



UArkMusic

2022-2023 SEASON

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ABOUT MUSIC

The University of Arkansas is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music and the Department of Music is housed within the Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences.

Home to over 300 music students and fifty faculty members, we offer a variety of degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Department faculty and students perform over 400 concerts per year, on and off campus. Large concerts are performed at the 600-seat Faulkner Performing Arts Center that opened in 2015. Chamber and solo recitals are primarily presented at the 200-seat Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall, which is slated for a full renovation starting December 2022.

For more information, find us on social media or contact us at (479) 575-4701, email us at [**music@uark.edu**](mailto:music@uark.edu), or visit [**music.uark.edu**](http://music.uark.edu).



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Fulbright College
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TRIPTYCH

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ACCENT FACULTY CONCERT SERIES

A Lecture Recital with Dr. Asher Armstrong

7:30pm, Monday, November 21, 2022

Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall

University of Arkansas

PROGRAM

Prélude, Choral et Fugue

César Franck

American pianist **ASHER ARMSTRONG** can be seen frequently in Canada, the US and Europe as a recitalist, chamber performer, and orchestra soloist. His performances have been noted for their “total honesty with regard to the composer and the connection to the audience ... an imaginative, sensitive, powerful, wide palette of sounds ... deep and sophisticated tone quality,” “deeply expressive and sensitive spirit,” “astounding technique and originality,” “marvelous, huge sound” and for an unusually intuitive communicative power: “listening to Asher perform gives one the impression he is a ‘piano natural’, born to play the piano.”

Asher’s first encounters with music involved the sounds of the acoustic and folk traditions of Appalachia, but studies with an enthusiastic pianist from South Africa

made him fall in love with the keyboard, and he remembers early exposure to piano recitals and orchestra concerts as a highlight of his childhood. A prizewinner in many local competitions (MTNA Young Artist, Celebration of Excellence Competition, University of Maryville Concerto competition), Asher made his solo recital debut at the age of 15 in a performance of Chopin's B-flat minor Sonata and works of Liszt, and subsequently with orchestra in a performance of the Grieg Piano Concerto.

Asher has worked with many of the leading pianists of North America and Europe, including Michael Chertock (University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music), Kevin Kenner (Royal College of Music, London), Nicholas Ashton (Ian Tomlin Academy of Music, Edinburgh), Margarita Schevchenko (Cleveland Institute of Music), Tamara Poddubnaya (Prins Claus Conservatorium, Netherlands), James Giles (Northwestern University), Fay Adams (University of Tennessee), and the world-renowned Romanian concert pianist and teacher Marietta Orlov, herself a student of the legendary Florica Musicescu (teacher of Radu Lupu and Dinu Lipatti). Asher has also studied chamber and vocal repertoire with many of the leading collaborative pianists, including Sandra Rivers, Gabriel Dobner, and James Myers, among others. A graduate of the University of Tennessee (Bmus), Asher completed the Master of Music at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music.

A passionate, committed teacher, Asher is on the Piano Faculty of the University of Arkansas where he is Assistant Professor of Piano, teaching Applied lessons to students in all concentrations, as well as Undergraduate and Graduate Piano Literature. Prior to his appointment at the University of Arkansas, Asher was a member of the Keyboard Faculty of the University of Toronto, where he served as a lecturer for the Music Division's Applied Piano and Piano Literature courses, as well as chamber and vocal classes (Piano/Instrumental, Sonata Coaching, Song Interpretation, and others). Asher has also taught at the Interlochen School for the Arts (Interlochen, MI), the Indian Springs Academy of Music (Cincinnati, OH), and the Kingsway Conservatory of Music (Toronto, ON), and has served on faculty at a number of other community music schools.

Formerly an adopted Torontonionian, Asher now calls Fayetteville, Arkansas home, where he lives with his partner Helen, their daughter Marta Mairi, and son Jack Oliver. In his spare time he enjoys biking, writing about music, cooking and baking, reading, and films.

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