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SILVER VIOLIN CONCERTO

**A New Violin Concerto Inspired by Classical North Indian Hindustani Music
To be Composed by Award-Winning American Composer Sheila Silver
And Premiered by Canadian Violinist Emmanuel Vukovich**

*"Only a few composers in any generation enliven the art form with their musical language
and herald new directions in music. Sheila Silver is such a visionary."*

(Wetterauer Zeitung, Germany)

"Merci pour ce moment inoubliable."

(Yannick Nézet-Séguin)

Inspired by music that crosses cultural boundaries, Canadian violinist **Emmanuel Vukovich** was deeply affected by the music of American composer **Sheila Silver**. The two musicians met at **Stony Brook University** where Silver is Professor Emeritus of Music and Vukovich is a candidate for a Doctor of Musical Arts degree, working with Silver and members of the **Emerson String Quartet**, focusing his thesis on collaborative leadership in performance.

Particularly of interest to Vukovich was Silver's trips to India to study **North Indian Classical Hindustani** music with **Pandit Kedar Narayan Bodas**, part of the composer's process in developing a musical vocabulary for her new opera based on **Khaled Hosseini's** international best-selling novel, ***A Thousand Splendid Suns***. This new work was commissioned by the **Seattle Opera** and will be premiered in October 2022.

Silver is interested in working further with the Hindustani sound world she developed in ***A Thousand Splendid Suns***. According to Silver, the violin is one of the few Western instruments that can easily approach many of the sounds native to Hindustani music. On working with Vukovich, she comments, "Emmanuel's playing is so vital, passionate, and lyrical, and he is open to experimentation."

"The opportunity to collaborate with a celebrated composer on a new violin concerto, and to be given the privilege to premiere this work is a distinct honor," says Vukovich, "I'm thrilled to be working with Sheila and to be able to create this opportunity to celebrate and share our common humanity through different cultures." Vukovich will also record Silver's piano trio, ***To The Spirit Unconquered***, with **The Parcival Trio** and renowned recording engineer **Martha de Francisco** at **McGill University** in June.

American composer **Sheila Silver** is the recipient of several prestigious awards including the 2013 **Guggenheim Fellowship**, the Sackler Prize in Opera; a Bunting Institute Fellowship; and the **Rome Prize**. This spring, Silver will be the Resident Composer at the **American Academy in Rome**, where her music will be featured in an orchestral concert celebrating the Academy's 125th Anniversary. Later this year **SongFest** in **Los Angeles** will devote an entire evening to her music including a performance of the complete *Beauty Intolerable, A Songbook based on the poetry of Edna St. Vincent Millay*, and a new work being composed for the occasion. **Albany Records** will also release a 2-disc set of Silver's vocal music with several singers including **Dawn Upshaw**, **Stephanie Blythe**, and pianist **Gilbert Kalish**.

Canadian violinist **Emmanuel Vukovich** is a three-time recipient of the **Canada Council for the Arts Musical Instrument Bank**, the first recipient of **McGill University's Schulich School of Music Golden Violin Award**, grand-prize winner of the **Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition**, and has recently appeared as soloist in the **Beethoven Violin Concerto** with the **Stony Brook Symphony Orchestra** and **Jens George Bachmann** as winner of the Stony Brook University Concerto Competition. Vukovich is the founder and artistic director of *The Percival Project*, a founding member of *The Percival Trio*, and artistic director of Montreal's *Bach Odyssey*. Upcoming highlights include the world premier of an original work **PARZIVAL & FEIREFIZ** collaboratively created with award winning American composer **John McDowell**.

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