

## Ann Schaffner



Ann Schaffner was Director of Institutional Research and Improvement at Olin (2001 – 2011) and helped found the College. She received a BA in English and Music from Smith College and an MA in Medieval Studies from the University of Toronto. Later she earned an MS in Library Science and an MBA from Simmons College. She was an Associate University Librarian at Brandeis University before joining Olin.

A member of the Vermont Land Trust, the Catamount Trail Association, Habitat for Humanity, and the Hyde Park Community Circle, Ann contributed her skills and energy to causes large and small. Music was always very important to her. As a vocalist, she sang with notable ensembles, including Village Harmony and the Montpelier Gospel Choir. As a listener, she graced virtually every student performance during her ten years at Olin.

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This concert is the first in the Ann Schaffner Concert Series,  
offered in memory of former Olin staff member  
Ann Schaffner and made possible through a generous gift by Stu Schaffner.

### Program Notes

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*Composed in 1996, William Bolcom's Nine Bagatelles was commissioned for the 10th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. The premiere was at the competition at Fort Worth, Texas, in May 1997. Eleven semifinalists played the Nine Bagatelles, including Jon Nakamatsu who won the gold medal. Each piece is relatively short and stands in contrast to each other in many ways, such as tempi and atmosphere, much like the Beethoven Bagatelles Op. 119. What distinguishes these from its predecessors are the titles – some of them in French – that follow each individual piece. According to Bolcom, he inserted the titles at the end as an homage to Debussy, who similarly ended his preludes so that the performer would consider the music more important than the title. – Notes by InSun Paek*

*Fuente y Variación was commissioned by pianist Jongsun Lee who gave the world première at Youngsan Art Hall in Seoul, Korea, on May 30, 2013. The work presents another perspective on classical variation form: first the audience hears an original piece (기원) and then a variation (변화) of it. The variation diverges in substantive ways from the original, yet the two pieces stay connected through motivic and thematic reinterpretation. In a broad sense, the*

## Jongsun Lee

Program for April 25, 2014

William Bolcom – Graceful Ghost

William Bolcom – Nine Bagatelles

1. the ghost mazurka (homage à Chopin)
2. aimai-je un rêve? (was it a dream I loved?)
3. forgotten prayers
4. cycle de l'univers (cycle of the universe)
5. la belle rouquine (the beautiful redhead)
6. Pegasus (the 'winged horse')
7. this endernight
8. recess in hell
9. Circus Galop

William Bolcom – The Serpent's Kiss

### Intermission

Diana Dabby – Tre Studi di Colore

1. Azzurro (per la mano destra)
2. Rosso (per la mano sinistra)
3. Violetto (per due mani)

Diana Dabby – Fuente y Variación

### Program Notes (continued)

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*music has become dynamic – it changes with time as a river might change from day to day, season to season, yet is still recognized in its essence.*

*Commissioned by the Three-College Collaboration (Babson, Olin, Wellesley) in 2012, Tre Studi di Colore comprises three movements: Azzurro, Rosso, and Violetto (blue, red, and violet). Elements of Azzurro (for right hand alone) and Rosso (for left hand alone) combine to make Violetto (for both hands). These études offer a dramatic and athletic tour de force for the pianist. Their interpretation relies on certain interpretive slants, e.g., stressing the sixteenth of a dotted rhythm over the note that follows, hearing the piano embrace different instruments of the orchestra (and at times, a military band), voicing out the top notes of octaves and chords for a clear line, sharp contrasts in dynamics/texture/articulations to convey different instruments, tempo as musical glue, and creative use of the pedal, including none at all.*

## Jongsun Lee

Pianist Jongsun Lee received her Bachelor's degree in Piano Performance at Ewha Womans University, graduating early with a certificate of student excellence. She then received a Master's degree in Piano Performance with 2 years of full scholarship at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater & Dance.

Ms. Lee's talent has been recognized since starting piano at age 6. In 2004, she won both the Korea Music Competition (1st prize) and Donga Music Education News Concours (1st prize). During her undergraduate years, she focused on the duo piano literature that led to winning a prize at the Korea Piano Duo Concours (2piano 4hands, 2007), as well as Italy's Verbania International Music Competition (1st prize, 2piano 4hands, 2008). She finds great pleasure making music by playing together with other artists. These experiences have contributed to her performances of diverse chamber music works.

While studying in America, Ms. Lee focused on contemporary music, culminating in excellent reviews from professors on her Master's recital where she performed George Crumb's "Makrokosmos". At that time she collaborated with artist Mathew Schwartz to display the musical scores using projection mappings. This not only showed an interesting view of her playing inside the piano but also gave the audience a better understanding of the musical score that holds the composer's intention. Her goal for such performances is to send the message that contemporary music is not difficult to understand.

After coming back to Korea, she gave an Invited Artist Solo Concert sponsored by Youngsan Art Hall in May 2013. She played a contemporary program which included works by William Bolcom, George Crumb, the Asian Premiere of "Tre Studi di Colore" and the world premiere of "Fuente y Variación" by Diana Dabby whose work with creating musical variation she found on the internet.

Ms. Lee was chosen as a speaker for the TEDx SNUSuwon event in November 2013 where she spoke about the modern relationship between composer and performer, citing her recent collaboration with Dabby and how the two experienced a fascinating evolution of music. "Fuente y Variación" evolved from the ideas of the composer, the response of the performer, and was inspired in part by a chaotic mapping technique for musical variation.

More recently, Jongsun Lee was named a 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner of the American Protégé International Piano Competition and performed at the American Protégé winners concert at Carnegie Hall on April 20, 2014.

## *Ann Schaffner Concert Series*



## Jongsun Lee

*Contemporary American works for the piano*

April 25, 2014