



Rudi E. Scheidt
School of Music

DUO-B

presents,

REIMAGINING BACH AND BEYOND

Hirono Borter, violin
Philip Borter, cello

NOVEMBER 25 | 5:00 PM

HARRIS RECITAL HALL

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music
Albert Nguyen, Interim Director
College of Communication and Fine Arts
Debra Burns, Dean

PROGRAM

Reimagining Bach

Hirono Borter (b. 1987)

Muse (2024)

Prism (2019)

Longing (2019)

Goldberg Meditation (2021)

Galaxy (2020)

Yunta Brava

Ángel Villoldo (1861-1919)

El Esquinazo

Cuidado con los 50

Tango Nostalgia (2021)

Hirono Borter (b. 1987)

*All worked performed are original compositions & editions by
Hirono Borter/Duo-B.*

DUO-B

Violin + Cello

Unique in the classical music world due to its dedication to works for violin and cello ensemble, **Duo-B** is quickly earning praise for their passionate musical commitment, creative style, and original programming. The ensemble began in 2009 with the chance meeting of a Japanese violinist (Hirono Sugimoto) and an American cellist (Philip Borter) in Germany, at the Hochschule für Musik-Freiburg. Their fascination with travel, innovative styles of music-making, and each other soon led them down creative and unexpected paths that later resulted in the forming of Duo-B, while still graduate students at the Eastman School of Music. Early on, a diversion from their classical training has led them to explore music from a variety of genres and cultures, including folk traditions of Europe, Japan, and South America, through which they emphasize the communicative power and remarkable intimacy found in the string duo.

As an alternative classical ensemble, the couple views their artistic role as being much more than “interpreters” of a venerable long standing repertory, but are deeply invested in curating and creating music which enhances, diversifies, and re-energizes the modern concert experience. To that end Hirono, also a composer, writes original compositions for the ensemble and they work together to create new arrangements of music from a variety of eras and genres. Aside from managing her own publishing, she has worked with Trinity College London (UK) as an arranger and was the recipient of a commission from the Red Cedar Chamber Music organization for her work “Train”. One of the ensemble’s most recent projects includes re-writings of traditional South American tango and choro works for string duo and will be featured on an upcoming album set to be released in 2025. Hirono is also engaged composing a series of works, titled Reimagining Bach, taking movements from Johann Sebastian Bach’s solo music and “recomposing” them through the application of modern idioms and popular alternative styles.

In addition to performing and composing, the pair are active educators who have presented showcases and clinics at numerous institutions across the United States including: Ave Maria University, Baylor University, Luther College, the University of Iowa, the University of Southern Mississippi, and Virginia Commonwealth University. A recent focus on South American styles also served as the topic of presentations for an eLearning Seminar for the American String Teacher's Association and at conventions held for the College Music Society and the Texas Music Educators Association. In an effort to encourage the wider dissemination and performance of music written for string duo, they founded Duo-B Press through which they offer their original arrangements and compositions, as well as revitalized older works which are not easily available. They previously hosted a Call for Scores, sponsored by the Iowa Composer's Forum which culminated in result in the premiering and recording of a number of new works for violin and cello duo.

As winners of numerous awards, they have performed across three continents including landmark performances in Kodak Hall at the Eastman Theater, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., the Universität der Künste in Berlin, and Minatomirai Hall in Yokohama, Japan. Most recently they were welcomed as featured guest artists at the 2019 Experiencing Villa-Lobos: International Festival, the Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival, the Romanza Festivale in St. Augustine, FL, the Victoria Bach Festival, Beerthoven (Austin, TX) and the Iowa Composer's Forum Music in the Shape of a Pear festival.

They reside in Waco, Texas, where Philip serves as Assistant Professor of Cello at Baylor University. While dedicating their performance lives to the string duo, Philip & Hirono cherish being full-time parents to five children: Jude, Joseph, Matthew, Miriam, & Marie.