

Miller Porfiris Duo

Anton Miller, violin
Rita Porfiris, viola

"You would have to go a long way to hear better duet playing than this"-The Whole note.com, May 2017

The Miller-Porfiris Duo has been delighting audiences since 2005. Recent seasons have seen tours around the United States, Europe, Taiwan and Israel; appearances on the Chamber Friends of Iceland, Chamber Music of Little Rock, Chamber Music Pittsburgh, Tel Aviv Museum, and Sheldon Friends of Music series; and collaborations with Lynn Harrell, Jamie Laredo, and Joseph Kalichstein.

On faculty of the Hartt School in Connecticut, the duo has been in residency and given seminars and performances at festivals and institutions such as New York University, Duke University, Kutztown University, Foulger Festival, Harpa International Festival in Iceland, St. George International Festival in Greece, ARIA International Arts Academy at Mt. Holyoke College, Three Bridges International Chamber Music Festival at the University of Minnesota Duluth, the Festival Eterna Primavera in Cuernavaca Mexico, Conciertos de la Villa Santo Domingo, Music on the Hill Rhode Island, and the Iceland Academy for the Arts. They were recently appointed co-directors of the Point Counterpoint Chamber Music camp for High School students.

Committed to expanding the repertoire for violin and viola, in 2010 they commissioned and recorded 3 new works for violin and viola by Belize-born British composer Errollyn Wallen, Argentinean composer Mario Diaz Gavier, and American composer Libby Larsen for their debut CD "Five Postcards." Their second CD, titled "Eight Pieces" and released in 2013, was deemed a "fine new recording" and praised for its "wonderfully smooth ensemble work" and "vibrant and focused" playing by Gramophone and Audible Audiophile Magazines. Recent acclaim from Fanfare for the Duo's third CD, entitled "Divertimenti" declares their playing "a lightning bolt" and speaks to the "color, fire, and passion."

For more information about their CDs and schedule of concerts and masterclasses, visit their website at www.millerporfirisduo.org.

Miller-Porfiris Duo Film Repertoire

2019-20 (any films may be combined to desired length of program)

Ballet Mecanique (1924) Images by Fernand Leger, music of Heiter Villa-Lobos. Run time 15 minutes (Abstract art film)

The Great Train Robbery (1903) music of Copland, Wilhelm Grosz, Reinhardt Gliere, Ferde Grofe. Run time 10 minutes (Western, Drama)

Out West (1918) music of Mark O'Connor. Run time 19 minutes (Western, Comedy)

Modern Times (excerpt, encore only) music of Leo Daniderff. Run time 5 minutes (encore)

Pollyanna (1919) music of Robert Fuchs, Franz Schubert, Ernst Toch. Run time 55 minutes (Drama)

Tango Tangles (1914) music of Leroy Anderson, Carlos Gardel, David Popper, Frederic Chopin. Run time: 14 minutes (Comedy)

The Violinmaker of Cremona (1909) music of Jenő Hubay, Irving Berlin, Reinhold Gliere, Victor Herbert.



*"Violinist Anton Miller and violist Rita Porfiris sailed through the piece with admirable expressive flair and technical poise"
-Baltimore Sun*

"The troupe ..played well together, assisted by their constant attention to each other's performance nuances. The attention produced an excellent show for the Miller-Porfiris Duo with standing, cheering patrons wanting more." - Lincoln Journal-Star

Miller-Porfiris Duo Film Programs

2019-20 season



MP2 Film Programs

Most of us have grown up watching movies with soundtracks specifically written or arranged to fit each scene. This ensures that all showings are exactly the same, to all audiences at different locations and different times.

Yet in the days of early silent film, music was not used in this way. Each theater had its own accompanist who played live music personally selected from big generic books that corresponded to different types of actions. For example: there could have been music for a “Chase Scene” “Hurry Music-Party” or “Hurry Music- Fire.”

In some big cities you might have been lucky enough to hear a film with an orchestra, but in most theaters this accompanist was a single musician.

Showings of classic silent films are now often accompanied by modern compositions written specifically to fit the old films, and performed by either a single keyboard or an orchestra. Although live music certainly enhances the experience, it is still contemporary music applied specifically and meaningfully to a film, one step removed from recording a movie soundtrack.

In most of our film concerts, we accompany the film with music that is period-appropriate; that is music that was written prior to, or around the time of the creation of the film for a true immersive historical experience. We do not perform with monitors to line up our music with precise points in the film but rather interact with the film ourselves, merging the chamber and cinematic experience for the enhancement of both art forms.

The following suggested programs have been curated by MP2, but any combination of films from the list on the back may be combined to create programs of different length and variety.

Program 1: “Out West”

In this film showing, the Miller Porfiris Duo celebrates one of the most popular genres in film history. The Great Train Robbery, one of the very first silent films in existence, is known for innovative techniques and some of the first on-location filming. Out West is a 1918 American short comedy film, a satire on then-contemporary westerns, starring the comedic team of Roscoe “Fatty” Arbuckle, Buster Keaton, and Al St. John. Think of it as the very first “Blazing Saddles!” (This film has been edited to reflect the cultural sensitivities of today’s audiences) *(run time: approx 40 mins)*



Films:

Great Train Robbery
(Edison Films, 1903)

Out West (Paramount, 1918)

Music:

Aaron Copland, Wilhelm Grosz, Reinhardt Gliere, Ferde Grofe

Mark O’Connor



Program 2: Pollyanna

Here we examine how forced emigration due to a rapidly changing political landscape in Europe forever altered the American music scene, and influenced the entire Hollywood film industry. Austrian Robert Fuchs, friend of Johannes Brahms, was notable for his influence on his students Korngold, Zemlinsky, and Steiner, composers that joined the ranks of other recognizable names leaving their cultural heritage behind due to increasing persecution during Hitler’s rise to power. They quickly found employment and a whole new way of expressing themselves in the newly developing film industry in California. It was their music, associated with some of the most iconic films of the era, that shaped not only future generations of movie composers, but all mainstream classical composers. *(run time: 55 minutes)*

Films:

Pollyanna (P. Powell, 1919)

Music:

Robert Fuchs, Franz Schubert, Ernst Toch

Program 3: The Rise of United Artist Studios

An homage to the actors that founded one of the biggest studios in Hollywood. We go on a tour through the development of early silent film, from the trailblazing Great Train Robbery by Edison Films, to an early Pickford appearance in The Violinmaker of Cremona, to her iconic role in Pollyanna. We end the show with a special bonus scene from one of the greatest stars of the era, Charlie Chaplin. *(run time: approx 80 minutes)*

Films:

Great Train Robbery

Violinmaker of Cremona

Pollyanna

Modern Times
(excerpt)

Music:

Aaron Copland, Wilhelm Grosz, R. Gliere, Ferde Grofe, Jenő Hubay, Irving Berlin, Gliere, Victor Herbert, R. Fuchs, F. Schubert, L. Daniderff