Honoring the Life of Michael V. Pisani, Professor of Music (1954-2019)

Sunday, September 22, 2019
3:00 PM
Skinner Recital Hall
PROGRAM

Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor. Op. 49                  F. Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Andante con moto tranquillo
Yoon Yoo ’20, violin, Malcolm Callagy ’20, cello, Michael Pennington ’20, piano

Welcome: Elizabeth Bradley, President

From Rückert Lieder                  Gustav Mahler (1860-1911)
Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen
Mary Nessinger, mezzo-soprano, Brian Mann, piano

Remarks & Reading: Kathryn Libin, Associate Professor of Music

From "Metamorphosen for 23 solo strings" (1945)                  Richard Strauss
Adagio ma non troppo
Etwas fliessender
Tempo primo

Transcribed for piano solo by Michael V. Pisani, 2016

From "Variations on a Hungarian Folk Song,
'The Peacock'" (1939)                  Zoltán Kodály
Allegro giocoso
Maestoso
Vivace
Andante cantabile
Allegro

Arranged for piano solo by Michael V. Pisani, 2013
Todd Crow, piano
Remarks: Denise Rubin, sister

Remarks: Raymond Harvey, friend

Remarks: Tim Hochstrasser, friend

"Some Other Time" (*On the Town*)

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

Susan Botti, *soprano*, Peter Tomlinson, *piano*

Remarks: Richard Wilson, Professor Emeritus

Alleluia

Randall Thompson (1899-1984)

Vassar College Chamber Singers

Drew Minter, *conductor*

Closing: Samuel Speers, Associate Dean for Religious and Spiritual Life and Contemplative Practices

The Music Department extends its deepest thanks to Sarah Canino, Music Librarian, for curating the exhibition featured in the Bridge for Laboratory Sciences.
VASSAR COLLEGE CHAMBER SINGERS

**Soprano**
Eden Bartholomew ‘23
Jeanmarie Chenette, Music Faculty
Shanti Fowler-Puja ‘22
Evelyn Lochart ‘23
Lizzie Mabe ‘23
Gracie Nayman ‘22

**Alto**
Madi Donat ‘23
Kathryn Hasson ‘23
Eleanor Qiao ‘20
Lilith Schwartz ‘23
Mrin Somani ‘23

**Tenor**
Anthony Lanzillo ‘22
David Peterson ‘22
Benjamin Prudhomme ‘22
James Ruff, Music Faculty

**Bass**
Spencer Cliche ‘23
Alexander Mellott ‘23
Dylan Needleman ‘23
Chris Story ‘22
Eli Wassertzug ‘22

Please silence all cell phones or other personal electronic devices and refrain from texting. Use of these instruments will disturb other audience members and cause interference with in-house recording and webcasting.

Skinner Recital Hall is equipped with a LOOP Hearing System. The loop will offer improved clarity for persons with hearing loss who wear telecoil—or T-coil—equipped hearing aids.
A beloved professor and former chair of the music department at Vassar, Michael Pisani of Poughkeepsie, New York, passed away on Tuesday, July 9, 2019. An internationally-noted author, professor, and music scholar, he was 65.

Pisani was a graduate of Andrean High School, Class of 1972, received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Oberlin College, and earned a doctoral degree in musicology from the Eastman School of Music. He was honored at Vassar with an endowed chair and taught courses on general music history, opera, and film music. Among his many publications are the books "Imagining Native America in Music," which received the prestigious ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award in 2006, and "Music for the Melodramatic Theatre." He also published numerous articles and book chapters on opera and film music, including a chapter in "The Oxford Handbook to Film Music" and another, soon to be published, in the "Cambridge Companion to English Melodrama."

Pisani was an accomplished pianist, conductor, and accordion player. He worked for several major opera companies in the 1980s, among them Houston Grand Opera, the Seattle Opera Wagner Festival, and Opera Company of Boston. He accompanied rehearsals for many famous opera singers and stage directors and conducted performances of Monteverdi's "Orfeo" and Handel's "Xerxes" at the Skylight Opera in Milwaukee. He was also invited by the great American composer and conductor, Leonard Bernstein, to prepare the casts for the triple premiere of his opera "A Quiet Place" for the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., La Scala in Italy, and the Vienna State Opera.

Pisani is survived by his father, Mario; his sisters, Denise and Linda; his friend, Christopher; his nieces, Jennifer and Katherine; his nephew, Josh; his great-niece and nephew, Keira and Biagio; his cousins in Milan, Italy, and many other loved family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his mother, Dolores.
The Office of
Professor Michael V. Pisani
Heed well, all ye who enter...

Quotes

In order that knowledge be properly digested, it must have been swallowed with a good appetite. ~ Anatole France

The only thing new in this world is the history you don’t know. ~ Harry Truman

Wisdom is the ability to perceive all things sub specie eternitatis (in view of eternity). ~ Spinoza, 17th century

All mankind is divided into three classes: those that are immovable, those that are movable, and those that actually move. ~ Chinese proverb

Aphorisms

VERITAS VOS LIBERABIT (The truth will free you.)

The emptiest things reverberate the most sound.

Sayings from R. Schumann’s Davidsbund (League of David)

It is a sign of the extraordinary that it is not always grasped at once; the majority are inclined to superficial things. (Eusebius)

In every child there is a wondrous depth. (Florestan)

The first conception is always the most natural one and the best. Reason errs, feeling does not. (Meister Raro)

The aesthetics of one art is that of the others too; only the materials differ. (Florestan)

To cast light into the depths of the human heart—that is the artist’s mission! (Meister Raro)