



# School of **MUSIC**

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Alexander Pershounin, double bass  
Faculty Recital

with  
Janna Lower, violin  
Paul Basler, French horn  
Hsiang Tu, piano

Thursday, October 16, 2025  
5:10 p.m.  
MUB 101

# Program

## **Huit Morceaux**

Reinhold Glière  
(1875–1956)

### ***Duos pour Violon et Violoncelle, Op. 39***

- I. Prelude
- II. Gavotte
- III. Berceuse
- IV. Canzonetta
- V. Intermezzo
- VI. Impromptu
- VII. Scherzo
- VIII. Etude

Alexander Pershounin, double bass  
Janna Lower, violin

### ***Duet for French horn and Double Bass, based on the themes from G. Donizetti's opera "L'elisir d'amore"***

Jean Louis Gobbaerts  
a.k.a G. Ludovic  
(1835–1886)  
Arr. by Phil Beaman

Alexander Pershounin, double bass  
Paul Basler, French horn

### ***Adagio, from the ballet "The Bright Stream", Op. 39***

Dmitri Shostakovich  
(1906–1975)

Alexander Pershounin, double bass  
Hsiang Tu, piano

### ***Sonata in G minor for Cello and Piano, Op. 19***

Sergei Rachmaninoff  
(1873–1943)

- I. Lento – Allegro moderato
- II. Allegro scherzando
- III. Andante
- IV. Allegro mosso

Alexander Pershounin, double bass  
Hsiang Tu, piano

# Artist Biographies

**Alexander Pershounin** has performed extensively nationally and internationally. Equally versatile in classical, jazz, commercial, and world music settings, he has been featured as a performer, arranger, and composer on such internationally recognized music events as Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, Pori Jazz Festival in Finland, Europe's Jazz Contest in Belgium, and New Orleans Jazz Fest, among many others. His numerous performing credits include collaboration projects and appearances with the world-class artists ranging from Dizzy Gillespie, Benny Golson, Bob Berg and Ray Charles to Itzhac Perlman and Yo Yo Ma. He has recorded several commercially released albums as a soloist and an ensemble musician. Dr. Pershounin holds music degrees from Russia's most prestigious music institution, Gnessins' State Academy of Music in Moscow, as well as DMA and MFA degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Dr. Pershounin joined the music faculty at University of Florida School of Music in the Fall 2024, teaching classical, jazz, and commercial double bass and bass guitar studio. Prior to UF he taught at the University of Northern Iowa, Columbus State University, Minnesota State University Moorhead, Westfield State College, and Gnessins' State College of Music in Russia and other institutions. He is an active clinician, judge, and presenter at regional, national, and international conferences and festivals. His students won national and international competitions, were accepted to prestigious music institutions, and successfully developed their own professional careers as musicians.

**Janna Lower** is Professor of Violin and Head of the Strings Area at the University of Florida. Preceding her appointment there, she was Artist Teacher of Violin at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University.

Dr. Lower has received accolades on three continents for her performances, with appearances throughout Europe and North and South America. She has been featured as recitalist, chamber musician, concerto soloist, as well as concertmaster and principal 2nd of orchestras and festivals. She has enjoyed a broad and diverse performing career, including world premieres, chamber music with internationally renowned musicians, concerto appearances from the far south of Chile to the far north of Canada, and tours with Andrea Bocelli in stadiums filled with 25,000 fans.

In a continuing effort to broaden her musical experience, Dr. Lower auditioned for and won a one-year appointment as concertmaster of the Charlotte (NC) Symphony Orchestra for the 2002-03 season. She led the orchestra in 68 performances as well as appeared as concerto soloist four times in their *Mostly Mozart Series*.

She has participated in many national and international festivals, including festivals in Brazil, Chile, St. Barthelémy, Grand Bahama, Ontario, Crested Butte and Telluride (CO), Boone (NC), Santa Fe (NM), Ventura (CA), Kansas City (MO), and Bedford Springs (PA). As a founder of the prestigious *Sunflower Music Festival*, she was a frequent concerto soloist and featured musician, performing with musicians from top orchestras and universities around the country during her 23-year affiliation with the festival. She also served as

Assistant Artistic Director of the *Buzzard's Bay Festival* for 16 years, organizing the chamber music concerts as well as appearing as soloist of this highly regarded festival in Marion, MA.

During 30 years of teaching, she has influenced and inspired hundreds of students of all ages, often in masterclasses, including at such institutions as the University of Southern California, Penn State University, University of Arizona, New World School of the Arts, Duquesne University, University of South Florida, Louisiana State University, to mention just a few, as well as in Austria, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Canada.

Along with her late husband, cellist Mark Tanner, she founded the Tropikordia Foundation, dedicated to promoting string playing. The Foundation supports teaching fellowships and provides string instruments and supplies to children around the world, and in particular has collaborated with many *El Sistema* programs in South America, donating strings, violins and bows to needy young students in Chile, Argentina and Peru.

When she was fifteen she was accepted to the Juilliard Pre-College Division, and went on to receive both Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from the Juilliard School, under the tutelage of Joseph Fuchs. For four consecutive summers she was a performer for the International Masterclasses of Nathan Milstein in Zurich. After a 2-year residency at the Banff Centre in Alberta, Canada, touring across the country, she completed her education at the University of Michigan, where she received the Doctorate of Musical Arts, studying with Camilla Wicks.

Her recorded works include the Lou Harrison *Violin Concerto* on New World Records, as well as chamber works on Opus One and Capstone Records.

**Paul Basler** is Professor of Music at the University of Florida, where he has taught since 1993. Before joining the UF faculty, he served as the Fulbright Senior Lecturer in Music at Kenyatta University (Kenya), taught at Western Carolina University, and was the North Carolina Visiting Artist in Residence at Caldwell Community College. A frequent guest performer, lecturer, and composer at national and international festivals, horn society workshops, and universities, he also serves on the faculty of the prestigious Cormont Horn Camp (previously known as Kendall Betts Horn Camp). Basler has performed with the Brevard, Charleston, Valdosta, Greenville, and Asheville Symphonies and maintains an active performing schedule throughout the United States and abroad. He has been awarded American Cultural Affairs Specialist Grants from the U.S. Department of State and spent ten years as Visiting Artist with the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Culture and National Conservatory of Music.

Basler's compositions are performed worldwide, with notable appearances at Carnegie Hall, Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, the Sydney Opera House, the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, and the Festival Internacional de Música de Cantonigròs, as well as by the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra. His music is published by Carl Fischer, Colla Voce Music, jamesnaigus.com, Walton Music, Hinshaw Music, Canorous Music Publishing, WaveFront

Music, ALRY Publications, Veritas Musica Publications, and the International Horn Society Press.

He earned his B.M. degree from Florida State University and M.M., M.A., and D.M.A. degrees from Stony Brook University. His teaching has been recognized with awards from the University of Florida, Western Carolina University, the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Culture, and the Kenyan Office of the President's Permanent Music Commission. His principal horn teachers were William Purvis, William Capps, Barry Benjamin, and Wayne Fraederich, and his composition teachers included John Boda, John Downey, Bülent Arel, John Lessard, and Billy Jim Layton.

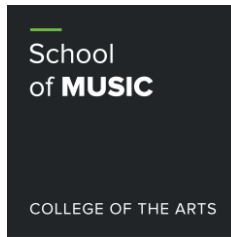
Praised by The New York Times for his "eloquent sensitivity," The Boston Intelligencer for his "impeccable technique," and Fanfare for his "Chameleon-like ability to move between composers," pianist **Hsiang Tu** was born in Taipei, Taiwan, and debuted in New York at Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center as the winner of The Juilliard School Concerto Competition (Chopin Concerto No. 1). Since then, he has performed at high-profile venues such as Museum of Modern Art and Joyce Theater in New York City, Cardiff National Museum, Leeds University Great Hall, and Conservatoire Supérieur de Paris in Europe, and Sendai Youth Cultural Centre in Japan and National Recital Halls in Taiwan.

In 2025, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Maurice Ravel's birth, Dr. Tu has embarked upon performing the complete piano solo work by the French composer in Croatia, Peru, Taiwan, the U.K., and the U.S., with a recording project to follow. Future projects include Debussy's complete piano solo works and thematic recitals featuring opus-one compositions and more music inspired by animals.

Following the critical acclaim of his debut album, *Bestiary on Ivory* (Bridge Records, 2020), a new album featuring Chopin's 24 Preludes and Sonata No. 2 was released by Da Vinci Classics in March of 2024, which the American Record Guide singled out the 24 Preludes as "among the best."

A prizewinner at the New Orleans International Piano Competition, the Iowa International Piano Competition, and the American Paderewski Piano Competition, Tu has appeared with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Sioux City Symphony Orchestra, the World Civic Orchestra, and student orchestras at New England Conservatory, Boston University, Snow College in Utah, the University of New Hampshire, and UF. He has adjudicated for various music teachers' association competitions in California, Florida, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Virginia, and given masterclasses in renowned institutions such as the University of Southern California, Peabody Conservatory Preparatory Division, Penn State University, Baylor University, and the University of Oklahoma.

Before his appointment at the University of Florida, Dr. Tu taught at Virginia Tech, the University of New Hampshire, Utah Valley University, and Snow College. He holds a B.M. in Piano Performance from the University of Calgary and an M.M. and D.M.A. in Piano Performance from The Juilliard School. For more info, please visit [hsiangtu.com](http://hsiangtu.com).



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Program 017 in the School of Music Events Series of the 2025-2026 academic year.

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**For general questions about the School of Music, please contact:**

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