## Harvard College Opera Guest Artist Series

Masterclass & Discussion with Drew Forde In partnership with the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra (HRO) Friday, January 8, 2021 11:00 AM EST

Cello Suite No. 5 in C minor, BWV 1011 I. Prélude J.S. Bach (1685 - 1750)

Joshua Cai '24, viola

Sonata for Viola and Piano, Op. 147 I. Moderato Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)

Sophie Choate '22, viola

The scores for each of the performers' pieces are available, starting on page 3. Please note that the masterclass portion of this virtual event will be followed by a live conversation with guest artist Drew Forde.

#### **Guest Artist Biography**

Known as ThatViolaKid on his social media platforms, **Drew Alexander Forde** is a fiery, passionate performer who leaves everything on the stage. An acclaimed expert in classical music's social media and brand building, Forde believes in the power of documentation, building his Instagram following of over 120,000 in part by generating large scale online movements, including #PlayHomiePlay and #JourneytoJuilliard. His own releases include an original rap/viola hybrid single, Duality, and a collaborative cover of Adele's "Hello" with Seattle Symphony cellist Nathan Chan, which has over 500,000 views on YouTube.

After starting the viola at the late age of 12, Drew went on to solo with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra during his senior year of high school. Soon after acquiring his Bachelors in Viola Performance at the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings at Mercer University, Drew went on to finish his musical studies at The Juilliard School, obtaining a Master's in Music.

Drew has developed a robust following largely because of his candid communication, unique perspective, and contagious enthusiasm. A master of many faces, from silly to serious, Drew seeks to demystify the stubborn perceptions of classical music, channeling his influences from Neil deGrasse Tyson to Will Smith. He uses social media to share the hidden side of this sacred art: the humor, the heartaches, and the human moments. Through his constant interaction with an enthusiastic online audience, he often acts as a big brother to many young musicians; helping them learn the tricks of the trade and empowering them to seize their dreams—all while having a good laugh along the way.

#### **Performer Biographies**

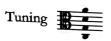
**Joshua Cai '24** began his journey in music on the violin at the age of 6 with his mother. He later found his passion in viola, enrolled at The Juilliard School Pre-College Division, and studied viola performance under the tutelage of Toby Appel from 2015-2018, and Carol Rodland from 2018-2020. He is now enrolled in the Harvard-NEC dual degree program, where he studies with Kim Kashkashian.

**Sophie Choate '22** is a violist from Provo, Utah. As a member of the National Youth Orchestra of the USA from 2017-19, including as assistant principal viola, she toured Europe, Latin America, and Asia under the batons of Marin Alsop, Michael Tilson Thomas, and others. She placed first in the American Viola Society Festival competition in Los Angeles in 2018, and was also a YoungArts Merit Award winner in 2017. Her current and former teachers include Dr. Claudine Bigelow of Brigham Young University; Cathy Basrak, Assistant Principal Viola of the Boston Symphony Orchestra; and Jessica Bodner of the Parker Quartet. On Harvard's campus, she served as principal viola of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra from 2018-20 and the Harvard College Opera Orchestra in 2019-20. Currently on academic leave from Harvard, she is spending this pandemic school year studying composition, conducting, pedagogy, and opera at Utah Valley University.

# Suite No. 5

### BWV 1011

Standard tuning / Normalstimmung



















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Dmitri Shostakovitch, Op. 147



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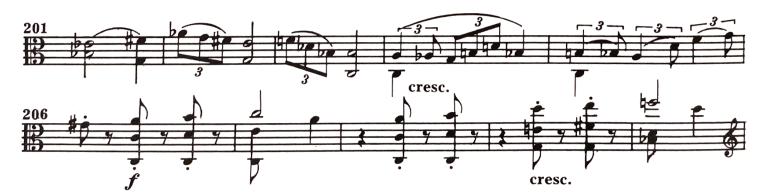












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