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# Berkeley Chamber Performances

## **Milou Trio**

Gwendolyn Mok, *piano*

Diane Nicholeris, *violin*

David Goldblatt, *cello*

## **And Friends**

Rafael Maldonado, *clarinet*

Alexander Etherington, *piano*

Jeffrey LaDeur, *piano*

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**Presented virtually on YouTube**

**22 November through 5 December, 2021**

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# PROGRAM

## **Sonatine (1927)**

Darius Milhaud (1892-1974)

for clarinet and piano

Tres Rude

Lent

Tres Rude

Rafael Maldonado, clarinet

Alexander Etherington, piano

## **Sonata for four hands (1918)**

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Prelude

Rustique

Final

Gwendolyn Mok and Jeffrey La Deur, pianists

## **Trio (1914)**

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

for piano, violin, and cello

Modere

Pantoum (Assez vif)

Passacaille (Tres large)

Final (Anime)

Gwendolyn Mok, piano, Diane Nicholeris, violin, David Goldblatt, cello

## ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Originally from Toronto, Canada, **Alexander Etherington** obtained his Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from San Jose State University, under the instruction of Dr. Gwendolyn Mok. In the fall of 2016, he was admitted into the Chamber Music Silicon Valley (CMSV) young artist program led by Dr. Ray Furuta, a program that promotes the performance of chamber music throughout the Bay Area. From 2017 to 2019, Alexander studied under the guidance of Dr. Namiq Sultanov. From 2019 to 2021, he studied under the direction of Dr. Jacques Despres at the University of Alberta, during which time he completed his Master of Music in Piano Performance (MM Piano Performance). Alex now makes his home in San Jose and has opened a music school.



**David Goldblatt**, occupant of the Christine & Pierre Lamond Second Century Chair, joined the San Francisco Symphony cello section in 1978, having previously played in the Pittsburgh Symphony. A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, Mr. Goldblatt has also been a cellist with the Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia (now the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia) and the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra. He is currently a coach for the SFS Youth Orchestra.



**Jeffrey LaDeur** is known for his for his rare blend of insight, spontaneity, and approachable, communicative stage presence. Having inherited a rich tradition of pianism and interpretation from Annie Sherter, student of Vlado Perlemuter and Alfred Cortot, LaDeur has established himself as a compelling exponent of classic and new repertoire. In March of 2018, LaDeur made his solo recital debut at Carnegie Hall on the centennial of Claude Debussy's death. He appears regularly with orchestra and maintains a repertoire of over 40 concerti. LaDeur is the founder and artistic director of the San Francisco International Piano Festival and president of the American Liszt Society, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter.

A chamber musician of distinction, Jeffrey's collaboration with mezzo soprano Kindra Scharich has produced *To My Distant Beloved*, an album exploring the connections between Beethoven and Schumann through cycles in song and solo piano works. LaDeur has collaborated with distinguished artists such as Robert Mann, Bonnie Hampton, Ian Swensen, Axel Strauss, Geoff Nuttall, and the Alexander String Quartet.

An active educator, Jeffrey offers masterclasses frequently as guest artist in universities throughout the United States and coaches gifted pre-college piano and string ensembles at Young Chamber Musicians in Burlingame, California. LaDeur holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and San Francisco Conservatory of Music in piano performance and chamber music, respectively. Jeffrey counts among his teachers Mark Edwards, Douglas Humpherys, Yoshikazu Nagai, and Robert McDonald.



Clarinetist **Rafael Maldonado** is an active performer and educator in the San Francisco Bay Area. Based in the South Bay, Rafael has collaborated with local groups, such as Quinteto Latino, Chamber Music Silicon Valley, and the San Jose Chamber Orchestra.

An avid educator, Rafael was awarded a teaching assistantship at San Jose State University where he taught *Woodwind Fundamentals*, *Clarinet Pedagogy* and *Clarinet Ensemble* (for a semester). Rafael is passionate about woodwind pedagogy and is proficient on flute and saxophone, in addition to his clarinet studies. He maintains a studio of clarinetists, ranging from beginning to advanced levels.

Rafael received his bachelors and masters degrees in clarinet performance at San Jose State University under the tutelage of Dr. Janet Averett. He also earned a Professional Studies Diploma from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in the studio of Jeffery Anderle.



**Gwendolyn Mok** was destined to be a piano prodigy. As is custom in Chinese-American families, her parents gave her a Chinese name before she

was born. Her name Ko-Chin translates to “Can Play Piano.” Her parents discovered that she had perfect pitch as a toddler and she began playing the piano at the age of two. “At four, my parents thought maybe it would be good to put me in a school like Juilliard,” she says. “I got to my audition and they thought I was too little and said to come back when I was six.” She did return to Juilliard as a youth and studied there on Saturdays for 12 years before going to Yale University and graduate school at SUNY Stony Brook, where she first discovered Ravel’s music. In 1993, Mok received a grant from the French Ministry to study in Paris with Vlado Perlemuter, one of Ravel’s former students.

Mok is currently professor and coordinator of keyboard studies at San Jose State University, in the College of Humanities and the Arts, School of Music and Dance—and a leading expert in the music of French composer Maurice Ravel (1875-1937). The director of the music department’s Historic Keyboard Collection, Mok’s latest CD, “LEGACY: The Spirit of Beethoven” was recorded on two historic keyboards from the School of Music and Dance and one from SJSU’s Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies. The CD was produced with support from SJSU and the Stuart Hughes Fund for a series called “The Composer’s Pianos.” Mok has appeared with the London Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Symphony Silicon Valley, and among many others in many prestigious venues.

Surrounding herself with inspiration also helps keep her going. On a trip to Amsterdam, Mok happened across a historic piano, an Erard, from the time period of Ravel and was able to play a piece on it. It brought out nuances in the music she had been unable to create on a modern piano. The Erard now resides in a special room next to her office.



**Diane Nicholeris** has been a member of the SFS since 1984. She studied violin with Joseph Silverstein and Sylvia Rosenberg and graduated from the Eastman School of Music. Ms. Nicholeris has appeared as soloist with the Rochester Philharmonic, Boston Pops, Boston Symphony Esplanade Orchestra, and the Monterey Symphony Orchestra, where she was also concertmaster. She has served as an SFS Youth Orchestra coach for many years, and she has also coached at the San Francisco Conservatory of

Music, UC Berkeley, the New World Symphony, and the Greater Boston Youth Symphony. She was previously on the faculty of San Jose State University. Learn more about Diane Nicholeris at [sfsymphony.org/dianenicholeris](http://sfsymphony.org/dianenicholeris).



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## OUR NEXT CONCERT

### Vitamin Em

Tuesday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m.

At the Berkeley City Club

This eclectic group of strings, accordion, bassoon, and percussion was formed in 2015 by Grammy®-nominated and award-winning musicians from around the Bay Area. **Vitamin Em** celebrates jazz, funk, R&B, soul and fiddle music with verve and enthusiasm. The band is serious about having fun, and its members, steeped in an abundance of musical traditions – jazz, funk, blues, Klezmer, indie, rock, Balkan, fiddle, classical – bring a wealth of experience, creativity, and fearless improvisation to each performance.

## Donors 2020-2021

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Donations received during the fiscal year from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 are acknowledged in this season's programs.

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## Announcements

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Volunteers welcome! We are especially looking for help with publicity and concert-day activities. Please contact us at **510-525-5211** or

**[berkeleychamberperformances@gmail.com](mailto:berkeleychamberperformances@gmail.com)**.

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