

*University of Maryland School of Music Presents*

# MASTERFUL STRINGS

Daniel Kurganov, Violin

Constantine Finehouse, Piano



Tuesday, October 8, 2024 • 8PM

GILDENHORN RECITAL HALL

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



SCHOOL OF  
MUSIC

University of Maryland School of Music  
Presents

## MASTERFUL STRINGS

**Daniel Kurgov, violin**

**Constantine Finehouse, piano**

Sonata for Violin and Piano in A Major, M. 8 ..... César Franck  
(1822–1890)

1. Allegretto ben moderato
2. Allegro
3. Recitativo-Fantasia: Ben moderato
4. Allegretto poco mosso

## INTERMISSION

Romance for Violin and Piano..... Amy Beach  
(1867–1944)

Sonata for Violin and Piano in G Minor, L. 140 ..... Claude Debussy  
(1862–1918)

- I. Allegro vivo
- II. Intermède: Fantasque et léger
- III. Finale: Très animé



Violinist **DANIEL KURGANOV** has been praised as a musician of “extraordinary fervor, commitment, and technical prowess” (Classics Today). His recent concert seasons have included recitals at esteemed venues such as The Farnsworth Museum (Maine, USA), Merkin Hall (NYC), BargeMusic (NYC), The Roerich Museum (NYC), the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, The Boston Conservatory, the School of Music at the University of Maryland, the Harvard Musical Association and the Harvard ArtLab. Daniel was also invited to Sion, Switzerland, for the Violins of Hope project, where he performed on an instrument rescued from the Auschwitz Concentration Camp with Maestros Shlomo Mintz and Rudolf Koelman.

In 2018, Daniel released his debut album with pianist Constantine Finehouse, garnering universally positive reviews. He made world-premiere recordings of the music of Lera Auerbach and Richard Beaudoin (Orchid Classics) in November 2021. In 2023, the duo recorded the complete Brahms Violin Sonatas (released on Hänssler Classics), pairing a 1706 Guarneri violin (strung with sheep gut) with an original “Brahms Piano” made by Streicher in 1868. About the album, *The Strad* wrote, “The extremely close recording captures every last sound as bow contacts string or left-hand shifts position... it adds a vivid immediacy to Kurganov’s already searing performance.”

Formulating new approaches to learning the craft is equally central to Daniel’s activities. He founded the Boston Violin Intensive, a 10-day intense training program for violinists. He also runs a popular YouTube channel, producing in-depth violin masterclasses for 80,000 subscribers. Daniel holds workshops and masterclasses worldwide, most recently at the Boston Conservatory of Music and Musikhochschule Münster. His workshops cover everything from intensives on right-hand technique fundamentals to leveraging advancements in AI to support musicians’ livelihoods to discovering the beauty of the 19th- and early 20th-century string playing traditions. His music and writing are regularly featured in *The Strad* magazine, where he was voted “Best of The Strad 2021.”

As a lead team member at Tonebase, the world’s leading online classical music learning platform, Daniel has created masterclasses and worked with musicians such as Pinchas Zukerman, Seymour Bernstein, and Ron Carter. Daniel is also the founder of ARCO, an AI-driven knowledge-base tool designed for violinists and violin teachers, enhancing access to study materials and the wisdom of the greatest violin pedagogues spanning hundreds of years.

Born in Minsk, Belarus, and raised in Chicago, Daniel began his musical journey with the piano at age six, later transitioning to guitar and finally to the violin at the age of sixteen. He completed his studies at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) under Rudolf Koelman, a protégé of Jascha Heifetz. He is also an alumnus of the Keshet Eilon International Mastercourse.



Critically-acclaimed pianist **CONSTANTINE FINEHOUSE** has performed extensively in the U.S. and abroad, including the Mozarteum (Salzburg), Miaskovsky Hall (Moscow Conservatory), Merkin Hall (NYC), Weill Recital Hall (Carnegie Hall) and Jordan Hall (Boston), as well as at Harvard, Yale and Emory universities, and St. Vincent’s and Elmira colleges, among others. As a renowned interpreter of works by William Bolcom, his collaboration with American violinist Philip Ficsor, *The Bolcom Project*, included an Albany Records 2-CD set and a national tour. *Fanfare* praised the recording as “indispensable to any serious collector with an interest in later 20th-century duo repertoire for violin and piano.” His most recent album with cellist Sebastian Bäverstam features works by Brahms and Shostakovich.

With degrees from The Juilliard School and Yale, Finehouse teaches at New England Conservatory and serves as Visiting Artist/Faculty at Westmont College, CA.



Praised for their “extraordinary fervor, commitment, and technical prowess” (Classics Today), the **KURGANOV-FINEHOUSE DUO** have performed at prestigious venues like Merkin Hall, BargeMusic, and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Recently the duo recorded the complete Brahms Sonatas on historic instruments (Hänssler Classics), an album that was met with universal acclaim and was a main feature in The Strad Magazine. Daniel and Constantine have been tolerating each other since 2015, collaborating primarily out of their shared passion for legato, cats and donating money to Wall Street. Online, the duo can be found on their popular YouTube channel, boasting 80,000 subscribers.

Masterful Strings is a lively series of masterclasses, discussions and performances that feature renowned string artists sharing their artistry in string pedagogy and performance. Masterful Strings is funded in part by the Tretter Distinguished Faculty Fellowship in Violin.