

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL  
21st CENTURY PIANO COMMISSION CONCERT

Jung Hyun Lee, *composer*  
Esther (Huijae) Lee, *piano*

Foellinger Great Hall  
Krannert Center for Performing Arts  
Saturday, February 3, 2024  
7:30 PM

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JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH  
Arr. Wilhelm Kempff

**Flute Sonata No. 2 in E-flat Major, BWV 1031**  
*II. Siciliano*

ISANG YUN

**Fünf Stücke für Klavier (1958)**

MAURICE RAVEL

**La Valse (1920)**

JUNG HYUN LEE

**Emille (2024) commissioned piece**  
*I.*  
*II.*

Intermission

AMY BEACH

**Variations on Balkan Themes, Op. 60 (1904)**  
*Theme: Adagio malinconico*  
*Var. I. Più mosso*  
*Var. II. Maestoso*  
*Var. III. Allegro ma non troppo*  
*Var. IV. Andante alla Barcarola*  
*Var. V. Largo con molta espressione - Poco più mosso*  
*Var. VI. Quasi Fantasia - Allegro all' 'Ongarese*  
*Var. VII. Vivace - Valse lento*  
*Var. VIII. Con vigore - Lento calmato*  
*Marcia Funerale*  
*Cadenza: Grave - Quasi Fantasia -*  
*Maestoso come Var. II do – Adagio come pri*

## **In Memoriam**

*Tonight we honor the life of Jana Mason (1933-2023). Jana and her husband Richard Anderson established the 21st Century Piano Commission Competition and Concert in 1998 with a generous donation to the School of Music. At the time, Jana was taking private piano lessons with a music composition major in the School of Music and this experience motivated her to reward the creative work of both composers and pianists.*

*With the continued support of Jana and Richard Mason, the competition has thrived for over two decades, giving us exciting premiere performances of an impressive body of new music. Many composers and pianists have added the **Jana M. Mason & Richard C. Anderson Twenty-First Century Piano Commission** to their professional biographies as a prestigious accomplishment in music.*

*Thank you Jana!*



## Eulogy for Jana Mason 1933-2023

Jana Marie Mason slipped peacefully from this world on October 28, 2023. She was 90 years old. Her two children, Susan and Michael, and granddaughter, Sophie Rose, were with her, as well as her husband of 46 years, Dick Anderson, and two step-daughters, Sara and Rachel.

Jana was born and raised in upstate New York surrounded by a loving extended family. She and her brother, Don, adored their aunts and uncles, and spent many happy hours on their farms. The family had a rustic cabin or “camp” near Burlington Flats, New York, where Aunt Myrta, who Jana considered to be her “second mother,” and several other family members lived.

Jana’s mother, Karene Loomes, who trained as a nurse, was a home maker. Her father, Loren Mason, worked his whole career at New York Telephone. Although Loren was a graduate engineer, in his early years with the company, he had to accept a position as a telephone lineman to preserve his job. These were the years of the Great Depression. Times were tough.

Jana followed in the footsteps of her father and that of her uncles and got her undergraduate education at Cornell University, majoring in child development. Later, she got her master’s degrees at the University of Michigan and the University of Chicago, and a PhD at Stanford University, all in education.

Jana married her husband first husband Bob Floyd when she was in her ‘20s, whom she had met in YMCA coffee shop where he was playing the guitar. They lived for times in Chicago, Boston, and Pittsburgh. Bob was one of the pioneers in computer science. When Bob joined the fledgling computer science department at Stanford University, they moved to Palo Alto. Jana returned to graduate school when the two divorced. Her specialization was the psychology of reading and her advisor was the well-known educational psychologist Robert Calfee.

Jana’s first academic position was Assistant Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She stayed here her entire career. Jana’s research focused on learning to read. She found in several studies that children from low literate homes benefited from reading interesting story books. This became one foundation for the Shared Book reading program that she and her husband, Dick Anderson, and Chinese colleagues promulgated throughout China.

Jana retired from the University as a full professor. The very next day she started piano lessons with an advanced student from the School of Music. And that day she also became an undergraduate in fine arts. She had to be a degree-seeking student to qualify for expensive studio courses. Her son, Michael, remembers that as an aspiring artist Jana dressed mostly in black and toiled around town in a low-slung sports car.

For over forty years, Jana and her husband, Dick, had a cottage in far north Wisconsin. It was a place that family members visited every year and where their much-loved dogs could roam free. Jana’s sports at the cottage included kayaking, canoeing, hiking in the forest, cross county skiing in the winter, and especially swimming in the summer. Jana went swimming in the lake a number of times in her 90th summer.

Jana had her own opinions. She could be feisty. Mostly though, she was cheerful, good-hearted, adaptable, always putting others before herself. We love you and we miss you, Jana.

Richard C Anderson  
University Scholar and Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois  
Member, National Academy of Education

## PROGRAM NOTES



Program notes and further information about the performers may be found in the digital program available by scanning the QR code above.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

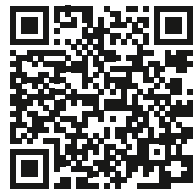
We begin today by acknowledging that these spaces stand on the traditional territories of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, Menominee, Ho-Chunk, and Chickasaw Nations. These lands carry the ongoing stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

The School of Music at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign acknowledges the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution. We share a responsibility to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them.

The School of Music is committed to moving beyond these acknowledgements, toward building deeper relationships and taking actions to promote equity for Indigenous peoples.

## SUPPORT THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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## TO OUR PATRONS

The taking of photographs and the use of recording devices are strictly prohibited. Please turn off all cellular phones, pagers, and watch alarms. Restrict the use of cellphones to reading program notes and please be respectful of nearby patrons.

## LATE SEATING

Latecomers will be seated only at intervals selected in advance by the artist.