

The Department of Music

proudly presents

Gareth Johnson, Violin

Heather Coltman, piano

December 18, 2007, 8 p.m.

University Theatre

FAU Boca Raton

FAU

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters

Florida Atlantic University

Gareth Johnson - Violin, Heather Coltman - piano

Program

Sonata for Violin and Piano

Allegretto

Blues

Perpetuum Mobile

Francis Poulenc

(1899 - 1963)

Suite for Violin and Piano

second movement

William Grant Still

(1895 - 1978)

Tango No. 3 from Tango Suite

Astor Piazzolla

(1921 - 1992)

arr. A. Drago

Theme from "Schindler's List"

John Williams

(b. 1932)

Remembrances from "Schindler's List"

Devil's Dance from "The Witches of Eastwick"



Gareth Johnson has had amazing and exciting opportunities as a violinist! Audiences love him! Having heard the famed Itzhak Perlman, Johnson at the age of ten declared, "I can play that instrument!" His passion and persistence to master the violin has allowed him to become one of the most talented African American violinists of his time. When Palm Beach Daily News arts critics were asked to pick their favorite and most memorable events from the past season (2005-2006), Ken Keaton exclaimed that his choice was Gareth Johnson. "...there have been so many fine concerts this year; it would be

hard to find just one. ...Beethoven's Emperor Concerto...but that was from seasoned pros, renowned artist from whom one can expect such excellence. When one finds a young artist with a unique and compelling voice, that is an occasion to celebrate. Such an artist is Gareth Johnson, a violinist barely into his 20s who combined a honeyed tone, mature interpretive intelligence and blazing virtuosity. ...Johnson's Rinker Playhouse recital resonates in my memory."

The New York Times

...having won the 2002 Junior Division of the International-Texaco Sphinx Competition, Mr. Johnson was proclaimed to possess "prodigious musical gifts—like Joshua Bell or Maxim Vengerov...he dominates the stage." In response to Mr. Johnson's desire to become the Tiger Woods of classical music, Oestreich, music critic of the New York Times further commented that "Classical music could use a Tiger Woods and, no question, Mr. Johnson may well fit the bill."

The Washington Post

...18-year-old violinist Gareth Johnson, a multi-award winner, who offered impressive accounts of Mozart's Violin Concerto in D, K. 218, and Saint-Saens's "Havanaise," Op. 83. About the same age as Mozart when he wrote the concerto, Johnson conveyed all the Allegro's fusion of youthful élan and courtly grace, the sweetly rounded lyricism of the Andante and the Rondeau's playful wit. He showed himself to be a confident soloist who combines sensitive control of the bow with right-on intonation and nicely detailed phrasing. Johnson's version of the "Havanaise" again exhibited all these qualities in a properly nostalgic way, plus a welcome bravado and sonorous depth.

The Naples News

..."Not since the teenaged Joshua Bell first captivated concert-goers with his remarkable talents have we been privileged to hear such a gifted young violinist..... with a maturity far beyond his years.....incredible musical communication.....notes so delicately and gloriously intoned.....a rare talent indeed.....undeniable musical genius.....a soft-spoken violinist who stood, almost still, on an empty stage and created magic.

Mr. Johnson is presently a senior at the Lynn Conservatory of Music in Boca Raton Florida and studies with concert violinist Elmar Oliveiera. His talents have taken him throughout the United States, Europe, Asia and the Caribbean, not only rendering recitals and being presented as soloist with major orchestras, but capturing attention and admiration from celebrities such as Itzhak Perelman, Branford Marsalis, and, his most favorite of all, Oprah Winfrey. Among the many orchestras with which he

Participating Artists

has soloed are: the Boston Pops, the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington D.C., the St. Louis, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Seattle, and Detroit Symphony Orchestras and many others. In 2004, 2005 and 2006 Mr. Johnson rendered performances in the Isaac Stern Auditorium of Carnegie Hall.

As a winner of the Sphinx Competition, a competition designed to reveal the talents of African and Hispanic Americans, it was immediately evident that Mr. Johnson was the young man who would not only represent that organization well but who would best assist in achieving the goals of this organization. As an articulate, enthusiastic, and creative presenter, he has helped students throughout America understand that with hard work, commitment and focus, they too can achieve their dreams. During his presentations most students are astonished at the fact that in addition to his talents as a classical violinist, he is a devoted composer, arranger and performer of New Age styles of music. One can just imagine students' reactions when he displays his talents in this area as well—they describe him as "AWESOME!"

Mr. Johnson hopes to instill within his audiences the need for the perpetuation of music as an integral component to the wholesome existence of all people throughout the world.

Mr. Johnson is playing on an 1840 J.B. Vuillaume violin and is presently seeking donors/and or sponsors for this instrument.



Heather Coltman's talents and passion for music allow her to unite the diverse activities of performing, teaching, and research, while offering unique insights into the creative world of the musician. Coltman made her debut in her native country of Zambia at the age of five, and immigrated to the United States in 1966. A top prize-winner in numerous major international competitions, she performs extensively throughout North America, Europe, and South Africa. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Texas, a Master of Music degree from the Mannes College of Music in New

York and Bachelor of Music degree from the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati. Her principal teachers included Lita Guerra, David Bar-Illan, Claude Frank and Nadia Boulanger. Her recordings can be heard on Wisdom Recordings, Klavier Records, nova Recordings, Heng Hao Records and the Lyra Productions label. Currently Chair of the Department of Music at Florida Atlantic University, where she is a Professor of Music and the Director of Keyboard Studies, Coltman was named the University's 2004 "Researcher of the Year" at the Professor level. The Founder and Director of Teaching Outstanding PerformerS (TOPS) Piano Camps, she is committed to enriching the lives of young people through their encounters with the arts. Dedicated to music education for students of all ages, Coltman is a persuasive advocate for arts education and a compelling ambassador for FAU. Through her active performance, lecture, teaching and recording schedule, she is able to illuminate the importance of music within our world, and its significance as a means of communication among all peoples.

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Gareth Johnson - Violin, Heather Coltman - piano

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Upcoming Events

Saturday, Jan. 5, 8 p.m. University Theatre General Admission \$15	Klezmer East
Saturday, Jan. 19, 8 p.m. University Theatre General Admission \$15	Duo Turgeon
Saturday, Jan. 26, 3 p.m. Davie Liberal Arts auditorium General Admission \$15	FAU Chamber Soloists: The Enchanting World of Russian Romance: Natalya Kraevsky, soprano and Leonid Treer, piano.
Sunday, Jan. 27, 3 p.m. University Theatre General Admission \$15	FAU Chamber Soloists: The Enchanting World of Russian Romance: Natalya Kraevsky, soprano and Leonid Treer, piano.
Saturday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m. University Theatre General Admission \$15	Duelling Divas - Culture Meets Comedy
Sunday, Feb. 17, p.m. University Theatre Free, \$10 suggested donation	Jazz Band, Neal Bonsanti - director
Thursday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m. University Theatre Free, \$10 suggested donation	Wind Ensemble and Symphony Band Kyle Prescott and Sean Murray - conductors
Saturday, Feb. 23, 3 p.m. Davie Liberal Arts Auditorium General Admission \$15	FAU Chamber Soloists: Roots of Classical Music - Tribute to Black History Month Student Showcase
Saturday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m. University Theatre Free, \$10 suggested donation	Symphony Orchestra with concerto and aria competition winners. Laura Joella - conductor
Sunday, Feb. 24, 3 p.m. University Theatre General Admission \$15	FAU Chamber Soloists: Roots of Classical Music - Tribute to Black History Month Student Showcase
Saturday, Mar. 1, Time TBA University Theatre Free	Annual Band Festival with Wind Ensemble Kyle Prescott - conductor

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FAU Boca Raton Campus
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