 2026 | 5:00 PM

Voorhees Chapel

HELIX! @ LPR

Sunday, April 26, 2026 | 6:00 PM

Le Poisson Rouge, NYC

Jackie O @ LPR

Sunday, April 26, 2026 | 8:30 PM

Le Poisson Rouge, NYC

Rutgers Concert Band

Monday, April 27, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Nicholas Music Center

Rutgers Chamber Jazz Ensembles

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Shindell Choral Hall

Rutgers Symphony Band

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Nicholas Music Center

Rutgers Symphonic Winds

Thursday, April 30, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Nicholas Music Center

Rutgers Wind Ensemble

Friday, May 1, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Nicholas Music Center

America/Beautiful Piano Marathon

Saturday, May 2, 2026 | 2:00 PM

Shindell Choral Hall

Rutgers Glee Club

Saturday, May 2, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Nicholas Music Center

Sounds of Chamber Music

Sunday, May 3, 2026 | 2:00 PM

Shindell Choral Hall

Opera Scenes

Sunday, May 3, 2026 | 2:00 PM

Nicholas Music Center

Chamber Competition Winners Concert

Sunday, May 3, 2026 | 5:00 PM

Shindell Choral Hall

Rutgers University Choir

Monday, May 4, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Kirkpatrick Chapel

Rutgers Chamber Jazz Ensembles

Monday, May 4, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Shindell Choral Hall

For a full listing of upcoming events and information, visit

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